MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
7:00 PM SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

ATTENDEES:
Corey Sweeney
Ralph Klock
Sharon Inskeep
Joe Armato
Ian Murray
Adam Doherty
John Doherty
Eric Chick
Bill Kuhn
Nathen Braun
Dane Maben

Absent: Dale Bates, Chad Doherty

Members of the Public: None

On Zoom: Michael Miller, Heppner Gazette

1. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order. Corey Sweeney called the September 14, 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 – Animal Permits

1. Kaileigh Allred, 13 chickens at 690 W Sperry Street.

Sharon Inskeep pointed out that the Ordinance being discussed tonight only allows for 10 chickens per address. Corey Sweeney instructed that she reapply for 10 chickens.

2. Amy Robinson, 10 chickens at 680 W Sperry Street.

Motion to approve by Ralph Klock. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Murray, Doherty and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

F. Presentations – None

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. August 10, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

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

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion to approve the monthly bills by Sharon Inskeep. Seconded by Ian Murray. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Doherty, Murray, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

C. Financial Statement – For information only.

4. REPORTS

A. Fire Chief Report – Eric Chick reviewed the report that was provided for the council.

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

C. Public Works. Chad Doherty was absent. There were no questions about the report.

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

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 592-26, An Ordinance Regulating Amending City Code 5-2C-1 Regulating Animals and Animal Permits and Declaring an Emergency.

John Doherty explained Chapter 7, section 2 of the Heppner Charter on how ordinances are passed. Based on the council's desires, an ordinance can be passed in a single meeting, but it must be read in its entirety with a unanimous vote. There were copies available at city hall and it was posted in three places within the city, as well as being advertised for two weeks in the Heppner Gazette.

Open Public Hearing at 7:17

Corey Sweeney read Ordinance 592-26 in its entirety. There were no public comments.

Close Public Hearing at 7:25

Motion to approve Ordinance 592-26 by Joe Armato. Seconded by Adam Doherty. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Doherty, Murray, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

6. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. Gilmore Street update – Dane Maben

Dane Maben reported that the water line improvements are done after some frustration related to some tie-ins. Next week they will be replacing sewer mainline. After that will be storm water improvements, and then roadway subgrades. They are a little behind schedule due to the issues with the waterline work, and they are working to get caught up. John Doherty commented that many times when a hole was dug, what we had on our GIS maps did not match what they were finding underground. Between the 1974 and 2005 projects, the as-built that we had did not match what was underground. There were system loops, and the dimensions of water pipes did not match. The worst one was the lower section connecting the three valves at the bottom of Gilmore and Hager Street. We had a service line that didn't show up on any maps as live. Also to attach three valves they basically had to shut off the water to about 20% of the city. There were several valves that didn't work. This lends credence to our need to continue with water projects.

2. Wastewater Facilities Plan – Dane Maben

Anderson Perry applied for a $100,000 principal forgiveness loan through DEQ for the Wastewater Facilities Plan, which is basically a grant. They also applied for a $50,000 technical assistance grant through Business Oregon Water Wastewater Program. That is $150,000 in total funding to do this plan. The council received a

work order and a scope of work for what they plan to do with that funding. This is like the Water System Master Plan that they finished last year. It is a complete comprehensive evaluation planning document for the wastewater system.

Motion to approve the Wastewater Facilities Plan by Ian Murray. Seconded by Ralph Klock. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Doherty, Murray, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

3. ATV Ordinance update

There is a memo regarding this that the council will be discussing in Executive Session. They will then come out of Executive Session and continue to work on a draft ordinance.

4. MCSO contract – update

Corey Sweeney and John Doherty met with Sheriff Bowles, Lieutenant Braun and Undersheriff Snyder to work out the last couple of items of the contract. The contract has been approved and is in effect.

B. New Business

1. Vehicle Surplus – Opening of sealed bids.

Corey Sweeney opened the bids in the order that they were received.

1. Rafter Z Ranches: $7,300.00, received 8/26/26.
2. Maury Goff: $5,550.00, received 8/27/26.
3. Midway Ranches $5,001 received 9/10/26.
4. Jeff Thompson: $8,750, received 9/14/26.

Motion to accept the bid from Jeff Thompson for $8,750 by Adam Doherty. Seconded by Joe Armato. Councilors Sweeney, Klock, Armato, Doherty, Murray, and Inskeep voted unanimously to approve. Motion Carried.

2. Planning Commission Report: Sept 14, 2026

The Planning Commission met earlier this evening. They approved a Variance Permit Application for a side yard setback request for a carport from Curtis Cutsforth.

7. MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS – for information only.

8. REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY – He had some conferences and advised the City Manager regarding the ATV Ordinance. He did the city's annual audit letter.

9. REPORT FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS – None

10. RECESS – The council went into recess for Executive Session at 7:49 PM. Corey Sweeney read the rules regarding an Executive Session. The City of Heppner will hold an executive session meeting for the permissible reason(s) stated below under ORS 192.660(2)(f). Representatives of the news media and designated staff and other persons shall be allowed to attend the executive session. The public virtual Zoom Meeting link will be paused during the executive session as permissible executive session meetings are not subject to HB2560. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision will be made in this executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to the room, start the public virtual Zoom Meeting link again open the regular session meeting.

1. To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660 (2)(f)

12. RESUME REGULAR SESSION - Meeting resumed at 8:08 PM.

A. ATV Ordinance discussion.

Should the council pursue an ATV Ordinance it would need to be passed prior to any ODOT approval. The council discussed which streets should be included and decided that all city streets would be allowed to have ATV traffic. ATVs would be required to follow all traffic laws. The city does not have authority to approve travel on ODOT highways. Those areas would need to be mapped out. If any ODOT areas were approved they are very clear that it is not intended to be used for convenience of residents, running errands etc. The council discussed what kinds of signage would be needed. Any signs that would be posted on ODOT right of ways would require approval prior to installation. The council decided on a $20.00 permit every two years for each ATV will be required. The permit fees would help pay for signs etc. Fines starting at $165.00 would be issued for any non-compliance. Bill Kuhn will work on a draft ordinance based on tonight's discussion.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.