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

The Council met in regular session on Monday, October 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: Marquez, McDaniel, Johnson, Ames, Lassman, and Crawford. Councilmembers Bingaman and Francis were absent. Also present: City Administrator Cole Herder, City Clerk Staci Johnson, Eddie Harner, Pastor Jerry Neeley, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Tim Stauffer – Iola Register, Ryan Scarrow, Sarah Hart – Chamber of Commerce, Roger Vincent – Wastewater Superintendent, Camille Lavonne and Kylie Cromer – Economic Development, Carey Spoon and Beth Warren– Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission and Zhengxi Li, PE, Ph. D., AECOM – Zoom. City Attorney Fred Works was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Reverend Otis Crawford gave the invocation.

Public Comments: Camille Lavonne introduced Kylie Cromer as the new Director of Economic Development.

Sarah Hart member of the Chamber of Commerce informed the Council that the Downtown Trick or Treat would be Friday, October 30, 2026, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm and that they would be showing a Halloween Movie "Monster House" at dusk and that the GALS FCE parade would be on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, September 14, 2026.
b. Warrant Ordinance No. 383 dated October 12, 2026, in the amount of $676,084.46.
c. Warrant Ordinance No. 384 dated October 28, 2026, in the amount of $66,295.27
d. Water Distribution Project #22-1372
    i. Approve NPL Pay Request Number 12 for $509,095.78

Motion by Crawford, second by Ames to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Davis opened the Hearing regarding Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements at 6:08 pm. Zhengxi Li, AECom presented a summary of the Preliminary Engineering Report and recommendations. City Administrator Herder commented that the information had previously been shared with the Council and it appeared that there were no further questions or comments. Mayor Davis closed the Hearing at 6:23 pm.

Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to approve the application for KWPCRF Loan for Wastewater Plant Improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Davis opened the Hearing for revisions to Floodplain Regulation in Ordinance #1562 at 6:25 pm. After discussion Mayor Davis closed the Hearing at 6:29 pm. Motion by McDaniel,

second by Ames to adopt Ordinance #1562 for Flood plain Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like the Council to consider a change order No. 02 for Water System Improvements – Tower Rehab for $12,200.00 including roof vent replacement and ladder standoff fixes. Motion by McDaniel, second by Lassman. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder asked the Council to consider a fuel surcharge fee for JKS Sanitation. The City's agreement with JKS provides a fuel surcharge when fuel exceeds five dollars a gallon for thirty days. The surcharge calculation was based on fuel usage and customer count (941) for September. The City will cover the surcharge from sanitation fund reserves to avoid raising individual trash rates. Current diesel prices in the area hover above six dollars per gallon. Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to approve a temporary fuel surcharge of $400 for September to offset increased diesel costs above five dollars per gallon. City Administrator Herder committed to revisiting surcharge monthly to keep customer rates stable. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like to offer the City Hall for the Multi-County Health Department to provide flu shots to the community in late October. City Administrator Herder asked the Council if the City was interested in paying for flu shots for employees. Estimated cost per shot would be about $40 - $50 each. No formal motion to fund flu shots was taken, reflecting a neutral stance on city-paid vaccinations. Council members expressed preference for employees to seek shots independently but, the use of City Hall for the Multi-County Health Department was approved.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames that the Governing Body recess to executive session as authorized by the Open Meetings Law for discussion of property acquisition. Meeting will be recessed for five minutes at 6:40 p.m. and will resume regular session at 6:45 p.m. City Administrator Herder, Mayor Nobby Davis, and Councilmembers were requested to be present in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting resumed regular session at 6:45 p.m. No action was taken

City Clerk Staci Johnson and Councilmembers Crawford and McDaniel attended the LKM Conference providing valuable insights on communication, legal risks, and economic development. All three expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate and represent Humboldt, with McDaniel actively serving as a voting delegate.

City Administrator Herder informed the Council on the street chip and seal project. The City is progressing with street and water infrastructure projects while adopting improvements to maintenance practices and security. Street chip sealing project completed 45 blocks this year, totaling approximately 292 blocks out of 407 planned with costs around $172,000 including materials and labor. The project strategy involves two coats of oil applied in separate passes to enhance durability. About 115 blocks remain for future work, with some streets potentially needing re-grinding for better transitions.

City Administrator's Report:

Biblesta: The weather was great for Biblesta. The parade and crowd were larger than in recent years. We appreciate our city staff for preparation and assistance the day of the event.
Old Grads' Reunion: Humboldt was buzzing over the long weekend with nearly 500 in attendance at the reunion dinner on Saturday evening. I heard lots of great comments about Humboldt's revitalization and how nice the town looks.

Street Project: Chip and Seal has been completed. In 2026, we completed 45 blocks, bringing our total to approximately 292 blocks out of the approximately 407 total blocks, or 70%.
Water Project: The water project is going well. NPL is working in the Northwest quadrant of town. Maguire is nearing completion of the 300k gallon water tower.

Walnut Creek: Joe Works has expressed interest in moving forward with annexation. I will be meeting with Fred to discuss steps as they are a bit more involved with a housing development than with a single property, which will include a plat and coordination of zoning.
Solar Project: The solar project at the Water Plant is underway with the installation of support posts.

Water Plant: We have cleaned out the east lagoon and saved a significant amount by doing it ourselves.

Cameras: We have begun installing cameras in city facilities and parks. We have installed them at the Pool, City Hall, and Shop. We have plans to install at the Water Plant, Wastewater Plant, Neosho River Park, Square, Cannon Park, and Brush Dump. We will probably add Camp Hunter. We will be able to view remotely, but more importantly, have recording history in the case of an event that we need to review.

Unclaimed Property: Otis picked up an Unclaimed Property Report for Humboldt from the Kansas State Treasurer at the LKM Conference. There are 10 pages of approximately 450 claims ranging from $75 to $16,198. Approximately 95 are over $1,000, 21 are over $5,000, and five are over $10,000. I encourage everyone to log on and search for your names and business names, plus friends and family.

Halloween: Businesses on the Square are hosting Trick or Treat on Friday, October 30, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The City will participate.

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

Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest: Staci Johnson
Staci Johnson, City Clerk

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