

ROGUE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Council meeting which was called to order by Mayor Pam VanArsdale at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION Tawny Moore, River Valley Church Rogue River

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Pam VanArsdale led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

QUORUM **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Mayor Pam VanArsdale
City Councilor Sharie Davis
City Councilor Barb Gregory (online)
City Councilor Barb Hilty
City Councilor Sherrie Moss
City Councilor Mark Minegar
City Councilor Grace Howell

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

STAFF PRESENT:
Ryan Nolan, City Administrator
Diane Oliver, City Recorder
Dave Rash, Police Chief

MEDIA PRESENT:
Brian Mortensen, Rogue River Press

A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Move to accept the City Council November 20, 2025, minutes.
Motion by Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Minegar, all ayes, none opposed, minutes of November 20, 2025, are approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Chamber of Commerce Liaison: City Councilor Barb Hilty reports that

meeting was held Thursday December 18th where a vote for approval of hiring a company to generate an interactive digital walking map of Rogue River. It will include all businesses, non-profit organizations, recreational areas, and out-of-town locations. There will be monthly charge to have a pop-up box on the map. Christmas decoration meetings for 2026 will be setting up a meeting with the city to further discuss and plan for next year. The next chamber meeting will be on January 8th, 2026, at Columbia Bank.

Community Relations; Community Center Representative: City Councilor Barb Gregory says there is no report to give.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ESCO): City Administrator Ryan Nolan reports that there is training going on for two new hired staff. The radio project is complete and is expected to go live in July of 2026. ESCO has also decided to hold their meetings virtually so that they have a better chance to have a quorum. Police chief added that our radios will be live in our cars as soon as we get them running,

Finance Committee: City Councilor Sherrie Moss reports that between November 18th and December 12th, 2025, the finance committee met four times, issuing a total of seventy checks totaling \$221,577.91.

Planning Commission Liaison: Councilor Barb Gregory could not report on the meeting because she was traveling, however she gave a report on building permits for the months of November and December so far, 2 commercial structural permits, 2 residential mechanical permits, and 3 residential structural for a total of 7 permits in November. In December there were two residential mechanicals, and one for residential demolition for a total of three in the month of December so far. The total number of permits for the fiscal year is ninety-nine permits.

Planning Commission Update: Ryan Nolan reports that the last meeting included members of the Tree Committee where a discussion took place regarding the possible tree policy updates to the code and getting input from those members as we move forward before we present the changes to City Council.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): Councilor Sharie Davis reports there was no meeting.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports the meeting was a presentation on a building project where 6 permanent affordable homes will be built in Ashland through what is called "A Community Land Trust". It is an interesting concept where a non-profit buys the land through grants, and they work with a contractor to build affordable housing. They will then sell the homes to individuals, but not the land. This will allow for the cost of the homes to sell in the \$200,000.00 range in Ashland. If the owner decides to sell later, they can only sell at a fixed increase in value, so there is no huge profit to be made so that it remains affordable. This organization would like to expand to other communities, so we will stay tuned in!

In the meeting they also appointed a Senior Advisory Council and voted to increase the Directors' wages to be more in line with the similar positions around the State as they were not keeping up.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports there was not a meeting due to a lack of agenda items.

Rogue River School Board Liaison: Councilor Mark Minegar reports that REACH has a chili cookoff coming up on January 31st, 2026, at 5:30PM held at the Wild River Pub in the banquet room. The elementary school decorated several Christmas Trees as a fundraiser. The trees are on display at several businesses in town that will later be auctioned off where the proceeds will benefit the school. They also held a Winter Concert that was held today at 1:00PM, and again this evening at 6:00PM. The Rogue River Jr. High and High School have an average daily attendance rate of 91.59% which is a new high for them. The seniors are on track with a 91.6% chance of graduating, another high statistic especially being a small school. They are working real life work in the curriculum, for instance math and cooking, and measuring skills. In the last week and a half, they have had three new students enroll, three from outside the school district. They currently have eighty-eight students enrolled with six kids listed as homeless. The meeting ended abruptly, and Councilor Minegar did not give those details.

PUBLIC INPUT: None, however, the mayor did add that Commissioner Colleen Roberts had planned on being here tonight, but she had another meeting knowing it would run over. She wishes us all a Merry Christmas holiday and will try to see us in January. The mayor also shared that Commissioner Roberts will be running for another term!

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Consider approving agreement for funds for improvements on Depot Street and Rogue River Highway, through 24-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, No. 73000-00052826.

Moved by Hilty, seconded by Moss approving agreement for funds for improvements on Depot Street and Rogue River Highway, through 24-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, No. 73000-00052826.

Discussion on the motion

Vote: Davis, yes
Howell, yes
Minegar, yes
Hilty, yes
Moss, yes
Gregory, yes

Motion passes

Consider adopting Ordinance No. 25-443-O, Emergency Operations Plan Update (Ordinance and Exhibit A)

Moved by Moss, seconded by Howell to adopt Ordinance No. 25-443-O, Emergency Operations Plan Update (Ordinance and Exhibit A)

Discussion on the motion

Vote: Davis, yes
Howell, yes
Minegar, yes
Hilty, yes
Moss, yes
Gregory, yes

Motion passes

Consider adopting Ordinance No. 25-444-O, an update to Hunter Communications Franchise.

Moved by Minegar, seconded by Howell to adopt Ordinance No. 25-444-O, an update to Hunter Communications Franchise.

Discussion on the motion

Vote: Davis, yes
Howell, yes
Minegar, yes
Hilty, yes
Moss, yes
Gregory, yes

Motion passes

Consider adopting Ordinance No. 24-433-O, an Ordinance adopting FEMA BiOp standards in the City's Development Standards.

There was a discussion to continue this agenda item until March or April of 2026 this time. There is a likely a chance that there may be some major changes coming from the Federal Government.

Moved by Hilty and seconded by Howell to continue this item No. 24-433-O, an Ordinance adopting FEMA BiOp standards in the City's Development Standards to the city council meeting on March 26th, 2026, at the city council meeting.

Vote: Davis, yes
Howell, yes
Minegar, yes
Hilty, yes
Moss, yes
Gregory, yes

Motion passes

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

Consider accepting resignation from Tree City Committee Laura Jones

Moved by Hilty, seconded by Moss to accept the resignation of Laura Jones from Tree City Committee effective November 18th, 2025.

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, the resignation from Laura Jones has been accepted
Motion carries

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

There were no minutes from Tree City Committee as the meeting was cancelled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT: Councilor Barb Hilty asked if there could be some training on Land Use decisions for the council workshop. Councilor Hilty also asked for an update on our reservoir project. Nolan reports that the plans are being reviewed by our city engineer, Mark Reagles, and Michael Bollweg for last minutes comments. As soon as that buckled up, we will go to the bid process.

Nolan reminded the councilors about the Jail tour coming up in February. Also, tomorrow evening

Is the city sponsored dinner at 4:30pm at the Community Center.

MAYOR COMMENTS: The mayor has us all join her in wishing Barb Gregory a Happy Birthday with a song! The mayor wished us all a blessed Yule Solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, a bright Kwanzaa, and an incredibly happy Hanukkah! We will see you all next year!

POLICE CHIEF COMMENT: We unfortunately had an auto accident, and the young driver did not survive, and was the first deployment of our new AED. Our department participated in Christmas activities with CASA, helping to spread Christmas cheer by being in a parade, shopping with cop. The Christmas tree lighting was fabulous; our Chief stayed for the entire celebration. The day before that, he was in Eagle Point for their Christmas parade. Next year it would be nice if Rogue River had one. There was discussion about celebrating Christmas next year by closing the Street. Councilor Howell had a question regarding a check that was signed, and who it was for.

We discussed the future meetings in January. The council decided January 8th, 15, and the 22nd For the normal city council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon motion duly made (Moss), seconded (Howell) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale Pam VanArsdale Date 1/22/2026

ATTEST:

Diane Oliver
City Recorder

Diane Oliver