



*Where Life is Sweet*

# CITY COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

- H. Minutes of the March 4, 2026 Charter Review Committee Meeting
- I. Minutes of the March 9, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting
- J. Minutes of the March 23 City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting
- K. Liquor License Retail On-Premises Sales & Consumption Application for Blue Agave Event Center located at 1835 S Highway 395
- L. Approve Ground Lease Agreement with Windblown Ranch Inc. at the Hermiston Municipal Airport
- M. Authorizing the Acceptance of a Relinquishment Deed to certain rights of way to the City of Hermiston from the State of Oregon

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

### **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

#### **N. E Airport Road renaming establishment of hearing date**

Councilor Linton requested the Renaming of E Airport Road be moved from the Consent Agenda as she understood there was to be a discussion on which of the roads would be renamed. City Manager Smith stated it was staff's understanding Airport Road was to be renamed. The consent agenda item is to establish a hearing date.

### **Public Comments**

Gary Culp 1200 E Airport Rd- Mr. Culp inquired if staff had received his written testimony. Mr. Culp collected the petition signatures and stated not one person wants to change their address. He asked why there wasn't concern about First Place and First Street.

Cruz Correa 1350 E Airport Rd- Mr. Correa thanked the council for their work. While at his location since 1994, he could count on one hand the number of times packages were delivered to the wrong business. He stated he sent pictures to Councilor Hayward and believes this could be worked out without changing the name and asked why the rename is being considered. He suggested state and other agencies do a better job indicating the names of the road and where businesses are located.

Jodi Oswald 1600 E Airport Road- Ms. Oswald has been at this location for approximately 30 years. She was not notified that this was happening, except for Mr. Culp reaching out to her. She is self-employed and would have personal and business information that would need to be changed if the road were renamed.

Nick Moses 2000 E Airport Road- In the late 1950's his grandparents built the house where Mr. Moses currently resides. His parents were raised in the home, and he is currently raising his family in the same home. He would like the address to remain the same.



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Karyn Jones 1010 W Highland Ave- While not a residence of the road, Ms. Jones sympathizes with the people who live on and operate businesses there. She feels it is an unfair burden on those that have to change their information, stating it will be a huge financial and time burden. She also suggests better signage and looking at renaming other similarly named streets. She asked for the issue to be tabled and not move forward with the hearing.

Lisa Sturgeon- Ms. Sturgeon worked at the airport and stated businesses get packages delivered everyday and are delivered to the wrong location. She stated it is confusing having the road names so close. Several horse trailers go down Airport Way during the fair and suggest larger signage.

Councilor Linton moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to table Consent Agenda item N and install larger signage for Airport Way. After some discussion, the motion failed 2-5. Councilors Hayward and Linton voted in favor. Councilors Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Baron voted against.

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Kelso seconded to approve Consent Agenda Item N. The hearing date will be set for May 11. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Baron voting in favor and Councilor Linton opposed.

#### **Resolution No. 2418: Geer/Harper Realignment Contract Award**

Assistant City Manager used the attached PowerPoint presentation to briefly describe the proposed realignment of the intersection which will increase safety and improve traffic flow. There will be significant traffic flow disruptions throughout construction. This contract is for the paving portion and is anticipated to be completed in the fall. The crossing will be closed for over a year, with traffic flow on each side of the crossing opening in the fall. The funding for the paving project is from the State Gas Tax (HB 2017).

Emailed testimony was received, provided to the councilors and is attached. After a brief discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Resolution No. 2418 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Baron in favor.

#### **Resolution No. 2419 Authorizing Participation in Product Liability Litigation and Engagement of Counsel**

City Manager Smith stated this is an issue all around the country and litigation has started against manufacturers of some of the chemicals. This request is for authorization to join one of the groups, with the potential for some funding which could help build a treatment facility.

#### **Public Comments**

Karyn Jones – Ms. Jones stated it is a serious issue here and is grateful for staff for bringing the potential litigation to their attention. She stated some of the potential health risks of the chemicals and encouraged councilors to vote yes and move forward with this item.