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Mayor Ryff called the December 13th, 2023 regular council meeting to order at 6:00pm and led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor asked me to do roll call, it showed the following present: Fred French, Gordon Hunnicutt and Ginger Stewart called in. Robin Moniz and Daniel Schwindt were absent.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to accept the minutes as written from November 8th, 2023. Fred French seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: Mayor Ryff said next is appropriation ordinance #1148 He said if there are any questions please ask. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1148, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Treasurers Report: Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is the Treasure's report, he asked if there were any questions on the financial statement. There were none. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to accept the financial statement dated November 1st – November 30th 2023, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Ryff said before we move on, there are visitors here, and I might be putting my foot in my mouth, they didn't get on the agenda. But, I'll will go ahead and let them introduce themselves. They introduced themselves as Theresa Lee and Cynthia O'bray. Theresa had some questions about the election on November 7th. There was a conversation between the Visitors, Council, Mayor and me. I made a copy of the email I had received from the County Clerk's office for them, and the conversation continued. The Council thanked them for coming in, Mayor Ryff said they could stay for the rest of the meeting or leave either way he would like to continue with the meeting. Mayor Ryff said he was going to move on to new business.

New Business: The Mayor said the next new business is the 2024 contract with the Fire Department. Basically, what you are seeing is that the Fire District comes in at 3.402 mill rate, it is a little higher than last year's mill rate that was 3.393. Mayor Ryff said because of the city's assessment evaluation for 2024, the city will be saving around two hundred dollars next year. The Mayor said he would entertain a motion to accept the agreement. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to accept the 2024 agreement between Fire District No, 2 and the City of Hope, Kansas as written. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, the motion carried 3-0. Mayor Ryff said the next item of business is a real estate sales agreement. The agreement was put together by Brian Bina our city attorney. Basically, it is an agreement between anyone that wants one of the vacant lots to build on. We used the value of a \$100,000 property being built on the lot. There is a certain amount of time they will have to build on the property and if they do not build on the property the legal work done will

let the city retain the property. Brian Bina said it is legal and should work and we will take him at his word. He said this would cover the couple of vacant lots we have available once it is passed. That way we can possibly get some new construction going on in Hope Kansas. Fred French made a motion to accept the real estate sales agreement as written. Gordon Hunnicutt seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0. Mayor Ryff said with this paperwork, now if we got anybody interested, they can come in and talk to the city and get signed up for it and we can get something going.

Standing and Special Committee Reports: The Mayor said moving on, he asked if Ginger had attended any of the economic meetings in Abilene. She said she had gotten some notes from the last meeting and planned on attending tomorrow night's meeting. I told her she could email them to me so we could have them, she said she would.

Mayor's Discussion: Mayor Ryff said he really didn't have a lot to discuss. He said that Justin Rutz was in town last week, he tore down that house, and he got that lot squared up. He said there is some finish work the city has to do. He said the other item is he wants me to find an electrician that will climb the tower to fix the tower light. He said that is all he had for the Mayor's discussion. He said he would like me to give the clerks report.

Clerks Update: I sent Nakita Hirsch an email letting her know that the MOU was approved and that I had a signed copy ready for her. Called Kenny Morgan to let him know that the Council approved the demo permit, and they could move forward with the demolition. Went up to the Cemetery, met John there and marked for a headstone to be placed. UPS called me and asked if they could rent the Northside of the building again this year. I told them I would visit with Larry and get back to him. Talked to Larry and he said that would be fine but to increase the price to help pay for the heating bill. I received an email with the official election results. Jeanne explained that Amanda is not eligible to serve on the Council because she does not live inside the city limits. The Secretary of State said that we would follow our procedure to fill the position in January after the new Mayor and Council members take their positions. Brad Anderson called me to set up a meeting time with Larry, Fred and myself. Brad explained that he had taken a new job and wanted to introduce Keith Hubler his replacement. He said he wanted to get his loose ends tied up before he left. They brought down a Highway Permit Use of Right of Way for us to fill out to get things rolling along. I filled out the paperwork, had Larry look it over, and emailed it to Keith. Mayor Ryff said that is all that is on the agenda and asked when the next meeting date was. It is January 10th of 2024 and Fred French will be the Mayor, Randy Walker will be one of the new councilmembers and Fred will appoint the vacant position and someone to complete his council position. So, it will be mandatory for Daniel Schwindt, Randy Walker and Robin Moniz to be here or there will not be a council meeting. Mayor Ryff said,

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that was all he had to discuss. Gordon Hunnicutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Fred French seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

_____ Larry Ryff, Mayor

Attested

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk