

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM OCTOBER 14, 2024**

NOTE: Where stated "Motion Carried" is considered unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES:

**Ralph Klock
Sharon Inskeep
Ian Murray
Adam Doherty
Dale Bates
Cody High
John Doherty
Chad Doherty
Steve Rhea
Nathen Braun
Bill Kuhn**

Absent: Corey Sweeney

Members of the Public: Barb Orwick, Zoe Johnson

On Zoom: None

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Call to Order. Adam Doherty called the October 14, 2024 meeting of the City of Heppner City Council to order at 7:00 PM.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance. Adam Doherty led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Announcements – None
- D. Correspondence - None
- E. Requests – Animal Permit: Zoe and Leonard Johnson, for 6 hens

Motion to approve an Animal Permit to Zoe and Leonard Johnson for 6 hens by Dale Bates. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep. Motion Carried

F. Presentations – Barb Orwick gave the Neighborhood Center report. They are preparing for the annual food drive. On October 24th, leave your donations on the porch with the porch light on and volunteers from HHS will pick it up.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. September 9, 2024, City Council meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes by Sharon Inskeep. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Motion Carried

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion to approve the monthly bills by Ian Murray. Seconded by Adam Doherty. Motion Carried

C. Financial Statement – For information only.

4. REPORTS

A. Fire Chief Report – Steve Rhea read the report.

2 Lift Assists EMS
3 Secure Landing Zone
2 Natural Vegetation fire Mutual Aid South Gilliam County
3 Motor Vehicle accidents with injuries
2 Rekindle of Fire RFPD
1 Natural Vegetation Fires
1 Body Removal
1 Smoke in Dollar General from the AC
2 Motor Vehicle Accident Non-Injury
1 False alarm smoke detector

154 Calls to date

38 Chief Calls for the month.

New Tactical Tender has arrived. Final inspection with Maintenance on ladder truck October 14th. Working Fire Mitigation by spraying with drone with Mayor Sweeney. The spray that they are using is a treatment not a sterilant. It has a residual of up to 5 years. It controls all the annual grasses, rye, cheat, foxtail, and some broadleaf control

has been added. This is done through a Community Wildfire Reduction Risk Grant through the State Fire Marshals office.

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – Nathen Braun reviewed the report. The total hours for September were 468.50. Dog calls are up. There were 173 incidents and two arrests.

C. Public Works. Chad Doherty read the Public Works report.

Water Dept. – The crew replaced water meters at 575 S Court, 545 S Court, 2 at 605 Morgan Street, 600 S Chase, 455 S Chase, 133 Main St., and 535 S Chase. The crew replaced the city side meter stop at 135 Rock St. We had to do this meter stop change live. The crew also replaced the meter and meter box. The crew inspected the last 31 of the lead and copper inventory. The last 10 required us to dig them up with the Vactor Truck. I worked and updated the spreadsheet and sent it in the Oregon Health Authority. It has been accepted. Public Works received the new SCADA and telemetry from TAG. We were also trained on how to use the system. It works as expected and we are excited to have this working. Helped TAG with issues that came up during install. Completed the 2" standpipe for the Morrow County Weed Department. Met with Oregon Backflow for annual inspections of the City of Heppner backflows. Took them around to new backflows and ones that had been missed in the past. Investigated a water leak on South Main Street. During the process, we could not find the leak. It was not determined where the water was coming from.

Sewer Dept. – Cleaned the contact basins three times. Did 6 septic dumps. Caleb hauled 15 biosolids loads this month. Caleb had issues with the dump valve on the water truck. After lots of trial and error, he determined the air valve to be broken. Caleb fixed the valve and continued to haul biosolids. Checked on a possible sewer plug on Linden Way, determined to be a homeowner's issue. Cleaned the sewer line behind the softball field. Coliform samples failed once. Took the repeat sample and drove them to Pendleton. The repeat samples passed. Chad attended the LEPCD meeting in Boardman. Caleb sent in nutrient sample to Box R.

Streets Dept. – The crew graveled an alley off of South Main Street. The crew took down the rodeo banners. Removed tree limbs that were hanging over Morgan Street Bridge. Pulled puncture vine on Morgan, Green, Gilmore and Hager Streets. John and Chad did a street sign inventory around town.

Parks Dept. – Removed two hanging baskets that died in the heat. The crew hung up the Hunters Garbage signs at City Park. Installed the Hunters Water Sign and hose at Heritage Plaza Park.

Park District- Chad and Caleb continued to train on daily pool duties with Skip Matthews. Continued to mow the Fit Park and the pool area.

Shop/Other Dept.- John and Chad met with Edie from JUB Engineering Services. Did a short tour of the wastewater facility.

D. City Manager Report

1. Heppner Housing Authority – attended monthly meeting. HHA is still searching for a property management firm, with Viridian opting out of contract.
2. Researched water leak on Hager St property, passed findings on to Chad.
3. The Ford Family Foundation – meeting with K'Lynn Lane to discuss funding opportunities for City Park.
4. Hermiston IT – Installed new firewall, in-process of bringing new employee pcs into service. Hermiston engineers overhauled firewall and network configuration for efficient performance.
5. Port of Morrow – Attended September and October meetings via Zoom. Mill site flood mitigation: test-digs for DEQ permit complete and being analyzed. Asked Commissioner Murray for clarification on timeline for permitting and construction.
6. Several meetings and discussions with Silvercreek in regard to Gale St Alley repair. Still pushing to complete it before winter.
7. Street signs – inventoried City, along with Chad, to identify signs either missing or in need of repair/replacement. Work with ODOT on signs on Main/May streets.
8. Sent certified code enforcement letters to several residents. Sent letters to vacant and derelict property owners.
9. Blue Mountain Networks – addressed Heppner residents charged franchise fee without agreement or enforceability. Customers receiving credits for charges.
10. Morrow County – Requested approved funds for Telemetry project. Have not yet received (10-11-2024.)
11. Planning – Conduct staff study, letter to residents, and published public notice for 10-07-2024 Planning Commission meeting on WCVEDG project. Letters sent to residents.
12. Gale St pedestrian bridge – Work with Progressive Insurance and Coil Fab on repair and reimbursement of damaged bridge. Informed Coil Fab that we can proceed with materials order and repair.
13. Burn ban – front office fielded many calls in regard to the burn ban. Reported offense to MCSO of resident burning.
14. Attended 9/11 Stair Climb in support of South Morrow County Fire Departments.
15. OPRD – Gave comment during OPRD Board Meeting in regard to City Park Remodel. COH officially awarded \$100,000 LGGP funds for the project.
16. Hunter's Garbage: Placed @ City Park, fielded complaints from residents whose garbage was used (referred them to MCSO,) when dumpsters were delayed. Posted notice of regulations. Approached ODFW & USFS for financial support.
17. J-U-B, Chad and I met with Edie Engelmann in regard to EOR RFQ. Discussed city current and future needs, toured near-in utilities facilities.

18. Discussed utility needs, permitting, and design with property owner for future Chase St residential build.
19. COH cancelled multiple service lines with CenturyLink that were unnecessary with Telemetry Project completion. Resulting in a significant reduction in monthly costs.
20. Circuit Court – Worked with Bill Kuhn, local residents, and Council in regard to Circuit Court and September 19th meeting. Several meetings throughout the month with Bill Kuhn, Councilors, and public throughout the month.
21. EOVA – Meeting with Catie Boucher in regard to City Park funding opportunities. She introduced me to a networking contact.
22. Circuit Court discussion – Held meeting September 19th along with COH, Council, BOC Chair Sykes, Matt Jensen, and public as Q&A on location. Inclusion in October 4th BOC meeting discussed.
23. WSMP – Office staff completed “Historical Water Consumption Record,” for 2022-2024. Sent to Anderson Perry for inclusion in WSMP. Tarina and Heather spent considerable time on the project.
24. BOC -Submitted request for “Business item,” inclusion for October 4th BOC meeting. Submitted support petition and letters from supporters.
25. LPSCC - Attend bi-monthly meeting via Zoom.
26. WCVEDG- Attended monthly meeting.
27. Wildhorse Foundation – Completed grant application for City Park Remodel.
28. Economic Development Committee- Held brief meeting, quorum not present.
29. EOR- Held meeting with members of Council & Utilities Commission to discuss SOQs from applicants, scoring and interview format, attendance, post-interview timeline, and date for interviews. Scheduled interviews with all applicants for October 18th. Communicated interview format to applicants.
30. City Park – Meeting with Karla Macy, Baker City resident, to discuss resources and funding opportunities specifically related to playgrounds and inclusivity.
31. Anderson Perry – Meeting with Dane Maben; discussed ODOT SCA grant and future projects and funding.
32. Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation – Awarded \$10,000 grant for City Park Remodel.
33. Amazon ChangeX – Awarded \$10,000 grant for City Park remodel.
34. BOC - Attended October 4th BOC meeting. Presented City of Heppner request to revisit motion for Circuit Court siting. Presented facts in relation to statutes, judicial studies, judicial memorandums, site evaluations, and BOC commentary.
35. Issued zoning permit for fence construction.
36. Multiple meetings with resident regarding greenhouse construction. Begin review of other municipalities’ ordinances as proposed greenhouse construction and footprint falls under a vague area of Code.
37. Beautification Committee – Held October meeting and discussed City Park and funding resources, networking, and potential future event to highlight the remodel.
38. GEODC – Discussion with Susan Christensen on upcoming projects and was asked to serve as President of Board of Directors.

39. MC Planning – Reached out to Tamra Mabbott in regard to temporary housing for transient construction workers in the future (energy projects.)
40. Planning – Held October Planning Commission Meeting. WCVEDG Conditional Use/Variance approved for “Chase St tiny homes.”
41. Investment Policy – Reinvested COH funds from matures T-Bills.
42. Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation – Applied for grant for City Park Remodel.
43. MCSO – Took report of graffiti under Library/HES footbridge. Viewed graffiti with Chad, schedule to paint over graffiti. Posted issue on Facebook with censored photos.
44. Attended Chamber Quarterly luncheon @ new HCF/WCVEDG/Chamber building.
45. Water billing – took question/complaint on multiple service billing. Research of matter in process.

Blue Mountain started charging their customers Franchise Fees. They do not have a franchise agreement with the City. It is not legal to charge Franchise Fees on internet. They have been issuing credits to customers.

Viridian will not be managing St Patrick's Senior Apartments as of January. They are looking for a new company. John will have more information after the meeting tomorrow. They must get someone with experience with subsidized rent as there is lots of paperwork.

5. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. City Park Remodel

We have \$270,000 committed to the project. More grant applications are awaiting approval.

2. Engineer of Record

Interviews are on Friday October 18th, starting at 1:00 PM.

B. New Business

1. Fire Department Capital Purchase

This was budgeted with the \$30,000 from CREZ.

Motion to approve the purchase of \$30,000 of fire equipment by Ian Murray. Seconded by Dale Bates. Motion Carried

6. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS – For information only.

7. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – Bill Kuhn worked on the Gale Street Bridge accident insurance claim. He prepared for the Executive Session. He worked on the Courthouse Building situation.

8. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – None

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Executive Session called to order at 8:01 by Adam Doherty.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT – Executive Session adjourned at 9:03 PM.

12. RESUME COUNCIL MEETING – Regular session was called to order by Adam Doherty at 9:04 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Cody High. Seconded by Adam Doherty. Motion Carried

13. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:05.