



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward (via Zoom), Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, and Kelso. Councilors Myers and Barron were absent. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Richard Tovey, Police Chief Jason Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Breena Beck- emailed public comment attached.

Rotary Club Members David Hanson and Eric Reise thanked the City for their support in the recent Pickleball Tournament stating there were over 20 donors from the region including Tri-Cities Washington, as well as special recognition to Good Shepherd Health Care Systems for being a significant donor as this event brings together a fun and healthy way to showcase what a great community Hermiston is, and posed for a photo with the Council. Mr. Reise spoke regarding ShelterBox Emergency Disaster Relief 3-day training which will be held locally. This international partnership has helped raise over 4 million dollars to support communities in desperate need of practical assistance on the ground during disasters.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Linton removed Consent Agenda item A. Councilor Duron moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda items B-H, with the exception of A, to include:

- B. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- C. Confirm Appointment of Erick Peterson to Position 4 of the Library Board for a four year term ending June 30, 2030
- D. Confirm Appointment of Hawley Hawkes to Position 4 of the EOTEC Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2029
- E. Confirm Appointment of Hawley Hawkes to Position 9 of the Budget Committee for the remaining three-year term ending December 31, 2027
- F. Confirm Re-Appointment of Jessica De La Cruz to Position 2 of the Hispanic Advisory Committee for the three-year term ending June 30, 2029.
- G. Final Plat- Fieldstone Crossing Phase 2 4N2815CA Tax Lot 1300- 1653 SW 9th St
- H. Minutes of the June 22nd, Regular Meeting of the City Council

Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Linton voting in favor.

Councilor Kelso spoke regarding Consent Agenda Item F, stating he is a Council Representative of the Hispanic Advisory Committee and wanted to acknowledge what a great job Committee Chair Jessica De La Cruz is doing for the community.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- A. Award Funding through the Transient Room Tax (TRT) Recreation Projects Grants.

Councilor Linton asked what budgeted year would funds be distributed from and why Made to Thrive was only being awarded a recommended \$3,000 when they do so much for the community.

Parks and Recreation Director Artz stated the funding would be for the 2026-27 budget.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026

Councilor McCarthy, as a current member of this Committee, and Councilor Kelso, as a previous member of this Committee, spoke regarding what a very difficult decision it is recommending awarding amounts, however funds are awarded based on established parameters.

Councilor Roberts asked what the funds awarded to Parks and Recreation will specifically go towards.

Parks and Recreation Director Artz stated funds will go towards the purchase of a Mobile Trailer Screen which will be used for Movies in the Park, in order to run movie times earlier, as times run late into the night as it must be dark for the projector screen to be seen, and other community events.

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Consent Agenda item A. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Linton voting in favor.

Resolution No. 2435- Lift Station #7 Contract Award

Assistant City Manager Morgan presented information from the [City's Capital Improvement Projects website](#) regarding awarding Lift Station #7 Contract to low bidder C&C Trenching as presented in the staff report.

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Roberts seconded to approve Resolution No. 2435 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, McCarthy, Roberts, Duron, Kelso, and Linton voting in favor.

Resolution No. 2436- Amendment to IGA for IT Services with the City of Pendleton

City Manager Smith spoke regarding recommended changes to the City of Pendleton's IT Services IGA as Pendleton is utilizing more of their in-house IT for IT support and are no longer in need of the additional hours in their IGA as presented in the staff report.

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Roberts seconded to approve Resolution No. 2436 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Linton voting in favor.

League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Legislative Priorities Discussion and Recommendation

City Manager Smith presented the Council with the following LOC Legislative Priorities as presented in the staff report to include:

1. Maintain Local Control of a Safe, Moder Right of Way
2. Support Municipal Cybersecurity Proficiency
3. Public Meetings Law Clarity
4. Funding and Coordination for Shelter and Homeless Response
5. Land Availability and Land use Streamlining
6. Targeted Prevailing Wage Changes
7. Alcohol Revenue Modernization
8. Emergency Communication System Resources
9. Strengthening Economic and Workforce Development
10. Infrastructure Funding
11. Water Reuse
12. Water Workforce Development



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026

And recommended the Council select the following five, to include: 3, Public Meeting Law Clarity; 5, Land Availability and Land Use Streamlining; 7, Alcohol Revenue Modernization; 8, Emergency Communication System Resources; and 11, Water Reuse.

After much discussion and deliberation, Councilor Kelso moved and Councilor Linton seconded to adopt the City of Hermiston's recommended policy priorities to include: 3, Public Meeting Law Clarity; 5, Land Availability and Land Use Streamlining; 6, Targeted Prevailing Wage Changes; 8, Emergency Communication System Resources; and 11, Water Reuse. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Linton voting in favor.

2026 Council Goal Setting Update

City Manager Smith gave updates regarding the 2026 Established Council Goals as presented in the staff report. Mayor Primmer stated no action is being recommended as this agenda item is informational only.

Committee Reports

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Kelso stated the Committee is planning a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on October 3rd from 11am to 3pm at the Community Center and encouraged the City Council and community to participate.

Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee- Councilor McCarthy stated the Committee met and the Council accepted their recommendation earlier in the meeting.

Public Safety Committee Meeting- Mayor Primmer stated the Committee met and heard updates from the Police Department, Code Enforcement, and Municipal Court, as well as heard public comments from Bethany Adair regarding the dangers of youth riding e-bikes and scooters without helmets or obeying traffic laws. Councilor Roberts asked if the Council could dedicate a Work Session Meeting to discuss this item in more detail. City Manager Smith stated he and Chief of Police Edmiston will discuss this.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- Many upcoming events that took place/are taking place in the City to include: Stars and Stripes Shootout 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on July 4th at Funland Park as well as other 4th of July activities, vendors, and fireworks and Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo
- Thanked Max Garrett for sending him a very heartfelt letter asking for sidewalks to be installed on Townsend Road. Mayor Primmer stated Max called him the Best Mayor in the Multiverse, but despite this, Townsend Road is outside of City limits and therefore is unable to help install sidewalks.

Council Presidents Report

Council President McCarthy spoke regarding Movies in the Park starting earlier as the Parks and Recreation Department will be able to use the newly purchased Mobile Trailer Screen.

Council Reports

Councilor Kelso thanked Umatilla County Fire District #1 for their family friendly Open House event, thanked Parks and Recreation for the great 4th of July event and drone footage, and spoke regarding his support for education and enforcement of motorized bikes and scooters stating he has witnessed irresponsible behavior by youths not obeying traffic or safety laws.



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026

Councilor Roberts stated he attended City of Pendleton's Council Meeting specifically discussing their recent lawsuit. Attendance was impressive with a completely packed Convention Center and about 80 people participating online. He will be following this item as the Council decided not to settle the lawsuit.

Councilor Linton asked if Maple Moose was renting space at the Community Center for their mobile unit, had heard a complaint regarding pressure to vote for certain Council members by city employees- and this is not allowed by ORS, and had additional questions for City Manager Smith to answer but will speak about this at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Artz stated their department released an RFP for two mobile units on site and Maple Moose is filling one of those two RFP's.

Councilor Linton moved and Councilor Roberts seconded for the Council to discuss offering additional repayment options for LID's from 10 years to 20-30 years. Motion carried 4-3 with Councilors Kelso, McCarthy, and Hayward in opposition and Councilors Linton, Roberts, and Duron in favor, and Mayor Primmer breaking the tie voting in favor.

Councilor Duron wished Councilor Kelso a Happy 29th Birthday and thanked Parks and Recreation for providing great parks and programs, as well as HPD for their detailed Public Safety Report and keeping the community safe.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith announced city residents receiving Class Action Settlement Postcards for Nitrates can disregard these notices as they do not qualify. The City of Hermiston water nitrate level is within safe levels as established by the Department of Environmental Quality. Water reports can be found on the [City's website](#).

Adjourn

There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 8:21PM.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder

From: Breena Beck

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 3:17 PM

To: City of Hermiston Meetings <meetings@hermiston.gov>

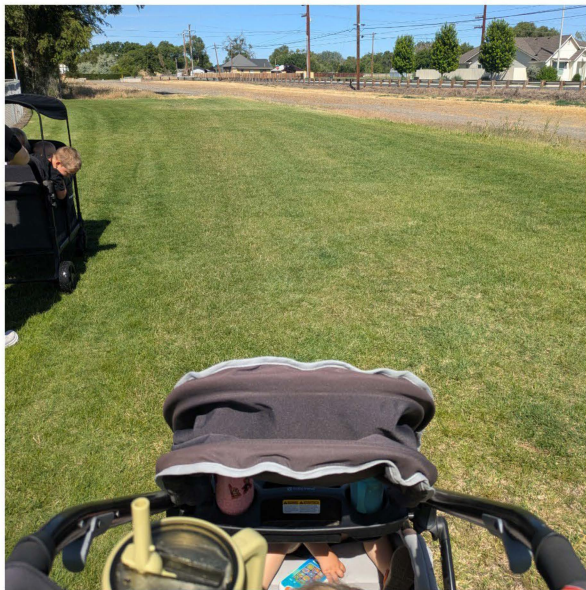
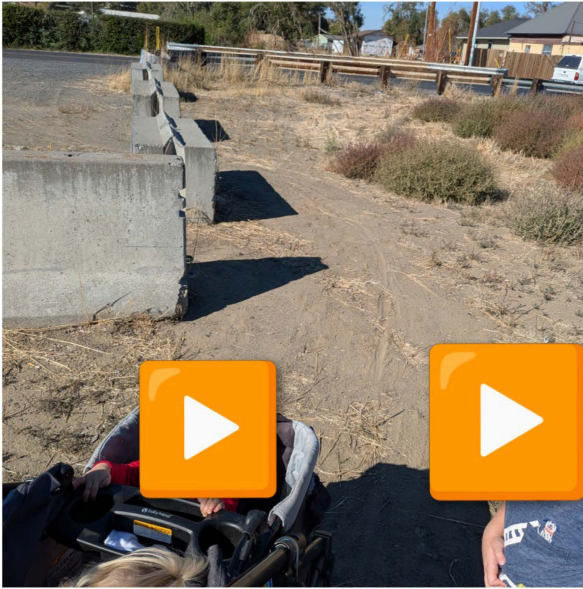
Subject: Limited Accessibility issues at Theater Sports Park, Hermiston

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] - STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of Hermiston

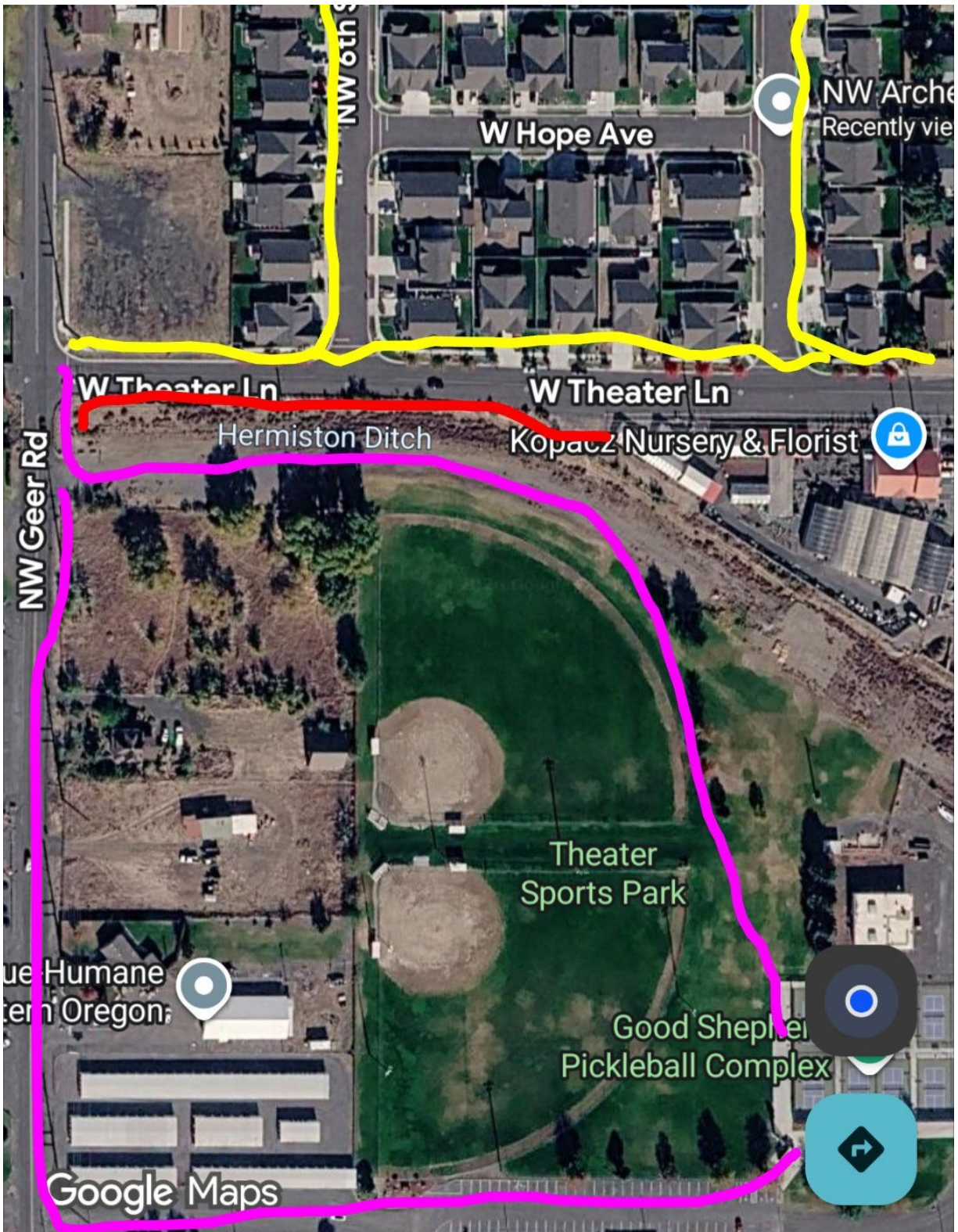
Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern about the lack of safe pedestrian access to our city park, Theater Sports Park from the surrounding neighborhoods. As it is currently, my young family walks there regularly with large strollers and it is stressful and significantly challenging to reach the park safely.

I am including a few photos and screenshots for your consideration of this matter.







Yellow markings= sidewalks

Red marking= existing guard rail

Pink markings= our default walking option to the park including playground, baseball fields, and pickleball courts

Our city park is an important community resource that promotes recreation, physical activity, and social connection. Unfortunately, the current lack of sidewalks, walking paths, or safe pedestrian crossings makes it difficult—and in some cases unsafe—for residents to access the park on foot.

I am aware of, and looking forward to the projects improving roads and sidewalks on Harper Rd, Geer Rd, and eventually Theater Lane. I respectfully ask the City Council to consider improving pedestrian accessibility by evaluating options such as constructing a walking path, adding sidewalks, installing crosswalks, improving lighting, and/or implementing other safety measures that would create a safer route to the park.

Investing in pedestrian infrastructure would not only improve public safety but also encourage healthier lifestyles, increase park usage, and make our community more accessible for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I appreciate your dedication to our community and hope this matter can be considered in future planning and budgeting discussions sooner than later. I look forward to hearing about any plans or opportunities to improve pedestrian access to our city park(s).

Sincerely,

Breana Beck
1951 NW Archer Dr
Hermiston, Oregon