



CITY OF VALE OREGON - CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 7:00 pm



Join by Zoom: Dial in by calling: 253-215-8782

Personal Meeting ID: 225 421 4421 Host Kev: 4733133 Meeting Link: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Call to Order

Council Member Peasley motioned to appoint Council Member Jeremiah Strohmeyer as Acting Mayor for the meeting. Council Member Harper-Dennis seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Strohmeyer called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting Mayor Strohmeyer.

3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add the total of the check run, curbs and gutters, and the appointment to the Public Works Committee. It was also agreed that agenda items could be taken out of order as necessary to accommodate guests.

Council Member Peasley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Harper-Dennis seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. For Possible Action: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Council Member Bixby motioned to approve the minutes from August 25, 2026, as written. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

First Check Run: \$51,569.45
Grand Total: \$51,569.45

Council Member Peasley motioned to approve the checks submitted for payment in the total amount of **\$51,569.45**. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Department and Committee Reports/Council Comments

a. City Manager:

Discussion was held regarding providing residents with information on who to contact for backflow testing when the backflow surveys are distributed.



b. Ordinance Officer:

Approximately 20 letters were issued regarding illegal parking, expired vehicle tags, and related violations. Information was also posted online to help residents understand what constitutes illegal parking.



Tow tags and citations have been issued. Several vehicles were brought into compliance or removed following notification. The Ordinance Officer reported being followed and yelled at while performing enforcement duties.

Chickens running loose on West Main Street were reported as creating a potential traffic hazard. Complaints have also been received regarding weeds and businesses parking vehicles in the street. Vehicles associated with the business parking complaints were moved promptly after contact was made at some of the businesses.

Beginning the following week, the City will move forward with enforcement rather than continuing to issue warning letters, as information regarding the applicable requirements has been distributed throughout the community. The Malheur County Sheriff's Office will also assist with citations for illegal parking. Vehicles marked for towing will generally be provided a five-day compliance period, as applicable.

c. Airport:

The Airport Committee will meet next week.

d. Parks and Recreation:

No representative was available to provide a report.

e. EMS/Police:

Reports will be provided next week.

f. Library:

The Library Committee did not meet.

g. Public Works:

The Public Works Committee will meet next week.

h. Swimming Pool Committee:

The Swimming Pool Committee did not meet.

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. Property Next to Old Bank

Travis Schneider reported that he contacted Rex Martin regarding the deteriorating wall on the property and advised him that the wall needs to be demolished. Mr. Martin indicated that he was not willing to pay for the demolition. Mr. Schneider then asked whether Mr. Martin would be interested in selling the property and was informed that, to Mr. Martin's knowledge, the property was in foreclosure.



Mr. Schneider researched the property at the courthouse and reported that approximately one year remains before the foreclosure process would be completed. He estimated approximately \$1,400 in delinquent property taxes and approximately \$5,000 for demolition of the wall. The City also has outstanding utility charges associated with the property.

Mr. Schneider presented a preliminary concept in which he would pay the delinquent property taxes and the cost of demolishing the wall at his own expense. He also discussed potentially negotiating the approximately \$13,000 in past-due City utility charges to a lower amount, with approximately \$4,000 discussed as an example. Mr. Schneider emphasized that these were preliminary estimates and that he had not yet had sufficient time to fully calculate the costs.

Chief Tolman previously prepared a letter addressing the safety concerns associated with the wall. It is unclear whether the letter was sent by the previous City Manager.

The City Attorney advised that a written proposal should be submitted for consideration and that matters involving real property negotiations may be appropriate for discussion in executive session as permitted by law.

Council discussed obtaining demolition quotes for comparison and holding a special meeting after providing the required notice.

A special meeting was discussed for **Thursday at 12:00 PM**, subject to proper notice requirements.

9. For Discussion and Possible Action: New Business

a. Stateline Plumbing

A sewer issue near Sinclair was discussed. Sinclair initially experienced repeated plumbing backups, and its plumber believed the problem was located on the City's side of the system. Stateline Plumbing responded and determined there were issues affecting both the private and City portions of the system, including damaged sections of pipe. City Public Works employees also assisted with the work.

Council Member Peasley motioned to approve payment to Stateline Plumbing in the amount of **\$3,845.00**. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Pool Mural Project – Bella Sims Letter

Council reviewed a letter from Bella Sims regarding a proposed mural project at the City swimming pool. The general concept would involve covering designated wall areas with murals.

c. Compunet Quote

Council discussed the need for updated firewall equipment and related technology improvements. The Fire Hall recently experienced an internet outage, highlighting the importance of maintaining reliable connectivity.

Compunet has historically provided these services to the City. Council also discussed the potential need to obtain additional quotes for future technology purchases.





Council Member Peasley motioned to approve the Compunet expenditure as presented. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**



d. Unapproved Curbs and Gutters

Council discussed City requirements for curbs and gutters associated with new development. New development is generally required to coordinate with Public Works to ensure required infrastructure is reviewed and approved.

Staff discussed practices used by the cities of Nyssa and Ontario for properties located along currently undeveloped streets. Those cities may utilize agreements requiring property owners to install curbs and gutters when the roadway is developed in the future.

Daniel Tzieman, regarding property at 110 Ash Street, requested to attend the Public Works Committee meeting to discuss the curb and gutter requirements applicable to his property.

The Public Works Committee is scheduled to meet **September 21, 2026**.

e. Public Works Committee – Letter of Interest

Acting Mayor Strohmeyer appointed **Travis Schneider** to the Public Works Committee.

10. For Discussion Only: Other Matters

a. Swimming Pool Updates

Staff provided an update regarding maintenance and repair needs at the City swimming pool. Items identified included:

- Hot-water leaks;
- Sand filter/backwash system repairs;
- Broken pool lights;
- A failed heat exchanger;
- Lifeguard stands in need of replacement;
- Pool deck resurfacing needs; and
- Investigation into the cause of ongoing water loss.

Staff will speak with the City's engineer regarding possible improvements and eligible projects for a **\$25,000 grant opportunity**. Interim City Manager Marea Skultety will proceed with the grant application.

11. For Possible Action: Adjournment

Council Member Bixby motioned to adjourn the meeting until the next regular City Council meeting on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM**. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, located at the bottom of the page.