



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes September 22, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Myers, McCarthy, Linton, Duron, Kelso, and Barron. Councilor Roberts was excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Jason Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Also present was Student Advisor Teodoro Delgado. The pledge of allegiance was given.

City Manager Byron Smith stated there are Audio Visual issues that staff is currently working to resolve but may continue into the meeting.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Mitch Myers, P.O. Box 1230- spoke regarding Hermiston's History, once his five-minutes had been used, he asked Mayor Primmer if he could continue to speak if audience members agreed to give him their allotted time; Mayor Primmer agreed and two members of the audience allowed Mr. Myers to use their time.

Mr. Myers continued, and spoke regarding concerns he has with Umatilla County Health Department who do nothing to stop the illegal food vending going on throughout the City yet harass non-profit organizations who just want to host a potluck, his disappointment with the City that also is not enforcing illegal vending from prepared food, to fruit, to flowers being sold on City sidewalks while not complying with cleanliness and food safety standards, or having to pay for local and state licensing, and asked that the City and County hold property owners responsible for illegal vending as this may be the only way to permanently stop illegal vending.

Mr. Myers asked that the City take disciplinary action against the Code Enforcement Official who made inappropriate remarks regarding the assassination of Charlie Kirk. And more be done regarding graffiti, vandalism, and homelessness in the downtown areas and McKenzie Park as the homeless population actions are repulsive. Mr. Myers stated he does not live in the City but has many businesses in City limits and cares about the community.

Mayor Primmer thanked Mr. Myers for his comments and stated the City is diligently working on a new ordinance to address many of these items.

Julian McNalley, 1850 Vincent Lane- stated he was deeply disturbed by Councilor Linton's Facebook comments regarding the sensitive matter of the Charlie Kirk assassination, and although it is her personal Facebook page, he would have hoped that an elected official would have had more grace. Mr. McNalley stated he was not rude, disrespectful, or aggressive in his Facebook comment letting her know he would be attending the City Council meeting, yet Councilor Linton tried using the Police Department to keep him from attending, stating she was in fear for her life, which is wrong. Mr. McNalley stated he called City Hall, Mayor Primmer, and the Police Department to make sure he could attend tonight's meeting and everyone was polite, informative, and supportive of his presence.

Applause from the audience.



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Sarah Stone, 1030 Emerald Lane- stated she is a Veteran and community advocate for homeless individuals, Veterans in need, and those struggling with mental health and addiction. Ms. Stone thanked the City for all they do for this population and praised local organizations such as Stepping Stones Alliance, Eastern Oregon Mission, Capeco, Umatilla County Housing Authority and more for their efforts in supporting vulnerable populations, especially for Veterans, but stated there is still a need for coordinated efforts to connect individuals and families with the appropriate care and support systems to save their lives. As a follower of Jesus Christ, she knows that this is what Jesus calls for and quoted Mathew 16, 24-25 from the Bible.

Mayor Primmer asked Ms. Stone to see City Recorder Alarcon-Strong for his contact information so they can schedule a time to speak.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Barron asked to remove item D and Councilor McCarthy asked to remove item A from the Consent Agenda. Councilor Myers moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Consent Agenda items B,C, & E, to include:

- B. Committee Vacancy Announcement 1
- C. Confirm appointments to the Ad-Hoc Charter Review Committee as follows: Chair, Dr. David Drotzmann, Members: Monique Brandley, Karyn Jones, Paul Wolverton, Kyndra Stone, Rod Hardin, and Val Hoxie.
- E. Minutes of the September 8th City Council Regular Meeting

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

Items Removed From Consent Agenda

- A. Public Notice of the 2026 Primary Election- Seeking City Official Candidates
- D. Recommend Appointment to the Library Board- Position 3, 4-year term ending June 30, 2029 to Zaira Sanchez

Councilor Barron stated he asked to remove item D to acknowledge Zaira Sanchez as she is in the audience.

Councilor McCarthy stated he asked to remove item A to be read aloud due to its important nature.

City Manager Smith summarized the staff report emphasizing the Primary Election is seeking Ward Council Candidates and Municipal Judge Candidates.

Councilor Hayward moved, and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda Items A & D. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.



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Ordinance No. 2371- Creating Local Improvement District No. 323

Mayor Primmer stated Ordinance No. 2371 was presented during the public hearing on September 8th which has been closed, as such, no further evidence or public comment will be received.

City Attorney Tovey read the ordinance by title only. Councilor Hayward moved, and Councilor Myers seconded to adopt Ordinance No.2371 and become effective 30 days after adoption of the City Council. Motioned passed 6-1 with Councilors Hayward, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor, and Councilor Linton voting against.

August 2025 Monthly Financial Report

After staff answered questions from the Council, Councilor Myers moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to accept the Monthly Financial Report as presented (PowerPoint Presentation attached) by Finance Director Palacios, Assistant City Manager Morgan, and City Manager Smith. Motion passed unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, Linton, and Barron voting in favor.

Committee Reports

Faith-Based Advisory Committee- Councilor Hayward gave updates regarding a presentation from Stepping Stones Alliance stating the Homeless Shelter is receiving about 14 people per night.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron and Myers gave updates regarding the lack of committee attendance causing another meeting without a quorum, Recreation Coordinator recruitment efforts, tree inventory, funding, pickleball courts have been seeing about 1,000 players per week from June 14th through August, enclosing Funland playground for children safety and possibly add a bike rack, conversations with Oregon Marina Board regarding more river access, Family Magic Night, Treats on Main, and the grade 6-12 Scary Wood trip.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- Public Safety Center Tour during tonight's work session, thanking the great tour guides from the Police Department and stating the facility looks amazing and is excited for its completion
- More than 800 volunteer hours community members served for the Pendleton Round-Up
- City Chat at Friday's Football Game was well attended with great conversations
- Umatilla County Farm to Square event in Portland was very similar to the Hermiston Watermelon Give Away with lots of produce given away and great participation from local and state representatives
- LOC Conference in Portland
- Commended Daniel Wattenburger for the great job he did creating the Council Cards

Council Presidents Report

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding:

- Reminded the community to slow down in school zones
- Great opportunity to speak with members of the public during City Chats
- Gave recognition to Committee, Board, and Commission members for all the work they do for the City and Community as a whole



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Council Reports

Councilor Linton also commended Daniel Wattenburger on the Council Cards and stated she believes the emails sent are micro-aggression's as she was not fighting with anyone on Facebook; wanted to remind the public commenter, Julian McNally, about the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 1st amendments and stated she never told him not to come to the City Council meeting, she only told him that she was going to call the Police Department after the fourth time he commented that he would see her at the Council Meeting which is when she felt harassed and threatened but is glad he also contacted the Police Department; and stated, people can either vote for her or not at the next election.

Councilor Myers thanked the members of the Police Department in the audience for being their Safety Center tour guides during the work session.

Councilor Barron agreed with Councilor Myers sentiments regarding the Safety Center Tour and believes the remodel will be more efficient for staff and thanked the City for the construction updates to the Arc building as these improvements are also benefiting the Inland Northwest Musicians who are housed there. Councilor Barron praised the public who attended the City Chats on Friday stating they were very informed.

Councilor Duron also commended the City on the Council Cards and asked that the City include in-person participation and YouTube viewing options for City Council meetings in the next round of printing. Thanked the City for their efforts in hosting one of the City Chats at Hacienda West Apartments, stating it is a great opportunity for individuals who maybe cannot attend other City Chats to be able to attend one closer to home.

Councilor McCarthy stated there is a QR Code to the YouTube page.

Councilor Hayward spoke regarding the Hermiston High School Performing Arts Collective Fundraising Dinner and Auction he attended stating they did a phenomenal job performing, and thanked Chaplain Terry Cummings and Parks and Recreation Director Artz for their help with the City Prayer and Prayer for the Nation at City Hall on September 11th, stating the event was organized last minute but had a great turn out and he heard repeatedly from community members that it was a wonderful event and should be held more often.

Councilor Kelso spoke regarding the great Hermiston High School venue to hold the latest City Chat, stating he spoke with many constituents, learned a lot, and hopes City continues to hold City Chats well into the future. Attended the regular Board Meeting of Inland Northwest Musicians and was asked to pass along their gratitude for their remodeled space at the Arc. Encouraged the public to run for the four Ward Council Elected positions; stating he knows there are many people who would do a great job as City Councilors and should be involved in their City, stating he has enjoyed his time on the Council and knows others would too.

Youth Advisory Report

Teodoro Delgado stated he had nothing to report.



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City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith gave information regarding:

- Thanked the Council for the flowers and condolences
- Thanked the Council for their praise on the Council Cards, stating he copied the idea from the City of Florence and created the card with Daniel Wattenburger's help
- Asked the Council to RSVP to City Recorder Alarcon-Strong if they would like to attend any of the upcoming 2025-26 scheduled City Chats

Adjourn

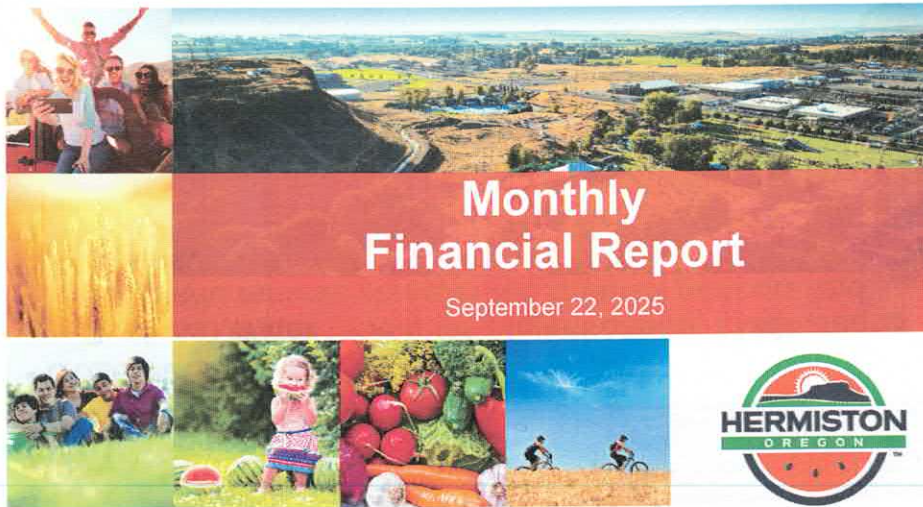
There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 8:14pm.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency (HURA)

- Hermiston URA split in four funds for fiscal year – General, Downtown, North and South.
- North Hermiston Urban Renewal Area – ROW appraisals complete with anticipated bidding this winter.



General Fund

- Second month (or 16.7%) of 2025-26 fiscal year
- Monthly Revenues ended under projection by ~\$466k
 - Primarily due to change in building fee and grant revenues



General Fund

- Monthly Expenses were over projection by ~\$2.0 million
 - Primarily due transfer of building funds to newly created building inspection fund (~\$2.7 million)
 - City Council, Airport and Non-Departmental are over budget due to annual LOC membership, transfer for projects, and transfer to building inspection fund, respectively.
 - Parks, Parks Utility, Pool and Recreation are over budget due to seasonal activities.



Fund Balance – General Fund

- Minimum Fund Balance for 2025 is \$2.9 million
 - Projected fund balances include the effect of transfer to newly established building inspection fund totaling \$2.7 million.
 - Fund balance projections are adjusted to reflect \$970k general fund reserves held
 - Without the \$2.7 million transfer the budget minimum drops from \$2.9 million to \$2.5 million
 - With adjustments fund balance drops below minimum in June 2026



Special Revenue Funds

- Observations:
 - New Building Inspection fund activity included in special revenue summary
 - EOTEC revenues do not reflect reimbursement from campground project
 - EOTEC activity for personnel and material and services reflect seasonal events (fair, special and private events, etc.)



Utility and Street Funds

- Observations:
 - Regional Water fund over projections by \$125k due to budgeted reserve transfer for planned projects and repairs.



Capital Projects

- A number of projects in design:
 - Geer/Harper Realignment- full design expected by late fall
 - N. 1st Sidewalk (additional ROW with UPRR has begun)
 - RWS Backup Generators – currently in design
 - Well #6 Chlorination Structure
 - Lift Station #5 wet well upgrades – design to begin
 - E. Evelyn Avenue gravity sewer line – design to begin
 - Orchard Water Line replacement – preliminary design underway
- Aquifer Storage/Recovery – final depth reached shifting to construction
- Well #4 Controls – contract awarded, project to 'commence' after peak season
- TBD (budgeted and part of CIP):
 - Dogwood Street, SE 10th Street Bridge, and Lift Station #7



Capital Projects

- Hangar Replacement – Roof complete. Fall occupancy.
- Library – Books moved in and initial punch list developed
- The Arc – PD moved in. Sand and finish interior upon PD vacation
- Sherman Park – Construction plans nearly complete
- Public Safety Center – Drywall and insulation taking place



Discussion

Questions?

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