



CITY OF VALE OREGON - CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 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	Ordinance Officer	Sandy Cunha
Council member	Monty Bixby	City Recorder	Ashley Aponte
Council member	Derrick Peasley		
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

Council Member Strohmeyer made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes — For Possible Action

Council Member Strohmeyer made a motion to approve the September 8th, 2026, and September 10th, 2026 City Council meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

The following check runs were presented for approval:

Check Run	Amount
First Check Run	\$3,845.00
Second Check Run	\$15,659.93
Grand Total	\$19,504.93

Council Member Harper-Dennis made a motion to approve the checks submitted for payment in the total amount of \$19,504.93. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Department and Committee Reports / Council Comments

a. City Manager

Discussion was held regarding a berm on 17th Street. It was noted that the berm needs to be moved farther back onto the property and that the property owner must repair the portion of the roadway that was cut into.

b. Ordinance Officer- Discussion was held regarding a roadway cut near Elm Street that had been filled with gravel. If the repair is not properly completed, the homeowner may be billed for the necessary repairs.

An additional roadway cut near NAPA was identified as needing repair.

c. Airport-An update was provided regarding the COAR Grant and unfinished contractor work. Concerns were raised regarding two pads on the taxiway and an opening that did not have a proper round cap.



It was clarified that the installed waterlines are intended solely for fire suppression and do not provide water service to individual hangars.



d. Parks and Recreation- Cottonwood Park was reported to be looking good.

e. EMS/Police- No report recorded.

f. Library- No report recorded.

g. Public Works- Discussion was held regarding the installation of curbs and gutters at a property on Ash Street where a double-wide home is being placed. It was discussed that the curb and gutter requirements may be deferred until improvements are required throughout the neighborhood. The obligation would remain with the property, regardless of a change in ownership. A hardship deferral of up to one year was discussed and approved.

h. Swimming Pool Committee- It was reported that the swimming pool boiler needs to be updated.

Council Member Harper-Dennis requested that a discussion regarding the Interim City Manager position be added under Other Matters. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the request.

7. Public Participation / Comments

Public comments shall not be restricted based on content or viewpoint. Public comments are 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

Council reviewed the proposed backflow survey cover letter and discussed concerns regarding its length and complexity. It was suggested that the information be condensed and organized into a grid or table format to make the survey easier for residents to understand and complete.

Council Member Strohmeyer offered to assist with revising the document.

Staff will continue working on the survey and bring the revised version back to Council for further review.

9. New Business — For Discussion and Possible Action

a. COAR Grant Update- Discussion was held regarding the COAR Grant and the Airport Committee's recommendation to remove the unconstructed alley to the west from the proposed project scope.

Council Member Strohmeyer made a motion to approve the Airport Committee's recommendation to exclude the unconstructed western alley from the project. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

b. Tire Quotes for Dump Truck- Staff presented tire replacement quotes for the City's dump truck. It was reported that all tires were manufactured in 2013 and need replacement, with one tire having recently blown out. Quotes were obtained from Les Schwab and Point S for replacement tires. Point S submitted a quote approximately \$500 less for retread tires. Council Member Strohmeyer made a motion to accept the quote from Point S for front tires and rear retreads. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

c. Quote for Manhole Lid- Council reviewed a quote for a replacement manhole lid. Staff will obtain an additional quote before proceeding.

d. Letter of Support for Jamieson Produce- Council discussed a request from Jamieson Produce for a letter of support for a grant application to purchase new packing equipment. Council expressed support for the business and emphasized the importance of retaining local businesses and employment opportunities within the community.

e. Fire Department Position- Discussion was held regarding filling a budgeted fire department position.

It was explained that the City previously received grant funding that required the City to financially support the position for two years. The original understanding was that the Rural Fire District would contribute half of the funding; however, the District is no longer willing to provide that contribution.



Council discussed the possibility of funding the position during the current budget year, with the hope that future funding associated with the mine project may become available.



It was also noted that the mine project may potentially fund two full-time EMT positions.

f. Vale Community Coalition Crab Feed- The Vale Community Coalition requested use of the Fire Hall for its annual Crab Feed on March 20, 2027. Discussion was tabled due to insufficient Council participation for consideration of the matter. Council Member Strohmeyer recused himself from the discussion due to his involvement with the Chamber.

g. Deferred Curb and Gutter Agreement- Council discussed the City's existing curb and gutter requirements and the proposed Deferred Curb and Gutter Agreement. It was noted that City Code already allows the City to require curb and gutter installation with 30 days' written notice. The agreement would notify current and future property owners that curb and gutter improvements may be required at a later date, even if ownership of the property changes. Council also discussed the possibility of establishing a payment or fee schedule to assist property owners who may be unable to afford the improvements immediately.

Council Member Bixby made a motion to approve the Deferred Curb and Gutter Agreement as written. Council Member Harper-Dennis seconded the motion.

10. Other Matters — For Discussion Only

a. Interim City Manager Position

Council discussed the status of the recruitment and interview process for the City Manager position.

Council Members indicated that they had received and reviewed some of the submitted résumés.

Discussion was held regarding scheduling a special session to review applications and determine the next steps in the interview process.

Council requested that an executive session be added to the next regular City Council meeting agenda, as appropriate under Oregon public meetings law.

11. Adjournment — For Possible Action

Council Member Bixby made a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM. Council Member Strohmeyer seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynda Hartwell", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Hartwell

Attest: City Recorder Ashley Aponte