CITY OF VALE OREGON - CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 12:00 pm

Join by Zoom: Dial in by calling: 253-215-8782
Personal Meeting ID: 225 421 4421 Host Key: 4733133 Meeting Link: Click Here

Mayor	Alex Hartwell	Council Member	Michelle Harper-Dennis
Council member	Monty Bixby	City Attorney	Jake Conde
Council member	Jeremiah Strohmeyer	Interim City Manager	Marea Skultety
Council member	Derrick Peasley	Ordinance	Sandy Cuhna

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION — OLD BUSINESS

A. Letter to OTECH

The Council discussed Malheur County's lack of representation on the OTECH Board. The proposed letters were drafted by attorneys, and it was suggested that the first two letters be combined into one letter.

The Council discussed obtaining letters of support from the cities of Nyssa and Ontario to demonstrate Malheur County's desire for representation on the OTECH Board. The letters would also address the need for consistent rates across the county rather than differing rates in different areas.

Marea will combine the first two letters into one draft. Jake will review and approve the draft before it is sent.

Council Member Strohmeyer made a motion to combine the first two letters, remove the closing "Sincerely," replace it with "Additionally," attach the second letter and have Marea sign and send the letter. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. City Manager Job Closing and Interview Plans

The Council discussed closing the City Manager job application process to proceed with interviews and reopening the position if necessary. Two internal candidates will be interviewed.

Leighton Keller volunteered to serve on the interview committee. Sandy also volunteered, and the Council discussed the possibility of including the Fire Department head or a member of the Public Works Department on the committee. Department heads may be appointed to participate as needed.

Council Member Peasley made a motion to appoint Jeremiah Strohmeyer and Leighton Keller to the interview committee, authorizing the appointment of department heads to the committee as needed, and close the application process. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.



3. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Peasley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

A. Hartwell

Mayor Hartwell

Date: 10/27/26

Ashley Aponte

Attest: City Recorder Ashley Aponte