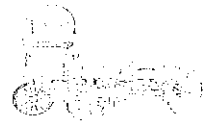




CITY OF VALE OREGON - CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 7:00 pm



Join by Zoom: Dial in by calling: 253-215-8782
Personal Meeting ID: 225 421 4421 Host Key: 4733133 Meeting Link: [Click Here](#)

Mayor	Alex Hartwell	Council Member	Michelle Harper-Dennis
Council President	Leighton Keller	City Attorney	Michael Horton
Council member	Monty Bixby	Interim City Manager	Marea Skultety
Council member	Jeremiah Strohmeyer		
Council member	Derrick Peasley	City Recorder	Ashley Aponte

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hartwell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda – For Possible Action

The agenda was amended to move the Vialytics presentation to the beginning of New Business.

Council Member Peasley moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – For Possible Action

Council President Keller moved to approve the August 11, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Approval of Bills – For Possible Action

- First Check Run: \$5,202.24
- Second Check Run: \$113,914.95
- Grand Total: \$119,117.19

Council President Keller moved to approve the checks submitted for payment in the total amount of \$119,117.19. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Department and Committee Reports/Council Comments

a. City Manager:

The City Manager's written report was provided in the Council packet. It was also reported that contractors are utilizing the City brush pit and that most have indicated a willingness to pay a fee for its use. The matter will be brought back at the next meeting.

b. Ordinance Officer:

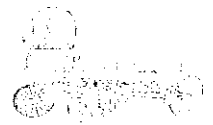
A written report was provided to Council. City crews have been busy trimming trees, removing weeds, and patching potholes.

c. Airport:

Council discussed an upcoming COAR grant opportunity anticipated to open in October. Concerns were raised



regarding the bollards installed around the fire hydrants, which may not have been properly filled with concrete. The engineer will be asked to inspect the work before final approval.



The same contractor also performed work on F Street, where an issue has been identified. The City will attempt to contact the contractor regarding potential warranty repairs. A thin area of asphalt was also identified that requires repair.

d. Parks and Recreation: Did not meet.

e. EMS/Police: Report deferred to the next meeting.

f. Library: Report deferred to the next meeting.

g. Public Works: Report deferred to the next meeting.

h. Swimming Pool Committee: Did not meet.

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.

Jane Padgett introduced herself as a Vale-area resident, an employee of the Department of Human Services in Ontario, and a board member of Four Rivers Healthy Community. She discussed the annual Healthy Communities Conference and the Eastern Oregon Funders Forum. She stated that representatives from several funding organizations, including the Oregon Community Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, and other Oregon and Idaho funders, are expected to participate. Community members were encouraged to attend.

8. Old Business – For Discussion and Possible Action

a. DRC Employee

Council discussed compensation for the Water Specialist II employee designated as the City's DRC. The employee had requested an additional \$2.88 per hour. A proposal was discussed to provide \$1.44 per hour during the current budget year, with the remaining \$1.44 per hour to be considered beginning in July of the next fiscal year, for a total of \$2.88 per hour.

The additional compensation will be reflected as certification pay on the employee's paycheck.

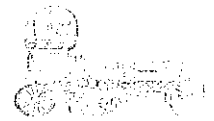
Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve an additional \$1.44 per hour for the Water Specialist II designated as the DRC. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Development and Access Permit

Council reviewed the proposed Development and Access Permit. It was reported that the permit had been reviewed and no significant issues were identified. The updated permit provides additional detail regarding development requirements, including curbs, gutters, and setbacks.



Council Member Peasley moved to approve the new Development and Access Permit. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



c. RV Limited Use Permit

Council reviewed the proposed RV Limited Use Permit. Legal counsel advised that the permit could move forward.

The permit is intended to address requests for electrical outlets serving recreational vehicles while documenting that the RV will not be used as a residence. Council also discussed existing hardship approval processes available through the City and County.

Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve the RV Limited Use Permit. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. 792 17th Street N.

Council discussed enforcement options regarding individuals residing in recreational vehicles where such occupancy is not permitted. Legal counsel advised the City to begin issuing citations as appropriate.

e. Property Adjacent to the Old Bank

Legal counsel recommended referring the matter to the City's engineers for evaluation to determine the appropriate course of action and whether circumstances warrant emergency action.

Members of the Historical Society were present and discussed concerns regarding the deteriorating wall on the property north of the historic bank building.

Robert Butler, P.O. Box 430, 533 I Street W., Vale, stated that the Historical Society owns the bank building and that efforts to contact the owner of the neighboring property, Rex Martin, have been unsuccessful despite attempts to contact family members. Concerns were raised regarding bolts and beams associated with the deteriorating structure and their connection to the bank building.

Harry Claude, 506 Thompson Avenue, Nyssa, described the continued deterioration of the wall and the potential for portions of it to fall toward the street. He also expressed concern that the wall could damage the bank building if it collapses.

Council discussed obtaining professional assistance because City employees are not trained to perform demolition work. Staff will explore fencing options, determine whether the Fire Chief and State Fire Marshal should be involved, and identify appropriately licensed demolition contractors to evaluate available options.

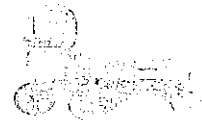
9. New Business – For Discussion and Possible Action

a. Recovery Month Proclamation

A representative discussed Recovery Month and the work of local community mental health and recovery organizations. The City was presented with a proclamation recognizing September 2026 as **Recovery Month for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors**.



The proclamation recognizes the impact of mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and harmful gambling behaviors and encourages compassion, awareness, prevention, treatment, recovery, and community support.



The proclamation was presented for signature by Mayor Hartwell and the Interim City Manager.

b. Resolution No. 26-08 – Special Committee

Council reviewed Resolution No. 26-08 regarding the Special Committee. The previous resolution, Resolution No. 2203, will be rescinded. Council discussed amending Resolution No. 26-08 to specify that committee members will be appointed by the Mayor.

Council Member Peasley moved to approve Resolution No. 26-08 with the amendment providing for appointment by the Mayor. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Appointments to Special Committee

Mayor Hartwell announced appointments to the Special Committee. The individuals discussed included Taylor Romboski, Melinda Castleberry, Shay Pennington, Jamie Ahern, and Charles Kimball.

Following discussion regarding committee participation, Lauren Hoshaw was selected to serve on the Special Committee in place of Jamie Ahern.

d. Appointment to Swimming Pool Committee

Diane Burkhardt was appointed to the Swimming Pool Committee.

e. Charles Kimball – 794 17th Street

Council Member Bixby recused himself from the discussion.

Charles Kimball presented photographs and expressed concerns regarding vehicles associated with a business being parked in violation of City requirements. He also raised concerns regarding the length of time the property has allegedly been out of compliance and requirements applicable to wrecking yards.

Council discussed enforcement of parking and property regulations. Staff noted that compliance concerns are not limited to one business and that enforcement efforts should be applied consistently throughout the City to both commercial and residential properties.

Discussion included the citation process, providing reasonable time to correct violations, vehicles parked illegally on public streets, towing procedures, and the need to keep City streets clear.

Council's direction was for enforcement efforts to be applied consistently throughout the City rather than focusing exclusively on a single property or business.

f. Vialytics

A presentation was provided regarding Vialytics and its capabilities for roadway assessment, infrastructure documentation, work orders, route creation, and tracking City maintenance activities.



The system can collect roadway images while employees drive and allows staff to review road conditions, identify infrastructure and maintenance issues, create work orders, establish due dates, and document completed work. Potential uses

discussed included street maintenance, street sweeping, water meter routes, garbage routes, illegally parked vehicles, and obstructions affecting public rights-of-way.



An external vehicle mount and dedicated phone are available for approximately \$800 annually, including phone service and insurance. The mount can be transferred between vehicles.

Council President Keller moved to approve the Vialytics phone in the amount of \$800 annually. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Caselle Customer Portal/Bill Pay

Council discussed the upcoming discontinuation of Xpress Bill Pay and Caselle's customer portal and bill payment system.

The Caselle system is expected to save the City approximately \$100 per month and does not require the City to maintain the \$25,000 bank balance associated with the current service. The proposed cost is approximately \$200 per month plus transaction fees.

The system accepts American Express and provides additional online capabilities, including permits and dog licensing. Staff also discussed the benefit of real-time account access, allowing new customers to establish online accounts without waiting for a subsequent billing cycle.

Council Member Strohmeyer moved to migrate from Xpress Bill Pay to the Caselle customer portal and bill payment system. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Other Matters – Discussion Only

No additional matters were presented.

11. Adjournment – For Possible Action

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Alex Hartwell

10/20/2026

Date