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Mayor Fred French started the January 14th, 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 would like to welcome the new councilmembers and thanked them for running,

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mayor French said the next item of business is the minutes from the previous meeting. Larry Ryff made a motion to dispense with reading the minutes and approve the way they are written, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Mayor said next is appropriation ordinance #1172. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1172, Randy Walker 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 looked like it was still not gaining, the Mayor said that we would need to address that sooner or later. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to approve the Financial Statement and Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business: The Mayor said that there is a new building permit from Trace Hostetter for J & R Customs. He said that will be another building in town. There was a conversation between the council and Mayor. Larry Ryff made a motion to approve the building permit for J & R Customs. Randy Walker seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Maintenance Report: Mayor French asked Johnny about the mower needing to be worked on. Johnny said that the mower was leaking hydraulic fluid after setting in the shed. Johnny said that he called and talked to the guy at Ag Power in Hillsboro. He said the guy told him he was a little backed up but would get it in. Daniel Schwindt asked how old the mower was. I said it was 8 years old. Larry Ryff said he would like to take a step back on the building permit. He said to let the council know that we would be adding a water meter and that the city would stand some expenses. There was a discussion between the council, Johnny, Pat and Mayor. Larry Ryff said his point was that when we approved the building permit that they also approved a little bit of expense for the city. But we are also gaining a water bill customer we are gaining new property tax, and we are being pro-business. The mayor said that it is pretty exciting. The council agreed. Mayor French said back to the mower, there was another conversation about the mower. The Mayor said that we would get the mower down there and get an estimate of what is wrong with it and what it will take to fix the mower. Larry Ryff suggested that the maintenance report would include

a sheet with the hours on the equipment to give the council a better idea of the shape of the equipment. He said maybe every quarter or six months. The Mayor asked Johnny to explain about the meter out at the pumphouse. Johnny said that there is a meter that reads how many gallons of water we get from Herington, and the meter has stopped working. He said that they do not sale a meter that size anymore. He explained that they have a longer one that would have to be customized to fit out at the pumphouse. There was a conversation between the Mayor, Pat, Johnny, and the council. Mayor French asked if there was anything else that Johnny needed to talk about. I reminded Johnny about the power pole out at the lagoon. Johnny explained that he had called Everygy and he was told that they were not responsible for the pole, Johnny said that the guy told him that all the hardware on the pole was outdated and would need to be replaced. There was a discussion about the pole out at the lagoon. Pat Hamilton explained to the council that the motor grader is all working and available for the first snow of the year. Mayor French let the council know that Johnny made a list of all the folks that needs the alley cleared to get out. Daniel Schwindt made a motion to proceed with replacing the pole by getting quotes from Koffman Electric, and the City of Herington to fix the pole, out at the lagoon. Randy Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Clerks Update: I called and let Mike with M & K Trash Service know that the council had approved the new contract. He said he would stop in when he was in town to sign and get a copy of the contract. Looked up the agreement between Dickinson County Fire District #2 and the City of Hope and emailed a copy to Chad. I received a call from the Kansas Department of Revenue about the new process for CMB applications. She explained that there are new state stamps for them also and the ones that I have, were not acceptable for the upcoming 2026 certificate. She said she would put them in the mail as soon as possible to get them here before the end of the year. I called Fred and explained to him that I would have a new stamp for his certificate for it to be correct for the year 2026. I went to the bank to roll over the mature CD and talked to Lorrie about the two CD's that would mature in January. She looked up the CDs in January and figured out what the penalty would be to roll them over before they were mature. The penalty would have been significantly more than what the decrease of interest was. I let Fred know and he said we would wait until they mature. I emailed the County Clerk Jennifer Gaytan and asked if she wanted the hard copy of the oath of office, she said to just email her a copy of them and so I did.

Larry Ryff asked if Mayor French wanted to update the council on the 2026 library budget. Mayor French asked me to explain, I explained to the council that we receive a budget from the library every year and approve it and then I put it into the state template to submit it to the state. So, this year there was an error in the municipal budget worksheet and according to the librarian the same thing happened to two other libraries' but it ended up shorting the library budget nine

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thousand one hundred seventy-six dollars. However, the council had previously approved the budget, so the city is planning to honor the library's budget in spite of the error. Larry Ryff explained that for years the library has turned in its budget and the council has approved it. He said the library is a sub entity of the City of Hope, that is why their revenue is added to the property taxes for each person that owns property in the City of Hope and that is how the library is funded. So, when the council accepted their budget and I put it into the state template that is a contractual agreement that the city is going to pay them that amount of money. James Andrew explained that there was a list of grants that the library generally receives each year and that the city would need to send a letter stating that we will fulfill our obligations to the library for them to receive the grants. I said as soon as Nakita sends us what is required, we would send it wherever it needed to go.

Daniel Schwindt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randy Walker seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

_____ Fred French, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk