



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes May 27, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron (arrived at 6:15pm), Myers, and Kelso. Councilor Linton and Barron were excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Chief Jason Edmiston, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Library Director Mark Rose, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

City Committee Review

City Manager Smith presented additional information provided at the April 28th meeting (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the different Boards and Committees and introduced Chair members who discussed their respective Committee, Board, or Commission, to include:

Library Board

Chair Lisa Depew and Library Director Mark Rose spoke regarding: Construction updates; the small number of items the community can check out due to having to downsize building size, however, the community is still able to check out materials housed at other libraries in the community; the storage of all other items off-site; programing, now and in the future with the remodeled Library, stating most programing is happening at City Hall but due to limited space availability programing have been reduced; adjustment of Library hours to fit the needs of the community while staying in-budget; focusing on policies to address the new spaces and equipment that will be available in the remodeled Library; and the difficulty it can be to meet regularly without a quorum and finding volunteers who want to serve on the Board.

Airport Advisory Committee

Airport Manager Rolf Anderson Leirvik gave information regarding: Life Flight activity at the Airport and how their future move to Good Shepherd Health Care Systems will impact the Airport; the many other different flights that go in and out of the airport each day to include agriculture, UPS overnight, real estate and construction businesses, as well as various small and large jets; T-Hangar construction updates to accommodate as many as 10 planes as well as giving information regarding the recent 10% tax and Annual Fee tax that the State of Washington is implementing on purchases of \$600,000 or more, which most planes are, this new tax will bring many people in the aviation industry to Oregon/Hermiston which will increase demands for T-Hangars, fuel, mechanics, and the like; long-term plan to expand the runway and other Airport improvement projects where the City is only responsible for about 5% of costs; fuel tax; non-aviation land leases; a successful flight school of 10-15 students each year from all around the area, and more.

Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center (EOTEC) Advisory Committee

City Manager Smith stated he will give updates as the Chair recently moved from the area. City Manager Smtih stated the Committee hears regular updates from EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, and briefly spoke about HEROS (HERmiston Oregon Sportsplex), Barn expansion projects, and future RV Park as these items have been recently discussed in great detail to the Council.



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Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Chair Dan Mahon stated the Committee is focused on intentional efforts, engagement, and communication to the faith-based community and community as a whole, with a greater emphasis on community needs and what the Committee can do to aid in these needs; the Committee recently had two new members join; the most recently goals have been to establish resources for those struggling with food insecurities as the closing of Desert Rose Ministries has impacted this community, the Committee has been working with community partners like Made to Thrive, Good Shepherd Health Care Systems, Stepping Stones Alliance, Solid Rock Church, Euvalcree, Agape House, and others in these efforts; Hermiston School District Adoption, where local churches adopt a public school in Hermiston and provide support for staff and students from snacks to clothes, school supplies, and more; I Love My City efforts; Monthly Pastor Breakfast Meeting where 12-25 pastors gather to discuss a variety of topics; diverse churches coming together to strengthen relationships and the Community and more.

Planning Commission

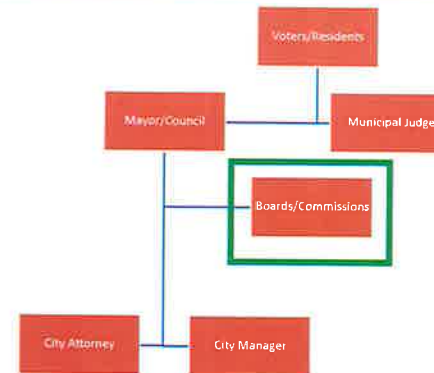
Chair Dean Fialka and Planning Director Clint Spencer gave information regarding: current large residential developments; land inventory and expanding industrial lands; combined Commissioner experience is about 120 years with Commissioner Margaret Saylor being the longest serving member in the State of Oregon with 50 years of service; how busy the Planning Department and Planning Commission is with meetings starting at 7:00pm and ending at midnight at times; Commissioners have very difficult rulings to make but always try to make decisions based on the best interest of the community, and more.

Adjournment

City Manager Smith stated the Chair of the Parks and Recreation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee are present to ready to present to the Council, but suggested, based on the time, that the Council adjourn the work session meeting and convene the regular City Council meeting where these presentations can resume and complete. The Council agreed and Mayor Primmer adjourned the work session meeting at 7:04pm and stated the regular council meeting would convene after a short break.



City Organization



Committees

- Why Do We Have Them?
 - “Aid the Council in the conduct of public affairs”
 - A method of public engagement
 - Bringing different perspectives to ideas
- What Kinds of Committees (Boards/Commissions/Committees)?
 - Council Appointed
 - State Mandated
 - Community Driven
 - Council-Only (Policy)
- Sources
 - Ordinances
 - Council Rules
 - 2025 Council, Staff, Committee and Council Committee Appointments List



Committees

	Ordinance	Council Rules	Committee List Only	State Required	Council Only	Council/Public	Public with Council Liaison
Airport Advisory Committee	X						X
Budget Committee	X			X		X	
Community Accountability Board			X				
Community Enhancement Committee			X			X	
EOTEC Advisory Committee	X						X
Faith-Based Advisory Committee	X						X
Hispanic Advisory Committee	X						X
Library Board	X						X
Parks and Recreation Committee	X						X
Planning Commission	X			X			
Public Infrastructure Committee			X		X		
Public Safety Committee			X		X		
Public Transit Committee			X		X		
Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee	X					X	
Sanitary Disposal Committee			X		X		
Vacancy Review Board (Selection Committee)		X			X		



Committees w/Public Members

- Hispanic Advisory Committee
 - Five (5) members with ties to Hermiston's Hispanic Community
 - Powers and Duties
 - Provide a means of communication between the city's Hispanic community and the city's elected and appointed officials.
 - This enhanced communication will assist in the development of a stronger community that is respectful of all nationalities, races, ethnic groups and cultures.
 - Established by ordinance – public members with a council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Library Board
 - Five (5) members
 - Powers and Duties
 - Advise the Librarian, Mayor and Council on the following topics:
 - (A) Rules and policies for the governance of the library;
 - (B) Preparation and submission of an annual budget request;
 - (C) Expenditures from the library fund;
 - (D) The acceptance, use or expenditure of any real or personal property or funds donated to the library;
 - (E) Working with the Umatilla County Library District; and
 - (F) Such other activities as the Librarian, Mayor and Council may request.
 - Established by ordinance – public members with a council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Airport Advisory Committee
 - Five (5) members
 - Powers and Duties
 - Advise on rules governing the commercial and noncommercial aeronautical activities on the Hermiston Airport, which don't abridge, enlarge, or modify the rules and standards of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
 - Established by ordinance – public members with a council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center
 - Seven (7) members
 - Umatilla County Fair recommendation
 - Farm-City Pro Rodeo recommendation
 - Chamber recommendation
 - Four (4) at-large
 - Powers and Duties
 - Advise the Mayor, Council and City Manager on items related to the operations, maintenance and development of the EOTEC.
 - Established by ordinance – public members with a council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Faith Based Advisory Committee
 - Five (5) members with a connection to Hermiston's faith-based community
 - Powers and Duties
 - Provide a means of communication between the city's religious community and the city's elected and appointed officials.
 - Help determine where the city can have a positive impact on the quality of life of the residents of the City of Hermiston.
 - Established by ordinance – public members with a council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Parks and Recreation Committee
 - Seven (7) members
 - Powers and Duties
 - Advise the Mayor, Council and City Manager on items related to the parks system and the recreation programs of the City.
 - Act as the Community Tree Board.
 - Established by ordinance – public members with council liaison



Committees w/Public Members

- Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee
 - Five (5) members
 - Motel operator
 - Parks and Recreation Committee member
 - Chamber Representative
 - City Council member
 - At large not affiliated
 - Powers and Duties
 - Solicits applications for and then makes recommendations to the Mayor, Council and City Manager on items related to allocation of transient lodging funds to recreation-related projects (9%).
 - Established by ordinance – public members with voting councilor



Committees w/Public Members

- Planning Commission
 - Nine (9) members
 - Powers and Duties
 - Spelled out in ORS 227.090
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Zoning
 - Future growth and beautification of the City
 - Industrial Development
 - Established by ordinance – public members
 - Based on ORS 227.030
 - No more than two voting members of the commission may be in the real estate business.
 - No more than two members shall be engaged in the same kind of occupation, business, trade or profession.



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Airport Advisory Committee	X						X
Budget Committee	X			X		X	
Community Accountability Board			X				
Community Enhancement Committee			X			X	
EOTEC Advisory Committee	X						X
Faith-Based Advisory Committee	X						X
Hispanic Advisory Committee	X						X
Library Board	X						X
Parks and Recreation Committee	X						X
Planning Commission	X			X			
Public Infrastructure Committee			X		X		
Public Safety Committee			X		X		
Public Transit Committee			X		X		
Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee	X					X	
Sanitary Disposal Committee			X		X		
Vacancy Review Board (Selection Committee)		X			X		



DISCUSSION!

Thank You!

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