

1 | Hope City Council Meeting February 11th, 2026

Mayor Fred French started the February 11th, 2026, regular council meeting 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: Larry Ryff, Ginger Stewart, Randy Walker, Daniel Schwindt and James Andrew.

Mayor French said he was going to change things up a little bit and have Nancy Cowan start things. Nancy explained that Lorna and her were here to represent the Museum. She said that they were asking the council to consider donating \$1200 to help them with their utility bills for 2026. Nancy said that they had been doing lots of new programs to get the community involved in supporting the Museum. Lorna said she wasn't sure if the Abilene Historical Society had talked with us about April 12th, she said they are planning to do some Tombstone talks at the Cemetery. Lorna explained that they pick 4 or 5 prominent people in the community. Then they have them portray in the old clothing and come out like a ghost and tell the person's story. Lorna said they take like 15 people to the cemetery at a time on a bus from the Museum. She said you purchase a ticket for \$10 to go to the cemetery. Larry Ryff made a motion to go ahead and make a contribution of \$1100.00 to the Museum for this next year. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Nancy said they appreciate it and thanked the Council. Nancy said she wanted to mention that they are going to be doing some concrete work to move the old jail where it needs to go and that they also need to have a handicap sidewalk at the Library and Museum. She explained she thought since they would be doing some concrete work already that it might be a good time to do the handicap sidewalks too. She said it was just some food for thought. Nancy and Lorna thanked the council again and left. The Mayor asked if anyone had looked at any of the sidewalks. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. There was no action taken.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor French said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve the minutes for January 14th, 2026, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Mayor said next is appropriation ordinance #1173. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1173, James Andrew seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: Mayor French said next is the financial report. Ginger Stewart mentioned that the sewer fund really had jumped this month, she said is this something we should address. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. Daniel Schwindt said that I should get the last six months of numbers to give them an idea of how much the fund has been losing. Larry Ryff

agreed and said he would like to get more paperwork on it and look at it before we do anything real rash. They asked if I could have some averages at the next council meeting. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve the Financial Statement for January 2026 and Larry Ryff seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business: The Mayor said that last month we wanted to get some estimates for the electric pole out at the lagoons. Koffman Electric was the only one that sent us a quote. Larry Ryff said that there was nothing wrong with the quote because he felt like it was like putting a band aid on it and he would like to see it fixed right. There was a discussion between the Mayor, Operator, Maintenance man and Council. Larry Ryff made a motion to table the topic until we explore the idea of burying the line to the pole out at the lagoon. Randy Walker seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Old Business: Mayor French said under old business is the letter we sent to the state for the library.

Maintenance Report: The Mayor asked Johnny what was wrong with the mower that we took to the shop. Johnny said that it has a rear axle leak, the hydraulic boxes are leaking, he said they said it was going to be \$1300 - \$1500 to fix it and it has 8900 hours on it. Johnny said if we trade in the old mower a brand new 72" RD Super Z Hyperdrive commercial mower would cost \$12,415.51. There was a conversation between the Mayor and Council. Larry Ryff made a motion, to table it until next month's meeting and we will get more information. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's Discussion: Mayor French said that at the last economic development meeting they were talking about getting a few new picnic tables made with the expanded metal. They asked if we could find out the prices from the place where we purchased the aluminum bleachers from. The Mayor said that we are going to do some checking on some grants to help replace the playground equipment in the park. Daniel Schwindt explained that when he checked into the grants through the North Central Regional Planning Commission there were lots of hoops to jump through and that he felt like it was not worth it to go that route. I explained that Dan Coup suggested that we check into the Patterson Family Foundation Grants online. The Mayor asked Pat how the class went that Pat and Johnny attended. Pat said that it went good. Pat said that he was going to be as quick as he could, but he wanted to go over a couple of things they went over in class. He said that there are a couple of customers complaining about low water pressure. Pat said that a column of water 27 ¾" high gives you 1 PSI. So that means when you look at the water tower at the base of that where the water comes out of the water tower will have 60 PSI, at half it would be 30 PSI, and at the top it would be 0 because there is no pressure up there it is just the weight of the water. He said the deal with the

low pressure is, there are customers that have filters, and that affects the amount of pressure. He Said that he is asking for permission to make a tool so they can take the meter out, and check the pressure in the meter on the City's side. Then the meter can be back flushed and by doing this it will determine if the problem is on the City's side or the customer's side. Pat said there is one other thing, last month we talked about the 4" meter out at the pumphouse, he said he is asking for permission to take it apart and take the insides out of it since it is not required by KDHE. Larry made a motion to take it apart. Daniel Schwindt seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Clerks Update: I made a phone call to Trace Hostetter to let him know that his building permit had been approved and they could move forward with their plans. Got the old paperwork out for the maturing Certificate of Deposits and the key to the deposit box and went to the bank to roll over the CDs per the council's decision. Looked up the template to submit the Distinctive License Plate information to the state. I filled it out then printed it then mailed it. Submitted payments for all the other quarterly payments for the final quarter of 2025. Printed reports for the 1099's and W-2's. Went to the Nelco website to upload files and tried to submit information. I continued to have a problem, and they would not accept the files, so I called Sequoyah support for help. Lindsay with Sequoyah finally figured out the K and S in the file needed to be capital. We capitalized it and the file was accepted. Ran reports to work on the Municipal Water Use Report for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources. Compiled the information needed to submit the report online. I Went to the economic development meeting that Dan Coup put together with Fred.

Ginger Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Andrew seconded the motion, and the motion carried. 5-0.

Fred French, Mayor

Attested:

Joni Rikard, Clerk