

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 12, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Council met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026, in the Community Room at City Hall. Mayor Nobby Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Crawford, Bingaman, Marquez, Holinsworth, Hart, Johnson and McDaniel. Councilmember Goodner was absent. Also present: City Administrator Cole Herder, City Clerk Staci Johnson, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Susan Lynn – Iola Register, Camille Lavon – Director of Allen County Economic Development, Doug Ames, John Lassman, Ryan Scarrow, Tim Francis, Jeremy Bulk – Public Works Director, Tish Bulk, Sheri Modlin – Animal Control Officer, Eddie Harner and Pastor Matthew Jennings. City Attorney Fred Works was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Matthew Jennings gave the invocation.

**Public Comments:** Mayor Nobby Davis thanked his colleagues and recognized two Councilmembers that will be leaving the Council, Cindy Holinsworth and Sarah Hart. On behalf of myself and the City of Humboldt we appreciate everything you both have done for the City.

**Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, December 8, 2025
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 365 dated January 12, 2025, in the amount of \$481,317.80
- c. Warrant Ordinance No. 366 dated January 28, 2026, in the amount of \$95,116.85
- d. Approval of Resolution 01-12-2026 to waive Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures (GAAP) for the year 2025.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Hollinsworth to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Staci Johnson gave the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Doug Ames, Tim Francis, Blake McDaniel, John Lassman and Mayor Nobby Davis.

Cindy Holinsworth gave an update on the New Animal Pound Facility. Construction is on day five with most walls up, roof installed, and siding on north and west sides. The facility will increase dog capacity to 10 kennels and cat capacity to 20 cages, enhancing animal handling significantly. Energy efficient features include a 95% efficient heat and air system and tankless water heater, aiming to lower operating costs. An open house is planned for March, offering community engagement and transparency before full operations begin. Holinsworth also wanted everyone to know that this project has been built on donations, no tax dollars are involved.

Camille Lavon, Director of Allen County Economic Development, would like the council to consider signing the Economic Development Service Agreement. In previous years the City has

budgeted \$17,000.00. Lavon stated that they are requesting \$15,000.00 more from the City to help support another full-time employee. Motion by McDaniel, second by Johnson to add an additional \$8,000.00 making that \$25,000.00 annually. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like the approval of pay request on project #22-1372 application #3 in the amount of \$261,320.30 to NPL Construction for the Water Project. Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to approve pay request #22-1372 application #3. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like approval of a Change Order request #1 on project #22-1372 to add 277 advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)-Compatible Meter Lids in the amount of \$138,500.00. Motion by McDaniel, second by Johnson to approve change order request #1 for project #22-1372. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder discussed the water tower rehabilitation and logo selection. The rehabilitation will address critical safety and regulatory issues, including replacing an undersized access pipe and repairing deteriorated structural supports on multiple towers. The chosen color is a high reflectivity “sky blue” that appears white, optimizing water quality by reducing heat and chlorine degradation. After discussion about the logo the decision was postponed until the next meeting February 9, 2026. City Administrator Herder was going to get in touch with the Engineer’s to see if we could change the logo but, if this is not acceptable the logo will be the single paw. Motion by Lassman, second by McDaniel to accept the single paw logo. Motion carried unanimously.

### **City Administrator’s Report:**

**Water Project:** NPL has been working in the northeast part of town, opening holes and locating utilities, then directional boring new lines. When they start connecting, they will place door hangers if service will be interrupted. They will also start replacing and/or updating meters for AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure). The water tower rehab has been moved to the spring.

**Financial Audit for 2025:** The audit is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Allen County Emergency Alert System:** Allen County has ended their agreement with CodeRed and now uses Gynasys.

Registration link: <https://allencountyks.genasys.com/portal>

Additional information: <https://www.allencounty911.org/genasys>

**Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):** The application period is January 20 through March 31. The maximum gross income to be eligible is \$1,956 for one person and increases approximately \$688 for each additional person, for gas and/or electric.

**Job Openings:** We have openings for Police Officer, Police Lieutenant, maintenance, shared water/sewer plant, and City Hall custodian. We will be advertising for pool managers and lifeguards, soon.

**Gas Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI):** We are ready to move forward with installation of AMI gas meters to parallel the water project. We're finalizing the order for those updated meters and Meter Interface Units (MIUs) to begin systematic citywide installation.

**Water Damage resulting from roof repair:** Sharp Restoration has replaced ceiling tiles and light lenses. After attempting to clean carpet, we agreed to split the cost to replace carpet throughout City Hall, and Sharp will cover the cost of water extraction and cleanup, and the cost of one damaged computer.

**Big Kansas Road Trip (BKRT):** The Kansas Sampler announced that Humboldt will be the first Big Kansas Road Trip for 2026 on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A committee will be formed to make plans, discuss hospitality, and launch marketing. I'll work with city personnel about any preparations we'll need to make. I would like to revitalize the Neosho River Park.

**Fireworks:** I'm working on the order for the fireworks on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cost for the same show as last year went up by about 20%, or \$1,000. I am planning additional fireworks and equipment with the City's donation.

**Restroom:** I have submitted an application for preassembled restroom south of City Hall. The grant awards will be announced by the end of February.

#### **The Year of 2025 has been good for the City of Humboldt.**

- **Water System Project:** Awarded contracts for the distribution system and water tower rehabilitation. The construction phase started in 2025 and will continue well into 2027. All lead in the system, to the meters, will be replaced prior to the Federal mandate.
- **Low Range Wide Area Network:** We have continued to work with Viaanix to establish Low Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) infrastructure for our water and gas meters.
- **Events hosted by the community:** Major events included an Easter Egg Hunt, Third Saturday Craft Show, Owl Creek Jamboree, Middle of Everywhere Festival, Fourth of July Fireworks, Octagon Gravel Race, Movie Nights, Water Wars, Biblesta, Bike Around Humboldt's Holiday Square, and Holiday Gift Market.
- **School Resource Officer:** The City continued the SRO partnership with USD 258.
- **Personnel:** Hired Brian Rutherford and Bryce Walden in Maintenance, and Tom Jones as Police Officer.
- **Camp Hunter Lease:** The City leased Camp Hunter for the Owl Creek Jamboree and the Middle of Everywhere Festival.
- **Ohio Street sewer extension:** We extended the main for an existing home and a proposed home.
- **Trees in the Square:** We planted five trees in the Square.
- **Allen County Economic Development:** We shared in funding the Allen County Economic Development with Allen County, City of Iola, and Iola Industries. This year we were able to recruit a top-level experienced director.

- **City Hall Improvement:** Replaced City Hall roof.
- **Increased wages:** We increased wages by \$1.07/hr. for each employee, equating to 5% overall, beginning in 2026. The starting wage was increased to \$16.90/hr.

**Goals and Objectives for 2026:**

- Continue \$16 million water project, with completion in 2027.
- Plant more trees in the Square.
- Continue street projects.
- Continue action on nuisance properties.
- Implement camera surveillance on public property.
- Archive historical documents.
- Review city boundaries with Planning Commission.
- Establish a plan to reduce I&I from downspouts and sump pumps in the sanitary sewer.
- Install restrooms next to City Hall if T-Mobile grant is awarded.
- Replace carpet in City Hall.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Marquez to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest:

  
Staci Johnson, City Clerk

