

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM JULY 13, 2026**

ATTENDEES:

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

Absent: Adam Doherty

Members of the Public: Katie Murray, Joe Miller, Laurel Laney

On Zoom: Brandi Sweeney, Michael Miller, Heppner Gazette, Ruth Eadler

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order. Corey Sweeney called the July 13, 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 – None

D. Correspondence - None

E. Requests – Caitlyn Ames & David Walters, Animal Permit for 8 chickens.

Motion to approve the Animal Permit by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Murray, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

F. Presentations – None

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Joe Miller is still against selling Hager Park to Heppner Daycare, although he thinks that this is irrelevant at this point. He heard that they secured a different property and hopes that this question will be answered during the meeting tonight.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. June 9, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

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

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion to approve the monthly bills by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Ian Murray. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Murray, Bates, 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 that was provided for the council.

B. Morrow County Sheriff's Department – Nathen Braun read the report that was provided for the council.

C. Public Works. Chad Doherty read the Public Works report that was provided for the council.

D. City Manager Report – John Doherty read the report that was provided for the council.

5. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. Gilmore Street update

The preconstruction meeting was held. The project information flyer was distributed to affected residents. John met with a resident to answer questions.

Demolition starts on Friday. Granite Paving will be the paving subcontractor. The estimated completion time is October 9th. There will be a meeting every two weeks with the construction company. Larry Myers, the project observer from Anderson Perry will be here every day. Bill Ledbetter, the project manager, will be here frequently. The ambulance will always have a clear route to and from the hospital.

2. Heppner Daycare update

Katie Murray gave an update. Heppner Daycare has secured a new location. They just closed on two properties on Main Street. The properties were previously unavailable to purchase, but that recently changed. Katie thanked the Council for helping with the grant even though they did not receive it. They are officially withdrawing from the Hager Park property. They are requesting that the earnest money be returned. John Doherty said that it can be returned after the legal costs that the city incurred are subtracted from it.

Motion to return the earnest money less the legal fees by Dale Bates. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep. Klock, Armato, Murray, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

3. 2026 General Election update

John Doherty gave a reminder that applications need to be turned in to the City Manager on August 25th by 5 PM. No applications have been received yet at this time. You are only allowed to run for one position. An update will be given at the August Council Meeting.

4. Sister City update

John met with officials in Carndonagh and attended the blessing of their new ladder truck. John then went to the Public Service Center meeting where he gave a presentation. The sister city process will take several months. They seemed interested and excited. They thought the ties to Heppner were neat. They want to have a more active relationship than the usual Sister Cities. The towns and villages that he visited were very clean, and there are small businesses in every single one. There will be an update in September or October.

B. New Business

1. Resolution 1109-26 A Resolution Authorizing Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement

Motion to approve Resolution 1109-26 by Ian Murray. Seconded by Dale Bates. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Murray, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

2. FY Audit – Barnett & Moro engagement letter

Earlier there was discussion about getting other quotes, but there wasn't enough time to go out for bid. This year there is a tighter timeline. They will be starting on August 26th or 27th. The rate is below what was budgeted.

Motion to approve the Barnett & Moro engagement letter by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Joe Armato. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Murray, Bates, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

3. ATV/UTV discussion of possible ordinance

John has researched this and the ATV Access Committee must approve and make a recommendation prior to submission to ODOT. This is a 6-month process and ODOT has the final say. If approved it is not intended for the convenience of residents, running errands etc. Sumpter and Lakeside are the only Oregon cities that have been approved. Prairie City applied and was denied. The city can pass an ordinance prior to or contingent on ODOT approval. The council looked at sample ordinances from other cities and discussed any changes that they would like to make.

4. Zoning – Possible R1 Zone conditional Use addition

The old Nazarene church has been purchased. The buyers are requesting an addition to R-1 Zoning to include Funeral Homes. They would like to remodel the existing building. As this request is not city driven the applicant has agreed to pay the legal fees that are incurred. The process of making this change will take approximately 7 months. The council approved moving forward with this request.

6. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS – for information only.

7. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – Everything he has worked on has been discussed during the meeting.

8. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – None

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.