

**VALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date 03/10/2026 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	Council Member Bixby
Council Member Strohmeier	City Recorder Ashley Aponte
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. Council Member Harper-Dennis added for discussion the managers review form. **Council Member Strohmeier motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Council Member Peasley motioned to approve the minutes from February 24, 2026 as written. Council President Keller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. First Check Run - \$109,325.59 Second Check Run - \$ Third Check Run- \$
Grand Total - \$109,325.59

Council President Keller motioned to approve checks submitted for payment in total of \$109,325.59. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Department Reports and City Manager Report, Council Comments** – Discussion on adding a booster station using the \$3 million Capital Construction grant. The booster station would go in on property the city owns at Barkley Dr. and Hope St., and it will increase water pressure. Metroquip is at least 60 days out to fix metal plate on the street sweeper, we have not made an appointment. CIS sent out a new handbook: it needs to be reviewed, have correct options selected, be sent back, then they will send the final draft to us. The airport bid was significantly higher than engineer anticipated, so they will rework the bid to find the differences in cost.

Ordinance Update: City is down about 100 dog licenses from last year. Sandy has been sending out letters to known dog owners from last year and houses that have dogs but no license.

Airport- Meeting is next week.

Parks – Not enough committee members to meet.

EMS- The rise in fire protection fees may cover one fire employee, not two. One may be leaving already. May need to raise fire protection fee again.

Library- Did not meet.

Public Works- Need more committee members in most committees! The new garbage truck arrived; training is done. Applied for Capital Improvement Grant we may hear back next year. There is a culvert crossing the Bureau of Reclamation easement for the Vale Drain into the old labor camp coming off Barkley Dr. The construction crew seems to be turning into a road, but they do not have a permit. City is

going to place barriers to prevent continued driving on the make-shift road. Waiting on an electricity bill estimate for using geothermal water to heat the pool.

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.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: Old Business

- a. Updated Law Enforcement Agreement 2026 – 2029: Under Sherriff Kesey is present to answer any questions about the new agreement. Question was asked: why do we not have 24hr coverage with 3 deputies? Spreading out 3 deputies instead of overlapping them during the day becomes dangerous. Deputies do not have backup and there are no state police on between 3am-5am to use as backup. With specific cases or heighten crime the deputies will lengthen their hours or be on call during that 3am to 5am period. The overlap also helps deputies to serve warrants and patrol traffic while also having time to complete reports. The line for uniforms could be updated to Equipment/ Training because there is no specific training line, there would be no increase in cost. Currently Vale has two senior deputies, which does cost a little more, but they are more experienced and efficient. The Sherriffs' cars are in good shape and should last a few years hopefully. Bring back updated contract to next CC meeting.
- b. Rural Planning Program – Letter of intent- **Council President Keller motioned to sign the letter of intent to the Rural Planning Committee. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Circus- A private donor will fund the circus; they just need city's approval because it is on city ground. **Council Member Peasley motioned to give Todd the authority to sign the circus contract once legal has reviewed and okayed. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Old Garbage Trucks Update- The 2001 garbage truck is not leaking engine oil anymore, the o-rings were replaced on the injectors. Hydraulic fluid is leaking and Marty will review and fix when truck is available. 2017 garbage truck does not run; it is believed that the motor is dead. It is estimated to sell for \$3,000-\$5,000, it may also be able to be auctioned off. City is looking into getting a small replacement garbage truck, it would be \$50,000-\$100,000. For now, it is most cost effective to use the 2001 until it dies. **Council President Keller motioned to surplus auction the 2017 garbage truck. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- e. Library Construction Project Update- Received a quote for \$7300 a few months ago. Schneider quoted \$3500parts+\$5000 capped labor and about one week to finish. Schneiders quote included more work. Going to have both quotes in writing then revisit. We are waiting to find out results of the Woods Grant in a couple of weeks.
- f. Swimming Pool Geothermal Heat- Pool is connected to a different well currently and we are looking into water rights. The temperature is slowly rising.

9. For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business

- a. Airport Hanger Project – General consensus is to split the West lots in half to create more lots. There will still be plenty of room for a hanger on the lots split.
- b. Admin Laptop Replacement- **Council President Keller motioned to purchase two replacement laptops in the amount of \$2238.02. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- c. City Right-of-Way Permit- **Council President Keller motioned to pass the Right-of-way Permit with two small changes. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. For Discussion Only: Other Matters

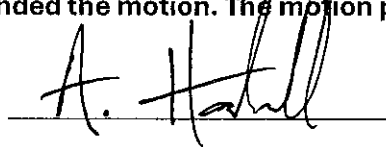
- a. Manager's Review Form- Council can look into modifying the review form for next year. Possibly adding a section for specified goals. At this time previous evaluations are kept and may be referenced. Current form works because there is organized discussion on each item where successes and faults can be identified.

11. Executive Session- None.

12. For Possible Action: Adjourn meeting to Tuesday March 24, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Council Member Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday March 24, 2026, at 7:00pm.

Council President 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