CITY OF VALE OREGON - CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 12, 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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Council President Keller at 7:00 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Keller

3. Review and Approval of Agenda — For Possible Action

The following items were added to New Business:

- Application for SDWRLF
- Sanitation Pickup Repair
- Boostlingo
- Ambulance Billing Software

Motion: Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Harper-Dennis seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes — For Possible Action

Motion: Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve the September 22, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Review and Approval of Bills Previously Submitted for Payment — For Possible Action

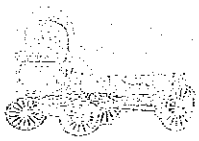
- First Check Run: $365,125.68
- **Grand Total: $365,125.68**

Motion: Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve the bills submitted for payment in the total amount of $365,125.68. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Department and Committee Reports / Council Comments

a. City Manager: Report provided in the Council packet. The City will be placing a lien on the property where Schneider Tree Services completed demolition of the dangerous wall to recover the costs incurred.

b. Ordinance Officer: The Ordinance Officer has been out for the past couple of weeks.



c. Airport: The Airport Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday.

d. Parks and Recreation: The committee did not have a quorum. A grant application was presented to the Oregon Park and Rec review committee.

e. EMS/Police: Department call activity was reported.

f. Library: The Library Committee did not meet.

g. Public Works: Public works committee reviewed and approved a deferred improvement application for South Street.

h. Swimming Pool Committee: The committee discussed a list of necessary swimming pool repairs and how to move forward with those repairs.

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.

No public comments were recorded.

8. Old Business — For Discussion and Possible Action

a. Backflow Survey Cover Letter

The Council reviewed the revised Backflow Survey cover letter. The letter was shortened and simplified to make it more concise and suitable for mailing to residents.

b. Quote for Water Meter Components

The Council reviewed a quote previously listed on the agenda as a manhole lid. It was clarified that the quote was for internal water meter components. A quote was obtained from Ferguson, the authorized dealer. Purchasing through Core & Main would result in an additional markup, as the components would still be sourced from Ferguson.

Motion: Council Member Harper-Dennis moved to approve the Ferguson quote of $2,217.90 for components for three meters. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Crab Feed

Council Member Strohmeyer recused himself from the discussion and vote. The Council discussed the Crab Feed scheduled for March 20, 2026, at the Fire Hall.

Motion: Council Member Peasley moved to approve the use of the Fire Hall for the Crab Feed. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously among voting members.**

9. New Business — For Discussion and Possible Action

a. Application for Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF)- Scope of Services

The Council discussed applying for approximately $3.6 million in funding through the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF), of which approximately $1.5 million would be forgivable. Anderson Perry presented a scope of services to prepare and submit the application on behalf of the City.

Motion: Council Member Peasley moved to approve the scope of services from Anderson Perry for preparation of the SDWRLF application. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Resolution No. 26-09 — Submission of SDWRLF Application

The Council reviewed Resolution No. 26-09, authorizing submission of the SDWRLF funding application. Anderson Perry will prepare and submit the application on behalf of the City, including information from the Water System Improvement Plan.

Motion: Council Member Bixby moved to approve Resolution No. 26-09 A Resolution Authorizing the submission of an application to business Oregon for funding through the safe drinking water revolving loan fund (SDWRLF) For the North Water System Improvement Project and Authorizing the City Council President to execute the application and related documents. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Quotes for Flow Meter at Lagoon Property

The Council discussed water rights compliance concerns at the City's lagoon property. The Watermaster notified the City that the point of diversion had been relocated from its originally approved location. Although the matter had previously been discussed with the former City Manager, the diversion had not been returned to its authorized location, nor had an application to transfer the point of diversion been submitted. Additionally, the property does not currently have a required flow meter, resulting in unauthorized water use and potential enforcement action. The Watermaster could issue a final notice and require water use to cease. Such action could also affect the City's eligibility for the cost-share reimbursement program. City Attorney Jake Conde requested additional time to address the issue, as immediately discontinuing water use could create complications with the City's agreement with the farmer. The proposed course of action is to purchase and install a flow meter, apply for the cost-share program for reimbursement of up to 75% of eligible expenses, and return the point of diversion to its documented and approved location.

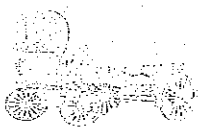
Motion: Council Member Strohmeyer moved to authorize expenditures of up to $5,000 for a flow meter and to begin the application process for reimbursement of up to 75% through the cost-share program. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

d. Huber Screen — Council President

Council President Keller discussed ongoing issues with the Huber Screen becoming clogged with sawdust and wood shavings originating from the truck wash. The truck wash has posted signage prohibiting the disposal of shavings. The Council reviewed letters from Anderson Perry, the screen is currently partially bypassed and will still catch big debris. The City will contact the business owner to discuss issues and seek resolution.

e. Sanitation Pickup Repair

The Council discussed necessary repairs to the sanitation pickup following a clutch failure. Repair quotes were obtained from Saunders, MJC, and R&L. **Motion:** Council Member Strohmeyer moved to approve the repair quote from MJC. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**



f. Boostlingo — Court Translation Services

The Council discussed Boostlingo, a court-approved language interpretation service, and the potential increase in Municipal Court operating costs associated with its use. The Council requested additional quotes for comparison before making a decision. Item tabled pending additional quotes.

g. Ambulance Billing Software

The Council discussed concerns regarding ambulance billing and revenue collection, noting that the City has not received ambulance billing revenue since approximately May 2026. Discussion included Medicaid reimbursement programs and the potential benefits of outsourcing ambulance billing to companies specializing in reimbursement and revenue recovery. It was noted that specialized billing companies may be better equipped to identify additional reimbursement opportunities and maximize collections. Item tabled for further review.

10. Executive Session — ORS 192.660(2)(a)

The Council scheduled an Executive Session pursuant to **ORS 192.660(2)(a)** to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent, subject to the requirements and limitations established by Oregon law. Under this provision, the position must have been publicly advertised, regularized hiring procedures must have been adopted, and applicable opportunities for public comment must have been provided. For the hiring of a chief executive officer, the standards, criteria, and policies used in the hiring process must be adopted during an open meeting with an opportunity for public comment.

11. Adjournment — For Possible Action

Motion: Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

A. Hartwell

Mayor Hartwell

Date: 10/27/26

Ashley Aponte

Attest: City Recorder Ashley Aponte