

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

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

Council President Leighton Keller
Council Member Michelle Harper- Interim City Manager Marea Skultety
Dennis
Council Member Monty Bixby City Recorder Ashley Aponte
Council Member Jeremiah
Strohmeyer

2. Pledge of Allegiance- Led by President Keller.
3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of Agenda: Add f. abatements and g. swimming pool committee schedule to new business. 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 June 29, 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- \$57,884.95 Second Check Run- \$ Third Check Run- \$
Grand Total – \$57,884.95

Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to approve checks submitted for payment in total of \$57,884.95. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Department and Committee Reports/Council Comments:
 - a. **City Manager:** Typed report for council. None of the public works employees wanted to take over pool. Austin chipped out the kiddie pool, re-cemented and is waiting on rubberized paint. ETA on paint for the kiddie pool is tomorrow, hopefully. There is a hole from a semi at Rodeo Days in the park, we have the driver's info if we need it. Marea will check with Mark but believes it is okay now.
 - b. **Ordinance Officer:** Typed up a letter for council, 221 Holland cleanup will start tomorrow. 792 17th St is on a foundation and the plumbing and electrical should be getting done next week. Bixby's was measured to show vision clearance and Sandy talked to Paul about it. Weeds across the street from city hall near the alleyway are the property owner's responsibility and they have been notified.
 - c. **Airport:** Meets the third Thursday of the month.
 - d. **Parks and Rec:** Slide is coming apart at the little playground. Can we remove the slide completely for safety concerns? Need to look into it and see if that is possible.
 - e. **EMS/Police:** Did not meet, provided numbers from Jess, the ABS light came on in engine 251.
 - f. **Library:** Will meet next month.

g. **Public Works:** Has not met.

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.

Lauren Hoshaw: Can we replace the slide it's a couple hundred dollars, can we find the money? Unfortunately, it is a few thousand dollars for a replacement slide and the manufacture has to be involved which took about a year last time. City will be looking into getting a replacement slide.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: Old Business

- a. **Mushroom Facility Past Due Billing-** Table, Jake needs to talk with Mike. **Council Member Strohmeier motioned to add 8.1. State Law. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

1. State Law- Oregon State Law states if you do not live within city limits you cannot run for city council or mayor, cannot be changed because it is state law. City Manager and committee members do not need to be city residents. Some committees have a specified number of out-of-city-limit resident members.

b. City Manager Job Description- Jake reviewed it and said it looks fine but you may want to lower qualifications. Pay range and benefits will need to be talked about next. City is asking for a bachelors degree or equivalent as a requirement. Equivalent means what the interviewing people accept. Any combination of above qualifications is at the bottom of the description which keeps the job open to other candidates. Council would like to keep the job requirements stringent because we don't want to have another problem with a city manager as we have had problems in the past. Adele said to add flood plain administrator which can be accomplished after hiring if not previously obtained. Instead of city manager being available 24/7, the description states available outside business hours. City council would like six and twelve month reviews of city manager. Council needs to set up a salary range. Council would like to add opportunity for raise at review to be able to start salary at a lower range, \$75-90 thousand. **Council Member Strohmeier motioned to to approve the city manager job description. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

c. City Manager Job Posting- City can post the job opening to League of Oregon Cities, Indeed, wherever is a reputable site; including government sites, the paper and ZipRecruiter. The position will be posted as open until closed. Jake states we don't have to interview everyone who applies if they are not qualified for the job. **Council Member Strohmeier motioned to post city manager job opening by Monday July 20, 2026 on all reputable channels at a salary range of \$75,000-\$90,000, open until closed, council will interview applicants until the right person is found. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

d. Brush Pit- City locked the brush pit about two weeks ago. One person who dumped trash did come clean it up. City is going to be keeping the brush pit locked as of now. There is still garbage, we didn't get everyone who dumped. City will add a return date and time to the check out log to narrow down who left trash if trash is left.

e. Pool Operator Contract- Jake said the contract looked good. The working hours are not specified. Take it to CIS and Jake again to verify if additional insurance is needed. No other contractors have their own insurance.

f. Laptops to schools- The schools want the charging lockbox for the laptops, they do not want the laptops. City will get with Randy about what to do with the laptops, we can ask STEM or Robotics if they are interested in them.

g. Charter/Ordinance Review Committee- At counsel meeting on February 10, 2026 council decided there should be five members. Audience members showed interest, they will write emails or letters of interest.

9. For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business

- a. **Presentation for VV paintings by Zane-** Zane Johnson gave a presentation about his business idea to spray paint double V on curbs or driveways. T&T signs will make the stencil, and Zane will use clear sealant over the top. Zane showed his flyer, the cost is \$25. Confirmed with Jake the double VV can be painted on driveways or walkways on private property.
- b. **Council Member appointment to Swimming pool committee-** Monty volunteered to be the council member, he was already appointed. President Keller now appoints Monty as well. The meetings will be held the second Monday of the month at City Hall at 6pm.
- c. **Back Flow Prevention enforcement-** City talked about sending out a survey asking what the residents have, if they have a backflow device, if they use a well, have sprinklers hooked up to city water, etc. If water backflows into city water it can contaminate the city water. State law states backflow devices are required.
- d. **Blue Sky Drive Approach application-** John Egan with ODOT let the city know that in 2014 we had an agreement for Blue Sky Dr to connect to the highway. A quote from Jim was \$2500 worth of gravel to make the road emergency vehicle accessible. City will need a couple more quotes. City needs to resign the agreement with ODOT. **Council Member Strohmeyer motioned to resign the agreement between Vale city and ODOT to have Blue Sky Dr connect to the highway. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- e. **Direct Responsible Charge-** The Water employee is asking for \$2.88 extra an hour to be the DRC, the employee is already certified. City has emailed the union about changing the job description, asking can we designate the employee and if they say no, then what? Tabled for updated list with salary/pay of other DRC.
- f. **Abatements-** Council Member Harper-Dennis motions to approve abatement at 1000 Hope St, Morton St tax lot 4000, Lot on Washington St tax lot 1100, Lot on 17th St (mailing address 54829 Mountain View Ct), and 540 16th St. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously
- g. **Swimming Pool Committee meeting schedule-** Committee will meet the second Monday of every month at City Hall.

10. For Discussion Only: Other Matters

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

Council Member Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday July 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