



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025

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

City Manager Smith announced that the Public Hearing to initiate the formation of LID 323 on NW 2nd Street and Ordinance No. 2371- Creating LID 323 is being rescheduled to the City Council meeting of Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Proclamation- National Police Week

Mayor Primmer read aloud the National Police Week and expressed sincere gratitude to all who serve in the line of duty.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Linton moved, and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda item A-F to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcement
- B. Confirmation to appoint Janizee Serrano to Position 4 of the Planning Commission with a term expiration of March 31, 2026. 1
- C. Recommendation to appoint Kyndra Stone to Position 5 of the EOTEC Advisory Committee with a term expiration of June 30, 2028.
- D. Recommendation to appoint Mark Rademacher to Position 3 of the Airport Advisory Committee with a remaining term expiration of October 31, 2027.
- E. Award Miscellaneous Engineering Services Contract to Anderson Perry & Associates
- F. Minutes of the April 28 City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing- Initiate Formation of LID 323 on NW 2nd Street & Ordinance No. 2371- Creating LID 323

Mayor Primmer stated as announced at the beginning of the meeting by City Manager Smith, these items have been rescheduled to the City Council meeting of May 27, 2025.

Adoption of FY 2024-25 Umatilla County Dispatch Agreement

Mayor Primmer and Councilor Roberts disclosed they have contacted the Oregon Government Ethics Commission regarding a potential conflict of interest, and it has been determined that they do not have a conflict of interest and may participate in the following proceedings.

City Manager Smith presented the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for dispatch services stating the agreement is a result of many meetings with a variety of Umatilla County officials, however many more discussions will need to be had to continue to move forward with future IGA's as there has been a lack of



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communication and transparency with costs associated with dispatch services and when the information is supplied to users. Currently, the cost of service has increased by over 50% in the last four years and cities and fire agencies were never informed about the reasons for the increase until after-the-fact, stating it was due to union negotiations.

City Manager Smith explained questions regarding the graph of proposed and actual costs, how cities currently fund about half of the dispatch costs after subtracting out 911 tax revenue, and proposals to change the cost formula based on other factors like calls of service, etc. City Manager Smith answered questions regarding possibly forming a West-End Dispatch Center with neighboring communities and districts, stating preliminary discussion have been had and will continue if a solution can't be found with the County; however, the City does want to try to work with the County and appreciates the County Commissioners taking more of a role in contract administration.

Councilor Roberts spoke regarding email communication between the County and City he witnessed at the County level with regards to the County relaying sufficient information to the City regarding dispatch services and Mayor Primmer spoke regarding how much more expensive dispatch services would be for the City if the City developed its own Dispatch Center.

After further discussion, Councilor Roberts moved, and Councilor Kelso seconded to authorize the City Manager to sign the FY 2024-25 IGA for Dispatch Services as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of RV Park Expansion Agreement and License

Councilor Hayward stated he had a conflict of interest and recused himself on the issue and left the Council Chambers.

City Manager Smith stated Amazon Web Services (AWS) approached the City regarding the need for housing for their traveling contractors as there are not enough places for contractors to live in the area. AWS proposed construction of and paying for 100% of an RV Park development in which a specific number of spaces would be reserved for AWS contractors and another number of spaces would be for City use, which the City would use for long-term and short-term leases. A short-term RV Park has been listed previously in the EOTEC Master Plan. All RV parking spaces, including those reserved for AWS, would still be required to pay monthly space rent, which the City would collect and keep 100% of the revenues collected. The agreement is still in a draft stage, but if approved, the City and AWS would like to have the RV Park constructed prior to the 2026 Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo (aerial photo of EOTEC displayed and attached).

Councilor Barron stated, as a Council Representative assigned to the EOTEC Committee, he can attest to the construction of an RV Park as a priority for the EOTEC Committee and the EOTEC Master Plan and is excited about how this RV Park will be a great asset to EOTEC and the Community. Many of the Councilors agreed stating this is an exciting opportunity for the City while continuing to build strong relationships with community partners like AWS, as well as addressing the need and long-term goal of creating additional housing.



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After further discussion and answering questions from the Council, Councilor Barron moved, and Councilor McCarthy seconded to authorize the City Manager to sign the RV Park Expansion Agreement and License. Councilors Roberts, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voted in favor; Councilor Linton voted in opposition. Motion carried 6-1.

Councilor Hayward returned to the Council Chambers and dais.

Committee Reports

Airport Advisory Committee- Councilor Roberts spoke regarding an increase in flight traffic with Life Flight, decrease in fuel sales, hangar construction updates, and potential land lease opportunities.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron and Myers spoke regarding the positive feedback they've received from the City's new Monthly Newsletter, tree evaluation inventory, construction of 250 homes with a 9-acre park near the Airport, 2nd grade swim lessons, many events being held on May 17th throughout the community, pickleball court ribbon cutting on June 14th at 11:00am, and various City completed projects.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- The outstanding new Monthly Newsletter that was recently created and publicized and thanked last year's Hermiston Civic Leadership Academy class for their recommendation of this Newsletter
- The Oregon Mayors Association and LOC Conference
- Attending and participating in a 2nd grade Recycled Water Department Tour
- Fall LOC Conference Planning Committee

Council Presidents Report

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding:

- Many events planned in Hermiston on May 17th to include: I Love My City, Good Shepherd Health and Family Fitness Day at EOTEC, Armed Force Day, and in Pendleton, the Hands and Feet Color Walk event for Foster Parent Support Services
- Ethics Training on Wednesday at 4:00pm in Umatilla
- Budget Committee meeting on Thursday

Council Reports

Councilor Linton spoke regarding her attendance at LOC and conference sessions related to Chat GPT, housing, and House Bills. Councilor Linton stated she wanted to clarify her suggestion to decrease management salaries which does not apply to current staff members as she believes the City has good staff members, but would like to implement suggested lower salaries for new employees to prepare for the future.

Councilor Barron thanked Hermiston Energy Services and Umatilla Electric Cooperative for aligning power poles throughout the City as it makes the City look nicer.



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Councilor Kelso spoke regarding attending the Cinco de Mayo event held at EOTEC and encouraged all to attend in the future if they are able, and his attendance at the City of Pendleton's City Council Meeting stating they addressed issues on the curb-side recycling state mandate, problem they are facing keeping their Municipal Court operational as they are losing money each year, and stated it was a very interesting and great meeting and plans to attend more in the future. Councilor Kelso spoke regarding chauffeuring Hermiston High School students to the Schnitzer Steel Cares Foundation Student Grantmaking Initiative ceremony in Pendleton where local students chose community organizations that Schnitzer Steel funds. This year, the wonderful students in our area were able to receive grant funding for Stepping Stones Alliance and Eastern Oregon Mission.

Councilor Duron also spoke regarding one of the Schnitzer Steel Cares grant recipients who contacted her regarding hosting an immigration law presentation, spoke regarding attending the Ribbon Cutting event for new counseling services in Hermiston, and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the outstanding job they do keeping our parks and outdoor spaces well maintained and safe as she has been receiving many citizen compliments.

Councilor Roberts spoke regarding attending the Cinco de Mayo event at EOTEC, Board of Commissioners Meeting where they addressed public camping among other things, and gave information on the Eastern Oregon Regional Veterans Stand Down/Resource Event on June 14th at 9:00am at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Pendleton.

Youth Advisory Report

None present.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith asked that Council members share and encourage those they know to sign up for the monthly newsletter and stated next week is Public Works Week.

Mayor Primmer thanked the City's public works departments for all the work they do.

Adjourn

There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 8:27pm.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder

EOTEC Site - 2025

