

1 | Hope City Council Meeting March 11th, 2026

Mayor Fred French started the March 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, and James Andrew. Randy Walker and Daniel Schwindt were absent.

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 3-0.

Appropriation Ordinance: The Mayor said next is appropriation ordinance #1174. Larry Ryff made a motion to approve appropriation ordinance #1174, Ginger Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Treasurer's Report: Mayor French said next is the financial report. Ginger Stewart mentioned that the sewer fund wasn't as bad this month. Ginger Stewart made a motion to approve the Financial Statement for February 1st through February 28, 2026. James Andrew seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0.

Visitors: Mayor French said next was visitor Terry Hoskins and told Terry to go ahead. Terry said that he wanted to speak about the signage that was placed over behind his house in the right a way. He said initially he had spoken to you about where it was placed, but he hadn't read the sign. He said it was not the signage that was discussed and agreed upon, he said the sign says trespassing and it was supposed to say no parking, no blocking because of what was going on with his neighbor. He said his neighbor was putting his trailers there and vehicles. The Mayor said that you asked about moving the sign and that was the discussion they had was to move the sign over a foot. There was a discussion between the Mayor Council and Terry. Larry Ryff made a motion to leave the sign where it's at. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0. Terry Hoskins and Robin Moniz left the meeting.

New Business: Mayor French said onto new business we have a couple of building permits. The Mayor said the folks that bought his old rental house are planning on putting up a new privacy fence. There was a short conversation about the building permit between the Mayor and Council. Ginger Stewart made a motion to approve the building permit for Walter Cruz at 102 N Cedar Street, Larry Ryff seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0. Mayor French said next was a building permit for Robin Moniz, he said that are planning on put a 12'X 8' shed behind their house. Larry Ryff made a motion to approve the shed for John and Robin Moniz. James Andrew seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0. The Mayor said that he remembered talking about the city maps, but

nothing really came out of it. So, what needs to happen is that the new water system and the old water system that was not included need to be put on one map. There was a conversation between the Mayor, Council and Johnny. James Andrew made a motion to check into what it will take to update a City utilities map, Larry Ryff seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The Mayor said that Mark Sollman came in and is concerned about the building at 220 N Main Street. He said that he thinks the North wall of the building is going to fall down now that the roof has completely fallen in, and he said that it is dangerous. The Mayor said that he talked with Larry Ryff and they think that we should get the city attorney involved and get some advice about getting it addressed before someone gets hurt. There was a discussion about several different properties that should be addressed with the city attorney. Larry Ryff made a motion to give the Mayor and city clerk the latitude to contact the city attorney and find out the best way to take care of the problem areas and James Holland to maybe start condemnation proceedings. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0.

Old Business: Mayor French asked the Council to look over the information for the new mower. After a short conversation Larry Ryff made a motion to go ahead and purchase the mower per the amount quoted from Ag-Power Inc. James Andrew seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The Mayor said next is the quotes for the pole out at the lagoons. Larry Ryff made a motion that we accept the Koffman Electric Service estimate. James Andrew seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0. The Mayor said next is the sewer fund information. There was a conversation between the Mayor, Council and I. Larry Ryff said he would like to have the topic tabled, to do some more research.

Maintenance Report: Mayor French asked Johnny how things were going for him. Johnny Bain explained he needs some rock out at the lagoons, he said that it is impassable during wet weather, there is no rock left at all. Larry Ryff made a motion to get the rock from Zack Feist. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0. Johnny said he has a pump that needs rebuilt, from the poop wagon. He said he was thinking of maybe finding a place to get an estimate. There was a discussion between the Mayor and Council, Larry Ryff made a motion to talk to Doug Stroda or David Wendt about where to get it fixed. James Andrew seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0. Johnny said he had one more thing. He said the little train in the mini park is rotten and needs to be removed before a little kid gets hurt on it. Mayor French said we should talk with the Lion's Club before we do that to see if they are planning to fix it or remove it. James Andrew said that there are a couple of spots that need sand put in them too.

Clerk's Update: I typed up a log of the Maintenance Equipment's hours and mileage for the Council as requested. Johnny talked to me about receiving an email

3 | Hope City Council Meeting March 11th, 2026

from AG Power in Hillsboro about the mower he talked to the Council about at the last meeting. I printed the information from the email and showed it to Johnny and Fred. Johnny called to find out about financing, and they emailed that information as well. The financing is through Sheffield Financial and is zero percent interest for 60 months! Spoke to Tandi with Copeland Insurance about updating the drivers list and she sent some Docusign documents to sign. She is planning to be here to look over the coverages sometime before the end of the month. I called Tri-County telephone service about my internet connection and visited with them about not being able to access the internet. They checked something and explained that it looked like it might be something to check on with our IT company. So, I ended up calling and explained the situation. They told me that our firewall had quarantined two files and had disabled me from getting online. Basically, it did what it was supposed to do 😊. They had me click on a couple of things and was able to access the computer and then looked over things to make sure everything was okay, then was able to allow me back online. Called Johnny about doing a 30-day report on a customer's meter and printed it for the customer. James Andrew asked if we had talked about snow removal at the last meeting. I said no, it had not been talked about. James Andrew said for the amount of yelling on the phone that he got, he thought the gas station should have been cleaned better than it was. He said it looked like he made two swipes through there and left. There was a discussion between the Mayor and Council. No action was taken.

Larry Ryff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ginger Stewart seconded the motion, the motion passed 3-0.

_____ Fred French, Mayor

Attested:

_____ Joni Rikard, Clerk