

Minutes
Heppner City Council Goal Setting Meeting
1/16/2026

Meeting called to order by Corey Sweeney 12:10 PM

Present:

Corey Sweeney

Ralph Klock

Ian Murray

Dale Bates

Sharon Inskeep

Adam Doherty

John Doherty

Chad Doherty

Absent: Joe Armato (excused)

Members of the Public: None

1. City Council 2025 Goals Review

The council reviewed the goals from 2025.

1. Finish Water Master Plan and Wastewater Feasibility - The Water Master Plan is done. The Wastewater Feasibility was not the right verbiage for the Recycled Water Use studies. These are done and have been sent to DEQ. These can be removed from the list as complete.

2. Flow Meter Replacement for Wells #1 and #2 – These were completed. We received a grant to help with this. This can be removed from the list.

3. Update city domain and website – We had to wait until the SAM.gov was completed. The day that was completed, John applied for a government website. This has been approved and the domain will be Heppner.gov. John discussed licensing with Hermiston. This will allow access to all the forms, Permits, Public Works Standards, Code, etc. This will stay on the list.

4. Property cleanup/code enforcement – Ongoing

5. Code changes – mobile home and animal. - John has been working on it. He held off on the mobile home part, to figure out some of the legalities. Moving forward on the animal ordinance and livability/habitability. Still in progress.

6. City Park, plan for purchase of new equipment and upgrades – ordered equipment. We still need more money. The equipment will be delivered in late February. Will wait for more funding to complete the project.

7. Continue research and application for infrastructure grants and funding – We received grants in 2025. Waiting for results of the one-stop meeting.

8. Sister City program, look into forming sister City relationship with appropriate town in Ireland – Not completed.

2. City Council 2026 Goals

After discussing the 2025 goals, the council decided what the 2026 goals should be. (Exhibit A, attached)

3. Investment Policy – The council discussed the possibility of increasing short-term investments. This would involve moving more money into the investments. The council discussed moving one million dollars into the investment fund.

4. UTV Ordinance discussion

Morrow County has approached the city about passing an ordinance to allow UTVs in city limits. The county is increasing the areas where UTV's will be allowed and this would allow UTVs that work out of town to pass through city limits legally. USFS has opened up some areas as well. The USFS, Morrow County and ODOT have been working together on this. UTV's cannot get licensed to be street legal in Oregon so how can we be assured that they are safe and are insured? A good example of this is Umatilla County's ordinance states that nobody under the age of 16 is allowed to drive and must wear a helmet. No passengers under the age of 5 are allowed. Safety belts must be worn. Drivers under the age of 18 must have an adult with them. They must hold a Class 1, All Terrain Vehicle Card. They must have wheels; no tracked vehicles are allowed. Must have rear view mirrors, brakes, display headlights, taillights, minimum of 150 cc's, no 4-wheelers, mufflers must be under 99 decibel, must have a valid Oregon ATV operational permit and must meet financial responsibility requirements (ORS 806.060). They also must always have spark arrestors and follow all local and state traffic laws. If the city passes something like this, UTVs will be allowed from here all the way up to the forest.

5. Estes property request

Cyde Estes owns property on Cowins Street where she is building a new duplex. There is a portion of city property that runs across

the creek that meets up to hers. That small area is landlocked and would not be accessible for any city maintenance without crossing private property. Cyde would like to acquire that area from the city and she will maintain it and pay for any costs involved in the process. There are no city utilities on that property. She is also acquiring a portion of the neighboring property so she can maintain it. No decisions can be made during the work session but no one on the council was opposed to the request.

6. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM

Heppner City Council Goals for 2026

Exhibit A

1. Public Works Standards – complete and adopt into Comprehensive Plan and codify.
2. Gilmore Street Project – Complete design and construction of streets and utility infrastructure project.
3. City Website- Create new website for Heppner.gov domain and include “live webcam” link to City cameras.
4. City Code – Complete and adopt changes to animal/livestock ordinances and create habitability/livability ordinance.
5. Downtown landscaping – pilot test to replace cinder rock in landscape strips with an artificial turf product.
6. Sister City Program – continue work towards securing Sister City relationship with a similar sized city in Ireland.