

**VALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date 02/24/2026 7:00 PM - CITY HALL**

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Alex Hartwell and roll call reported.

Mayor Alex Hartwell	City Attorney Jake Conde & Cole Sahleen
Council President Keller	City Manager Todd Fuller
Council Member Harper- Dennis	City Recorder Ashley Aponte
Council Member Strohmeyer	
Council Member Peasley	City Finance Marea Skultety

2. Pledge of Allegiance- led by Mayor Alex Hartwell.

3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of Agenda

Mayor Alex Hartwell inquired if there are any additions to the agenda. Add Updated Law Enforcement Agreement 2026 – 2029, Rural Planning Program, Metroquip Quotes, and Old Garbage Trucks to the agenda. **Council Member Peasley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Council President Keller motioned to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026 as written. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. First Check Run - \$160.00 Second Check Run - \$450.00 Third Check Run- \$12,810.00
Grand Total - \$13,420.00

Council Member Peasley motioned to approve checks submitted for payment in total of \$13,420.00. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Department Reports and City Manager Report, Council Comments – There was discussion on how the new Railroad well water reporting and use system is working. So far well usage system is working. The owners of the old mushroom plant turned off the GEOTHERMAL water so there isn't a puddle on HWY 20 anymore.

City Manager Report; Beautification Grants; Ordinance Officer Updates

Committees: Airport; Parks; EMS; Library; Public Works

Ordinance Update: Ordinance Sandy Cunha had a family emergency, no current update.

Airport- The 2024 COAR grant went out to bid, and the 2026 New grant will be sent out once the paperwork is finalized. Committee is looking at Ontario's hanger lease documents as an idea for Vale's lease documents. Currently, the layout plan shows 5 hangers in the west row. The committee is looking at splitting lots in half to create 10 spaces, which engineers said is doable. Committee talked about getting a second courtesy car because the current one has been very well received. Airport committee needs a few more committee members!

Parks – VCC brought a check over for the new park signs. The signs are coming along; they just need to be assembled and installed. Community members want to donate to the parks so the committee would like a specific project for the donations. A play structure at Cottonwood has been talked about, which was estimated at \$80,000-\$100,000.

EMS- Stats come out at the end of the month.

Sheriff- Stats below:

Tickets & Warnings Total: 112

1/24/2026 through 2/24/2026 Stats -Total: 208

Traffic Stops:116 Driving Comp.:7 Fraud:7 Harassment:6 Agency Assist:5 Trespassing:4 Disorderly:4 VIN Inspection:4 Suspicious:4 Welfare Check:4 Alarm:3 Animal Problem:3 Viol. No Contact:3 Warrant Felony:2 Theft:2 Jail Incident:2 Extra Patrol:2 Attempt-Locate:2 Death:2 Suicidal:2 Probation Viol.:1 Tresp. Warning:1 Hazard:1 Public Assist:1 Found Dog:1 Domestic:1 Aban. Veh.:1 Ordinance Viol.:1 Found Property:1 Prot. Order Viol.:1 Juvenile Prob.:1 Stalking:1 Crim. Mischief:1 Burglary:1 UUMV:1 Civil Standby:1 Lost Property:1 Foot Patrol:1 MVC:1 Drug Offense:1 Abuse:1 Livestock:1 Lost Dog:1 Impound:1 Information:1

Library- Committee meeting is next week.

Public Works- Committee meeting is next week.

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.

7. For Discussion and Possible Action: Old Business

- a. Business Oregon One Stop Meeting- Meeting provided funding scenarios from masterplans on water and sewer improvements. The plans have been made based on receiving grants and loans; or loans only. The plans show the effects on utility bills. Some of the work on the masterplan for water includes adding a booster station and increasing some of the lines sizing. Wastewater plan shows some pipes being replaced. Vale applied for a Capital Construction Request Grant, and we should hear results at the end of session.
- b. Updated Law Enforcement Agreement 2026 – 2029 – Next meeting we will have a comparison of the last agreement to the proposed new agreement.
- c. Rural Planning Program – Vale is asked to send a letter of intent; which is not binding, to show potential funders that there are cities interested. Eastern Oregon Border Board is already interested in funding. If Vale joins there will be a one time payment at the beginning of the 3 years. Letter of intent would include a project for the city planner: maybe the comprehensive plan or charter refresh. There is a \$50,000 goal to be collected from the border regions which unlocks \$100,000 from Eastern Oregon Border Board.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business

- a. FFA Presentation- FFA students are going to the state convention March 19th, they are preparing by presenting to the community. Their topic is ag issues; they went into detail on John Deer's Right to Repair Lawsuit.
- b. Elm St- Tom Skultety wrote a letter addressing Elm St. He explained it is the responsibility of contractor to fix road according to city code; though the contractor has not made efforts to maintain the road. In his letter he also gave a shoutout to our parks department; the parks are looking great and being well maintained! John & Roseanne Zuegar 1394 Morton St came to city council's meeting to express their concerns on Elm St. as well. They noted community members have to drive on wrong side of the road to get through sections of Elm. When there is oncoming traffic they are forced to drive on the unmaintained road potentially causing damage to their vehicles. They noted Hope St has also been dug up and Morton St has equipment being driven

on it causing pot holes. Todd is going to write a letter indicating what needs to be repaired and Vale may need statements from residents going forward depending on how the request for repair is received by the contractor.

- c. Clutch Repair for Dump Truck- Marty said the cost would be about \$2000-\$2500 he will need to take it apart to know what is needed. **Council President Keller motioned to approve repairs up to \$3,000. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Culpepper & Merriweather Circus – May 29, 2026 – Pass off to Chamber for volunteers and invite chamber to next council. City approves Circus coming to Vale.
- e. City of Vale Goals – Include goals into city charter committee.
- f. 2026 COAR Grant – Airport committee would like to use the 2026 grant for asphalt on the west taxiway if cost allows.
- g. City Manager Review – Scheduled March 24th - Evaluation sheets will be sent out prior to committee members. We will send the evaluation sheet out ahead for possible revisions.
- h. Metroquip Quotes – Street sweeper needs rubber strips; the current ones are much smaller than they should be which is causing trails to be left. **Council member Strohmeyer motions for the streetsweeper to be driven to Meridian and up to \$4000 in repairs. Council President Keller Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

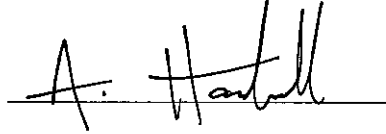
9. For Discussion Only: Other Matters

- a. New Garbage Truck Arrival – March 6th
- b. Old Garbage Trucks – The 2017 truck does not run; it has a bad motor. The older truck is burning 4-5 gallons of oil a day and there appear to be no leaks. The idea is to sell the two old trucks and purchase a new smaller truck that will be able to tip the dumpsters.

10. Executive Session- None.

11. For Possible Action: Adjourn meeting to Tuesday March 10, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday March 10, 2026, at 7:00pm. Council Member Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Hartwell