

**VALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date 04/14/2026 7:00 PM - CITY HALL**

1. Meeting called to order by Council President Keller and roll call reported.

	City Attorney Jake Conde & Cole Sahleen
Council President Keller	City Manager Todd Fuller
Council Member Harper- Dennis	Council Member Bixby
Council Member Strohmeyer	City Recorder Ashley Aponte
Council Member Peasley	

2. Pledge of Allegiance- led by Council President Keller.

3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of Agenda

Council President Keller inquired if there are any additions to the agenda. City Manager Fuller adds new business item d. Quote for New Fire Water Pump. **Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. For possible Action: Approval of the previous meeting minutes.

Council Member Bixby motioned to approve the minutes from March 24, 2026 as written. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. For Possible Action: Review and Approve Bills previously Submitted for Payment

a. First Check Run - \$3,656.00 Second Check Run - \$122,360.00 Third Check Run-
\$33,872.31

Grand Total - 159,888.31

Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to approve checks submitted for payment in total of \$159,888.31. Council Member Harper-Dennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Department Reports and City Manager Report, Council Comments:** Schneider has been making progress at the Library. The ceiling is back up, where the floor was not level has been filled, and the braces for the wall, are up. Todd went to the city manager meeting in La Grande, they discussed how each other city's run, ideas about projects and city council and continuing to meet quarterly. There was also discussion on getting the city councils together from other cities for a workshop type meeting.

Ordinance Update- Sandy has tagged a few disabled cars around town. She was working on dog issues on west side of town. A trailer on Clark St. was brought up; it has the hitch in the street with cones, so we will let Sandy know so she is able to talk with them. Petrie St has a mobile home on blocks that appear to have people living in it; there are public commenters here for that; discussion to be continued momentarily. Will there be ordinance updates about putting carts away? Having the carts stay out on the sidewalks and street look bad and are blocking sidewalks.

Deputy Report- We are continuing to receive updates from the Sheriff's Department and City Manager Fuller is keeping a sheet.

Airport- Did not meet.

Parks- Discussion on playground equipment and having new committee members.

EMS- Has received about nine more calls then last year.

Library- Needs more members.

Public Works- Barriers have been put up at the easement. There was discussion on how the new garbage truck is working out. Once the weather clears up Barry will start chip sealing on 17th and B St.

7. Public Participation/Comments: Public comments shall not be restricted based on content or viewpoint.

Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person, per item, unless additional time is permitted by the presiding officer.

John Rivett from 794 17th St. feels that he has become a busybody after making several complaints about the dismantled mobile home on Petrie St. He is also having trouble with the neighbor next door but did not want to get into that tonight. John would like to know what is being done about the property, the mobile home does not have permits and there are several people living in multiple trailers; which is against city code. There is a bus and another trailer that were supposed to be off the property by Friday about a week and half ago but they are still sitting there and being lived in. John would at least appreciate communication about the ongoing situation. The commune started after he bought his property; he spent a lot of money on and does not want to live next to a commune of trailers. Todd: can I get with you tomorrow? It is okay to store trailers on the property but not to be living in them. John: There is six people living within the four trailers on the property. An electrician came and hooked up the electricity for the unfinished mobile home. The mobile home is not supposed to be occupied as it is not finished and is not on a foundation. There is no information on the trailer being okay to occupy. The city's information is the plan was for the mobile home to be put on a foundation, but this process has been stalled. The bus and the trailer should have been moved almost two weeks ago per Sandy; however, they only moved them around they did not remove them. Sandy was out of town for a family emergency. Strohmeyer: We will work on the problem, we need to make sure we are following the right avenues. John: adding this is a fire hazard for our property, they can't have home owners insurance without a home, if something happens to our home it will be on us. Harper-Dennis: We need to stop the situation before it's now a year later. John: Are they being fined for violating city ordinances? Strohmeyer and Peasley: We will be working on this and have an update discussion at the next meeting. Thank you for bringing this up and continuing to push the subject.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: Old Business

- a. Tire Quotes for Public Works Water Tanker- The tire quotes are for the rear tires, Les Schwab and Point S tires are comparable and so is the service and warranty. Since they are so similar, it makes sense to save money. **Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to approve Point S tires in the amount of \$ 1364.92. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Brush Dump Process- Stephen Maire is a contractor in Oregon and Idaho who grew up in Vale and came to talk about the brush pit having so much garbage at it. The contractors and out of town people have been being turned away from the brush pit. Stephen understands, and purposes what if we were charging contractors to dump and it would still only be allowed to be natural debris, no garbage; because building materials do not burn well and are not biodegradable. Stephen purposed a few ideas, including the key being picked up from city hall like it used to be, using QR codes to open the gate, having a sign up sheet, having a donation box. The weekends when city hall is closed may be a problem with picking up the keys but we need to figure something out because Vale does not want the brush pit to be shut down.
- c. Swimming Pool Geothermal Power Bill- Hugh Humphrey asked if the city would pay \$200 a month towards the Idaho Power bill. Council discussed if we should pay a percentage of the power bill instead of a set dollar amount. Hughe would bring in the power bill each month and then the city would pay that set dollar amount. Council thought about 50% would be an

appropriate percentage but thought Todd could work on negotiations. **Council Member Harper-Dennis motioned to pay Hugh \$200 a month until a proper contract can be settled on. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- d. SCA Grant – 15th St Project- The quote we received is for \$750,000 we have \$250,000. It will cost about \$300,000 to pave 15th St and re-do the base. Up to Warrington's only half the street is paved, so that would also need to be expanded.

9. For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business

- a. Parks and Rec Committee letter of interest- Katelynn John: Bixby said she is great with kids and council agrees she will be a good member. **Council President Keller motioned to add item 9.a.a. Mary Standage's interest in Parks and Rec Committee. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

a. Mary Standage- Mary Standage has been going to the Parks and Rec Meetings and would be a great additional member. **Council President Keller motioned to appoint Katelynn John and Mary Standage to Parks and Rec Committee. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Malheur County – Water for Weed Sprayer- 2000 for fire hydrant meter who covers cost
- c. Resolution 26-02 – Oregon Parks and Recreation Grant- **Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to approve the resolution for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Grant. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Quote for New Fire Water Pump- The rescue fire truck's water pump broke and needs replaced. Todd asked Jess if there were any other places to get a quote from, Jess said there is not this is a very specific water pump. **Council Member Peasley motioned to approve Cascade's quote for the new fire truck water pump. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. For Discussion Only: None.

11. Executive Session-

- a. **Executive Session- Legal counsel - ORS 192.660(2)(H)** - Authorizes council to consult with its counsel regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

12. For Possible Action: Adjourn meeting to Tuesday April 28, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Council Member Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday April 28, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hartwell', is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Hartwell