

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
6:00 PM MARCH 9, 2026**

ATTENDEES:

**Corey Sweeney
Ralph Klock
Sharon Inskeep
Joe Armato
Adam Doherty
Ian Murray
Dale Bates
John Doherty
Chad Doherty
Eric Chick
Bill Kuhn
Dane Maben**

Absent: None

Members of the Public: None

On Zoom: Patrick Collins

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order. Corey Sweeney called the March 9, 2026, Work Session of the City of Heppner City Council to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. Corey Sweeney led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. BUSINESS

A. Gilmore Street

Anderson Perry should have everything ready to advertise for bids on March 23rd. The project will bid in late April. The council has a few decisions to make before that time. The city has 1.5 million in congressionally directed funds and there are some city budgeted funds available. The city has applied for the ODOT SCA grant for the last four years. Historically the grant was for \$100,000, this year is has been upped to

\$250,000. The application is due in April. The problem is that this project will be done before the grant approval in September. It's a difficult situation to be in as we have a good chance of getting the grant. We wouldn't be able to get reimbursed for any work that happened prior to the awarding of the grant. With the cost of the entire project, we will not be able to do the Pioneer/Thompson/Morrow loop stand alone at the same economies as when it is involved with the Gilmore Street Project. Every year you apply for the SCA Grant and you don't get it, you get a preference point. Year after year your chances of getting it go up. We don't want to get in a situation where we get the grant and are unable to use it as that will waste the point accrual. There is an increase in price due to fuel cost. The current project estimate is 2.3 million dollars. That is just the base bid without the Value Engineering Options. The Pioneer/Morrow/Thompson Street additive is estimated at \$350,000 to \$370,000. The city has the option to make that loop or certain aspects of the project as additives. They will still be in the bid documents but can be pulled out if the bids are too high. Because it is in the bid documents we can also choose to award it. How much city budgeted funds are we willing to spend in addition to the 1.5 million if we don't get the SCA? The council agreed to include the Pioneer/Morrow/Thompson Loop and Willow Street Drainage as additives. If we do get the SCA grant, we have 2 years to use it. It is unknown if we lose preference points if we do not apply this year. Some of the cost could be broken out of Street Projects and put into Sewer and Water Projects. John will do some research on the SCA grant and there can be a work session in April to discuss it.

B. Water Project

Dane recapped the improvements that the council previously selected. The cost estimate for the Water System Improvements is 10.8 million. Right now there isn't much out there for grant funding. There are environmental requirements for some funding. The Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan has similar requirements as the USDA. The council wants to move forward with Phase 1 and will start looking at permit requirements. John and Dane will continue to work on it. This will be discussed at the April work session.

3. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM