VALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date 7/28/2026 7:00 PM - CITY HALL

1. **Meeting called to order by Council Mayor Hartwell, roll call reported and quorum established.**

Mayor Alex Hartwell	**Attorney Jake Conde & Cole Sahleen**
Council Member Michelle Harper-Dennis	**Interim City Manager Marea Skultety**
Council Member Monty Bixby	**City Recorder Ashley Aponte**
Council Member Jeremiah Strohmeyer	

2. **Pledge of Allegiance-** Led by Mayor Hartwell.

3. **For Possible Action: Review and Approval of Agenda. The Host Key was wrong so it should be 4733133, added a check run for $26,713.73, we struck out a proclamation #8 and added New Oregon Trail Park Signs. For discussion only, let's talk about the air quality causing the pool to close and getting someone licensed to spray weeds. Add Brush Pit under old business A. Council Member Peasley 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**
   Add Pool Contractor Agreement back because Council Member Peasley was able to make it so we do have a quorum, add to old business B.
   Council Member Bixby motioned to approve the minutes from July 14, 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- $26,713.73 Second Check Run- $ Third Check Run- $
      Grand Total – $26,713.73

   Council Member Peasley motioned to approve checks submitted for payment in total of $26,713.73. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Department and Committee Reports/Council Comments:**
   a. **City Manager:** Typed report passed out. The parks guy thought he would be able to repair the slide, he is looking into fiberglass for the slide. If it comes down to it we can disconnect slide.
   b. **Ordinance Officer:** Typed report passed out. Ordinance Officer will be sending out more stern letters about weeds and other city ordinances. Talked to Judge Carlson about the first offense being $265, you don't get pardoned for cleaning it up after the citation.
   c. **Airport:** Did not meet.
   d. **Parks and Rec:** Did not meet.
   e. **EMS/Police:** Will meet next week.
   f. **Library:** Did not meet.

g. **Public Works:** Short meeting, went over what is the procedure for a fence permit and right of ways.

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.**
Charles: The city needs to take responsibility for their weeds as well, they have not been spraying weeds and are not mowing. City isn't cleaning up their own weeds. Interim City Manager: Public works should be working on it next week. Charles: Why are we going after the residents when the city isn't cleaned up. Council: Don't we have a tractor with sprayer? We do but only one person is certified to operate. Charles: Why not go after the irrigation companies and businesses as well? They are also on the list and have been notified to take care of their weeds.

8. **For Discussion and Possible Action: Old Business**
   a. **The brush pit:** Putting a deposit is kind of hard because money is changing hands so much. People are checking out and not returning. City could hold a credit card so that they have to come get it back when they return the key. City could charge a significant fee so people will be inclined to bring back the key. The weekend is the hardest part, some people are not bringing them back even after phone conversations that they need to bring it back. Can we do a credit card hold, you don't bring the key back its $25. Table for two weeks, Jake will double check we can do that. There are signs that say: city of Vale residents only and one that says: no contractors, they were never voted on being used so they did not get put up. Brush and garbage dumping happening at the old homeless camp. We can put up cement blocks if this continues. Start letting people know there's going to be a hold/charge. Another option is to attach a large object so that no one keeps key. Vote to okay a credit card hold if Jake can get back to us sooner. **Council Member Bixby motions to allow interim city manager to implement credit card hold/charge when Jake gets back with the city if that is allowed without further action. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
   b. Pool Operator Contract: The pool is not specifically in anyone's job description. Pool operator will work as needed. So far its going really well. Pool operator's hours probably won't be over 10 hours. Hours have been a little higher because the baby pool and diving board needed to be fixed up, as well as a chlorine leak. Moving forward he should just be checking chemicals and shocking the pool, as long as maintenance work is not needed. The contract is for this year only. Next year we will address the job description of the public works employees. **Council Member Peasley motions to approve the pool operator contract. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. Council Member Strohmeyer abstains. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. **For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business**
a. New Oregon Trail Park Signs: B2H, Oregon Trail, BLM, National Parks and Idaho power are all working together for this project. Oregon Trail has some visual impacts from B2H project so they are working together to improve signs for the Oregon Trail by replacing signs and putting up new signs. They are purposing three signs within city limits, two directional signs and a large orientation map at the existing Oregon Trail park. The signs are the Oregon trail logo and an arrow. Signs haven't been designed yet, they wanted to come present to the city and get cities' input first. There will not be funding from city. Who needs to approve directional signs? The signs on Washington and A St need to go through ODOT. The design approval comes to council and immediate questions go to the city manager. Oregon Trail has been talking about a backcountry bi-way, it hasn't come to the working phase yet. BLM and National Parks are working together to update Keeney Pass in the next few years. Oregon Trail wants the trail marked as much as possible so if you notice bad markers then let them know.

b. Chamber of Commerce request at Wadleigh: wants to add an outlet to a pavilion at the park they will pay for it. Strohmeyer abstaining. **Council Member Harper-Dennis motions for the 220 volt to be installed at Wadleigh Park. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Appointments to the Pool committee: Mary Standage is a pool manager who trains guards and helps with swim lessons, she will not be able to vote, just wants to be a part of the committee. Mayor appoints Mary Standage to the pool committee.

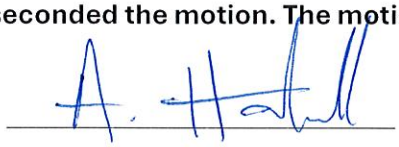
d. Appointments to the Ordinance/Charter Committee: Four community members are interested: Jamie Ahern, Lauren Hoshaw, Melinda Castleberry, and Charles Kimball. Mayor and council decide to hold until next meeting to see if more people show interest. The first meeting will be help August 25, 2026. City will start scanning the paper copies of ordinances onto the computer. Make sure the post to join the committee says five members and they have to own property in the city limits.

e. Memorandum of Understanding between City and Rural Fire: Every year the fire has the same expenses, half of fire only wages and half of fire hall, fire only expenses. City wants to bring ambulance financials to the county to see if they will share cost. County pays for supplies and a couple things, the agreement hasn't been updated since 2005. Treasure Valley paramedics just got more from the County. City will clarify numbers and bring it back to the next meeting.

10. For Discussion Only: Other Matters

a. **Air quality pool closure:** The City has no policy in place for air quality we are just going off Oregon State regulations and using airnow.gov and purpleair.com. The ash is also messing with the chemical balance in the pool. Season passes do say the pool has a right to close for any reason, a party, natural causes, whatever the case may be. Air quality between 101 & 150 we need to have N95 masks available for employees and the guards have the choice to work. Air quality 151+ the State of Oregon requires closure. If the pool can explain specifically why it is closed on Facebook then it may help others understand. The purpleair.com reader in Vale is at the fire hall, it is not working but Jess is trying to fix it. The pool can buy a purpleair.com sensor, they are around $200/ $300.

11. For Possible Action: Adjourn meeting to Tuesday August 11, 2026, at 7:00pm.
Council Member Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday August 11, 2026, at 7:00pm. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Mayor Hartwell