MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM JUNE 8, 2026

ATTENDEES:
Corey Sweeney
Ralph Klock
Sharon Inskeep
Adam Doherty
Joe Armato
Ian Murray (arrived at 7:32)
Dale Bates
John Doherty
Eric Chick
Bill Kuhn
Nathen Braun

Absent: Chad Doherty

Members of the Public: Gary Longhorn, Joe Miller, Laurel Laney, Lucas Calder, Gus Peterson.

On Zoom: Brandy Sweeney, Michael Miller, Heppner Gazette

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order. Corey Sweeney called the June 8, 2026, meeting of the City of Heppner City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

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

C. Announcements – Ian Murray will be arriving late to the meeting.

D. Correspondence - None

E. Requests - None

F. Presentations – HES Presentations

Last week Sharon Inskeep and John Doherty went to HES for a presentation by the 6th grade. They were proposals of things to add to Heppner. A Wiffle Ball/T-Ball field, Soccer

field, Bowling Alley, 4x4 club at Cutsforth Park, Community Orchard, 2 additional EV chargers were their visions for the community.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Joe Miller is still against selling Hager Park to Heppner Daycare.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. May 11, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes by Dale Bates. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion to approve the monthly bills by Joe Armato. Seconded by Adam Doherty. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

C. Financial Statement – For information only.

4. REPORTS

A. Fire Chief Report – Eric Chick read the report.

3 EMS lift assists
1 Secure landing zone
3 Alarm malfunction/false alarm
2 Fire/Smoke/Gas Alarm
1 MVA non injury
3 MVA with injures
3 Grass fires in the district
2 Mutual Aid fires
1 Cancelled enroute call
1 Good intent/No emergency found
20 Calls for April
78 Calls for the year
Met with County commissioner Gus Peterson and RFPF Board Regarding Funding. Worked with FD members on building a replacement truck, Brush-532. Met with Representative Smith to discuss state funding opportunities, and hardships of rural fire departments. Worked with OSFM, NRCD, MCEM on CWPP update. Discussed joint training for Search and Rescue with MCSO. Attended a meeting with ODF regarding Forestland Classification taxation. Worked with UMRDD on information regarding

updating radios this fall. Attended the City Budget Meeting. Met with Dollar General staff regarding the Knox Box installed on their store. Worked with City Manager and ODFW to facilitate the return of their boat that was leased to the Fire Department. Met with OSFM to update the plan of cooperation regarding fire investigation. Investigated possible burn permit violation at 260 NE Gilmore St. Worked with the city Manager to set up a credit card for Fire Department purchases. Worked with BEO on updating the Fire Auxiliary bank account. Inspected all wildland apparatus in preparation for fire season. Deputy Chief Rhea finished installation of OSFM smoke detectors for this project. Worked with OSFM on updating Fire Department contact information. Worked with CBEC on updating contact information for PSPS emergency plan.

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – Nathen Braun read the report. There were 336.5 hours for May. Garcia and Dooney helped with the CBEC theft investigation, two arrests were made. That case is mostly resolved. There were three hit and runs by one individual who was arrested. 24 traffic stops, two citations, 184 incidents for the month, one parole violation arrest for a total of 4 arrests.

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

Water Dept. – The new valve turning trailer did not have a hydraulic cooler. Contacted OWEN equipment and they have picked up the trailer to have the cooler installed. Experienced Well #1 communication error. Received new Starlink Kit and TAG installed it at Well #1. Experienced issues getting our water samples to the lab in time as UPS discontinued some routes out of Hermiston. Met Box R in Spray to pick up samples. Met with Tim Tice from OAWU on the conservation report. Worked with Anderson Perry to get the new Jumper Spire (GIS) unit online. Tag fixed reservoir 3 solar panel. We now have communication and booster pumps all working correctly.

Sewer Dept. – Cleaned the contact basins twice. Completed 8 septic dumps. The crew took the golf course nutrient sample. Investigated an issue with the effluent sprinklers not producing the output that it should. Found a bunch of weeds in the impellor. Responded to a sewer leak on Linden Way Alley. Cleaned up a sewer spill and fixed a leak. Unplugged the digester.

Streets Dept. – Responded to a downed light pole in the early morning, on the corner of May and Chase. Called Wight Electric to disconnect the pole. Called the Sheriff's Office to report a hit and run. Public Works crew responded to clean up the pole and some car parts. Investigated the hit and run and was able to locate the vehicle. Made forms and poured concrete on Willow Street sidewalk. Made forms to repair the broken sidewalk on May Street by Les Schwab. Sprayed weeds in bubbles and Main Street sidewalks. Received the hanging flower baskets and installed them where there were no HHS banners. The crew responded to an afterhours call for a diesel spill.

Parks. – Removed ruined sod at Hager Park. Purchased 2 pallets of Sod and had Mustang Mop Up install the sod. Sprayed hemlock at city Park. Got the Ford Ranger ready to fertilize the hanging baskets. Fixed a broken valve on the Museum side irrigation at City Park. Filled in ruts at Hager Park and planted seed. Installed a new standpipe at Hager Park. Picked up broken branches at City Park.

Park District – Continued to monitor the therapy pool. Mustang Mop Up helped the city remove the pool covers. Cleaned and vacuumed the pool. Energized the pool and started up the filter pump. The filter pump blew upon startup. Called Lexington Pump and they helped remove the motor and expedited the repair of the motor.

Shop/Other Dept. – Met with the City Manager on the budget. Attended the budget meeting.

D. City Manager Report – John Doherty read the report.

1. May St streetlight – City had streetlight destroyed in Hit-and-Run incident on May 12th. Ongoing matter involving PW, MCSO, MoCo DA Office, suppliers and contractors, and the driver's insurance company.
2. Anderson Perry – Work with Dane regarding Gilmore St Project. AP surveyor completed work for 110 N Gilmore replat and easement recording for water line replacement. AP provided construction contract for City to sign. Provided AP city financials for DEQ WW Facilities grant. Continued bi-weekly updates with Dane & Chad. PW Standards moving towards completion.
3. Planning – Completed Minor Partition application for 110 & 120 N Gilmore St. Recorded with MoCo. Worked with resident, contractors, and PW for driveway/sidewalk replacement on Green St. Answered various questions relating to zoning and flood plain to multiple prospective RE buyers.
4. FY 27 Budget – Held FY27 Budget Committee Meeting on May 12th. Committee approved FY27 Budget for June Council, Budget Hearing. Completed OR-LB-35 & OR-LB-50 forms. Published OR-LB-1 with Gazette Times announcing Budget Hearing. Completed all Resolutions relating to FY 27 Budget.
5. USDA RD – Communication with USDA office and Senator Merkley office regarding ongoing funding opportunities for COH water improvement projects.
6. Kenny Land Surveying – Work with Matt on Gilmore St survey documents, signing, and recording with MoCo.
7. POM – Attended regular monthly meeting via Zoom.
8. Mayor – Multiple meetings with Mayor regarding FY27 Budget, contracts, Gilmore St Project, Sister City project, and items that may arise while I am on vacation.
9. FD- Multiple meetings with Eric. Work with Eric on grants receipts current, future, and possible grants. I received Visa card for FD purchasing and went over use of card. Attended HRFPD FY27 Budget Committee Meeting. Burn Ban begins June 8th and will run until time in Fall/Winter when Chief decides open burning is safe again. Published Burn

Ban in Gazette and posted in multiple locations in City. ODFW took possession of 1995 Duckworth boat.

10. ODFW – Checked with Steve Cherry on any documentation requirements regarding release of 1995 Duckworth boat.
11. Public Records Request – Closes four separate requests relating to multiple properties within COH and also FD mutual aid responses.
12. Councilors – Met with Councilors on separate occasions to answer questions and provide updates on various City matters.
13. HES/HHS – Communication with HHS on banners downtown. Project to move forward. Attended HES 6th grade presentation, along with Councilor Inskeep, on "Community Vision," with students' ideas for projects in City and SoMoCo area. Attended Senior Presentation @ HHS as audience/judge on the 18th. Mustang Mop-Up throughout city and group worked upstairs in City Hall removing old/unused/damaged Chamber and holiday items and brought multiple boxes of documents for City to shred.
14. Investment Policy – 2 separate bond maturities and reinvestment of City funds. Balancing investments between short and intermediate maturity, as City may need access to funds within next 18 months for possible water improvement project funding.
15. DLCD – Work with DLCD on revision of PW Standards grant contract. Project can now move towards completion.
16. DaBella – Door-to-door sales began again this year with no Peddler's Permit application from DaBella. Drafted and mailed a rejection letter due to company not meeting conditions of permit and receipt of multiple complaints from City residents.
17. MCSO – Work with deputies and main office regarding May 12th hit-and-run. Deputies working on multiple code enforcement items, check on open burns & permits, CBEC theft incident, construction materials left in roadway.
18. Linden Alley – Received complaint about possible leak/dump. Investigated with PW. Private sewer line leak was the issue. Met with affected property owners on multiple occasions.
19. Hermiston Herald – Reporter Michael Kane called regarding Heppner Daycare & Hager Park. Referred him to contact Daycare board. Issued letter of correction to reporter and editor on mistaken employment status of board member and requested publication of correction.
20. Apple Valley News – William Albert conducted interview regarding current happenings in the City and region and interview aired on Tri-Cities news on May 20th. Gave updates on city projects, POM flood mitigation, and floodplain.
21. RCAC – Attended final sessions of BABA training & USDA funding training.
22. MC Planning – Handled complaint within City received through MC Planning office and communicated that issue has been abated. Work with Eric on review and response of CU Permit Application and provided feedback to MC Planning.
23. WCPD – Meeting to discuss COH-WCPD contract COLA increase for FY27 & mower purchase for WCPD grounds use. Discussed pool cleaning, setup, and season.
24. PW – Work with Chad on pricing and service expectation with supplier. Discussion with Chad on Vactor truck repairs.
25. Sister City – Continued work towards Sister City relationship with town in Ireland.

26. OR DAS – Work with Kat Walter on reporting of funds received from State in years prior to my employment with City. Research and reporting of funds usage.
27. Chamber – Attended EOVA meeting along with Madison. Discussed opportunities in south county and city. Regional representatives from government, chambers, state agencies, and tourism providers in attendance.
28. Review payroll, bank reconciliations, discuss outstanding checks and Heather researched & contacted payees. Review & revise timecards as needed with other employees' vacations. Review outstanding accounts payables and sign checks.
29. Resolutions – Draft all budget resolutions, workers comp resolution, and Sister City resolution.
30. Gilmore St Project – Submit invoices to POM for reimbursement for engineering, publishing, and legal services related to project. Provided POM & BizOR with all bid posting, bid tabulation, NOI, NOA, and contract documents.
31. Elections – Met with MC Clerk regarding November 2026 General Election requirements. Complete list for Council for review.
32. 360 S. Chase St – Nuisance property. Ongoing communication with property owner. Visit prior to Council Meeting.
33. CIS/Wheatland – Received final FY27 insurance documents and review for Council approval. Met with Amy to discuss.
34. WCVEDG – Attended May monthly meeting.
35. Council Packet – Draft Manager's Report and add agenda items. Distributed packets.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. City of Heppner 2026-2027 Budget

Open Public Hearing at 7:25 PM

No public comments

Close Public Hearing at 7:25 PM

Council Comments and Discussion - None

6. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. Gilmore Street Project

The contracts have been signed and sent to Anderson Perry and the completed contracts have been returned. Getting ready for the pre-construction conference. The project will start soon.

2. Lucas Calder update

Lucas Calder got a 30-day extension that runs through June 10th. He has been working on the property, and it looks much better. The vehicles and trailers that have been licensed will remain on the property and will be organized. Trash and weeds have been removed. The council took no action as progress is being made.

B. New Business

1. Resolution 1103-26 A Resolution Adopting the City of Heppner budget for the Fisal Year Commencing July 1, 2026, Making Appropriations and Imposing and Categorizing Taxes

Motion to approve Resolution 1103-26 A Resolution Adopting the City of Heppner Budget for the Fisal Year Commencing July 1, 2026, Making Appropriations and Imposing and Categorizing Taxes by Adam Doherty Seconded by Ralph Klock. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

2. Resolution 1104-26, A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues During Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Motion to approve Resolution 1104-26, A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues During Fiscal Year 2026-2027 by Sharon Inskeep Seconded by Joe Armato. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

3. Resolution 1105-26, A Resolution Authorizing the Morrow County Treasurer to invest the City of Hepner Funds Pursuant to ORS 294.035, 294.125, and Other General Authorizations

Motion to approve Resolution 1105-26, A Resolution Authorizing the Morrow County Treasurer to Invest the City of Hepner Funds Pursuant to ORS 294.035, 294.125, and Other General Authorizations by Adam Doherty. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried

4. Resolution 1106-26, A Resolution Adopting the City of Heppner Bonded Debt Resources and Requirements for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2026

Motion to Approve Resolution 1106-26, A Resolution Adopting the City of Heppner Bonded Debt Resources and Requirements for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2026, by Adam Doherty. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep.

Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, Murray and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried

5. Resolution 1107-26, A Resolution Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of the City of Heppner.

Motion to approve Resolution 1107-26, A Resolution Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of the City of Heppner by Sharon Inskeep. Seconded by Ian Murray. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, Murray and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried

6. Resolution 1108-26, A Resolution Approving the Creation of a Sister City Relationship Between the City of Heppner, Oregon, USA and the Town of Carndonaugh, County Donegal, Republic of Ireland.

Donegal is one of the main counties where the local settlers were from.

Motion to approve Resolution 1108-26, A Resolution Approving the Creation of a Sister City Relationship Between the City of Heppner, Oregon, USA and the Town of Carndonaugh, County Donegal, Republic of Ireland by Adam Doherty. Seconded by Dale Bates. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, Murray and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried

7. Insurance Approval

This is the yearly renewal of property and liability insurance. It is lower than what was budgeted.

Motion to approve the Insurance Renewal as presented by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Joe Armato. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, Doherty, Murray and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried

8. 2026 General Election

The Mayor, and Council Positions 4, 5, and 6 are up for re-election this November. The last day to file is August 25th and the last day to withdraw is August 28th. Certified applications will be turned into the elections office on September 3rd. September 8th is the deadline for any local candidate to make a statement for the voters pamphlet. Candidates must have lived in city limits for one year and be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day.

7. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS – for information only.

8. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – There isn't much to report on for last month that involves him.

9. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – Corey Sweeney attended the girls State Championship Softball game.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.