



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, Linton, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron. Councilor Myers was 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, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Kelly Finch, 1005 S 1st- Asked that the Council consider implementing a crossing guard, installing a traffic signal, or doing something else that can help the dangerous intersection by the High School, stating a student was recently hit by a vehicle in this intersection and sustained serious injuries as students aren't paying attention when they cross the street and drivers get impatient and also frequently speed in this area.

Dean Hackett- Stated he has been in the community for 18 years, 16 of those years has been as a Pastor at Living Faith Church and is deeply concerned with the Business License Requirements asking churches to register. Although the Business License waves fees for churches and non-profit organizations, he believes the License itself is a violation of the 1st Amendment and is worried that future Administrations could try to regulate, dictate, or control churches and religious organizations if the City continues to seek licenses to these groups. Mr. Hackett stated that although churches are required to register with the state, this is only required to collect donations and asked that the Council consider making an amendment to exclude churches and religious organizations in the license requirements.

Michelle Monroe, Friends of the Library- invited the Council and public to participate in the 4th Annual Read Across Hermiston Read-A-Thon on March 1st 9am to 4pm at the Next Chapter Bookstore. Organizers are looking for individuals who would like to reach for 20 minutes and solicit monetary donations for the library. More information can be found on their flyer (attached).

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Roberts seconded to approve Consent Agenda item A-I, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Budget Committee Confirmation Re-Appointments for 3-year terms ending December 31, 2027: Position 7, Brian Misner; Position 8, David Hansen; and Position 9, John Douglass.
- C. Budget Committee Confirmation Appointment for remaining 3-year term ending December 31, 2025: Position 3, Rod Hardin. 1
- D. Faith-Based Advisory Committee Confirmation Appointment for 3-year term ending December 31, 2027: Position 3, Rafael Vargas.
- E. Faith-Based Advisory Committee Confirmation Re-Appointment for 3-year term ending December 31, 2027: Position 4, Chris Hankel.
- F. Library Board Confirmation Appointment for the remaining 4-year term ending June 30, 2026: Position 4, Linda Tibbals.
- G. Minutes of the January 23rd and 24th City Council Goal Setting Session Meetings
- H. Minutes of the January 30, 2025 Public Infrastructure Committee meeting
- I. Minutes of the January 30th Regular City Council Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.



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Upcoming Governance-Related Items Discussion

City Manager Smith gave information regarding conducting a Charter review with enough time for public comments prior to placing any items on the General Election Ballot this year; as well as reexamining Council Committees, Boards, and Advisory groups. This would be done by asking Committee Chairs to attend a City Council meeting and present items that their committee is working on to allow Council members an opportunity to make any suggested changes to these committees, including adding or deleting specific committees, and their corresponding ordinances.

Mayor Primmer stated the Committee discussion is something he suggested to discuss as some may have already served their purpose and may no longer be needed.

Councilor Roberts encouraged the public to get involved by volunteering on any of the many committees that have vacancies, stating this is how he first became involved in city government, by becoming a citizen member of a city committee.

Mayor Primmer stated no action is being required at this time, this item is informational only.

Pickleball Complex Naming Agreement

City Manager Smith stated the Pickleball Committee (not a City Committee) has been actively and successfully securing donations for the Pickleball Complex Project at Theater Sports Park. One of these donations includes the naming rights for the Facility which The Good Shephard Health Care System is asking to secure with a \$100,000 donation. This proposal does comply with the City's adopted Naming Rights Policy.

City Manager Smith addressed questions from the Council and Councilor Linton moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve the naming rights agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The Council thanked the Good Shephard Health Care System for being such a great community partner.

Committee Reports

EOTEC Committee- Councilor Barron stated the Committee met for their quarterly meeting and heard updates regarding Barns, HERO's Sports Complex, Parks and Recreation Department helping manage HERO's, helping secure grants, promoters working with regional groups to get good artists to perform at EOTEC, Amazon's solar panel donation, and establishing goals to make EOTEC self-sufficient.

Airport Advisory Committee- Councilor Roberts spoke regarding Hangar Project updates, real-time weather information collection, and budget.

Faith-Based Advisory Committee- Councilor Hayward spoke regarding their efforts to engage the faith-community and heard information and asked questions regarding Business Licenses to City Manager Smith that were spoken about earlier in the meeting.

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron stated the Committee is hosting a resource fair at the Community Center focusing on immigration on Sunday, February 16th from 4pm-6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee- Councilor Duron announced the Harkenrider Senior Center Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, February 13th from 4pm-5:30pm.



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Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- Asked Council members who are interested in attending the NLC Congressional City Conference to please reach out to City Recorder Alarcon-Strong at their earliest convenience.
 - City Manager Smith stated the Council Budget is lean and may only be able to accommodate a couple of Council members attending conferences for the rest of the fiscal year.
- Valentines Day

Council President's Report

Council President McCarthy spoke regarding:

- Echoed Mayor Primmer's comments regarding Valentines Day, and
- Encouraged the Community to watch the High School's Performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory this weekend.

Council Reports

Councilor Linton moved and Councilor Kelso seconded to have staff return to a future City Council meeting to discuss and provide options for Business License Requirements for churches. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Linton moved and Councilor Hayward seconded to have staff return to a future City Council meeting to discuss and provide options for the crosswalk area by the High School at 1st and W. Highland Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Advisory Report

None present.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith stated all items have been previously addressed.

Adjourn City Council Meeting & Tour the Harkenrider Senior Center

There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 7:46pm stating that all those present, including members of the public, are invited to tour the Harkenrider Senior Center to include the recently renovated basement.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, City Recorder

4TH ANNUAL



READ

ACROSS

**HERMISTON
READ-A-THON**

**Saturday, March 1st, 2025
9am-4pm**

The Next Chapter Bookstore
1000 S Hwy 395, Suite C,
Hermiston, OR 97838

Fundraiser hosted by:



Friends of the

For more information visit:

www.hermistonlibraryfriends.org/read-a-thon

or contact the Friends at
info@hermistonlibraryfriends.org