

ROGUE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

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 Tony Camacho, Rogue River Assembly of God

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
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
Michael Bollweg, Public Works Director

MEDIA PRESENT:

Brian Mortensen, Rogue River Press

AUDIENCE: Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts

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

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

Mayor Pam VanArsdale presented the 2026 State of the City Message:

As we begin 2026, I'm proud to share the State of the City Message and reflect on our progress, challenges and vision for the future. Rogue River continues to thrive as a vibrant small community thanks to its dedicated team of volunteers, employees, businesses and caring citizens.

Our police department is once again fully staffed and became accredited with the Northwest Accreditation Alliance in 2025. Although not required by state law as the larger departments are,

Rogue River Police have affirmed their commitment to meet professional standards for best practices, improving performance, accountability, and community trust. All of our patrol vehicles (as well as all city buildings) are now equipped with defibrillator devices known as AEDs. Our 2nd annual National Night Out was a huge success again and included various fire and law enforcement agencies as well as local business participation. And our Chief, Dave Rash was recognized with an FBI National Academy Associates Award from the Portland FBI office for his many years of service with their organization, his dedication to professionalism in law enforcement and helping to protect and make the Oregon communities of Milwaukie, Hubbard and now Rogue River safe.

And because we appreciate and know the importance of keeping our police department, we continue to search for additional revenue to help maintain staffing, technological upgrades and reliable vehicles. An increase in the Public Safety Fee this year was a good beginning.

We also completed more updates and improvements to many of our functions, city ordinances, and regulations. Some of these were due to required legislation such as new parking rules, while others were for the convenience and benefit of our citizens. Our new city website now includes current agendas, meeting minutes and many other helpful links.

Wherever funding opportunities presented themselves we diligently applied and though we weren't always selected, we were successful in receiving a grant from Pacific Power for nearly all of those AED units and we also received a Small Cities Allotment Grant from the State for \$250,000 that will be used in our continued effort at improving sidewalk access around and near our schools.

Although we had hoped for the water reservoir project to begin construction in 2025, more work was needed on design and planning than we anticipated. The old adage "measure twice, cut once" comes to mind. The current timeline is to go out for bid in March with construction to follow soon after.

I'm sure that 2026 will bring both opportunities as well as challenges. Whatever those may be, we will face them together, unified and resolve to be The Best Rogue River that we can be.

Respectfully Submitted this 22nd day of January 2026.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Move to accept the regular city council December 18th, 2025, and special council meeting minutes from January 8th, 2026.

Motion by Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Howell

Discussion on motion

Councilor Davis made a correction to the Special meeting minutes; she did not vote on the last call for a vote due to technical difficulties of being online.

Move to amend the special meeting minutes to include the corrections, motion by Councilor Hilty seconded by Councilor Howell

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

Both sets of minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Chamber of Commerce Liaison: City Councilor Barb Hilty reports that meeting was held on January 15th, and work is continuing on the design of the digital map for Rogue River. They will meet soon to start planning for Holiday decorations for 2026. The next meeting is Tuesday February 5th at the Red Dog.

Community Relations; Community Center Representative: City Councilor Barb Gregory was out of town for the meeting, however reports that the Director has officially stepped down.

Rogue River School Board Liaison: Councilor Mark Minegar reports that a new Physical Education teacher has been hired by the name of Morgan Kirkpatrick. The Jr/Sr Highschool has a great attendance record with a 12% improvement. The Third Graders have tested with a 21% increase in State testing. Bingo Night is Thursday January 29th from 5:30 PM -7PM that includes a silent auction. SVA has had four students graduate already, with thirty students OnTrack to graduate. Open House is set for Thursday January 29th 3:30PM-5:30PM. February 5th is a fieldtrip for the entire school at the Ice Rink in Medford. SVA has a spirit store open now. REACH has 222 students with a 95% attendance record. The Lego Robotic team got 2nd place qualifying in Medford, and 34th in the entire State.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ECISO): City Administrator Ryan Nolan reports that Radio Tower project is done, even though it's been a long process. We plan to go live by July 4th. February 11th there will be a board meeting.

Finance Committee: City Councilor Sherrie Moss reports that between December 13th, 2025, and January 16th, 2026, the finance committee met 5 times, issuing a total of 83 checks and 5 electronic payments totaling \$247,233.64.

Planning Commission Liaison: Councilor Barb Gregory gave a report on the total of building permits, and Planning Applications processed in 2025.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): Councilor Sharie Davis was unable to attend, Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports that the governor's transportation bill will go to the voters. EV registration will increase. ODOT is predicting 400 positions may be terminated.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Ryan will go to next week's meeting in place of Mayor VanArsdale.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports we received \$3,081.00 grant from leftover COVID money to be used for a planning project to improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit safety in the Depot Street and Rogue River Highway area.

Appointments: Consider approving the Mayor's Commission, Committee, and Council Assignment Appointments to include; Paul Allen as Planning Commission Alternate with a term ending in January 2029, reappointment of Mike Hammond to Budget Committee position number 3 with a term ending in January of 2029, and reappointment of Dannie Moss to Budget Committee position 6 with a term ending in January of 2029.

Move to approve all the Mayor's Commissions, Committee's and Council assignment appointments

Motion by Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Howell

No discussion on the motion

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

Motion to approve the Mayor's appointments passed unanimously.

Paul Allen, our new Planning Commission Alternate, is in the audience this evening and was congratulated.

PUBLIC INPUT:

John Hart of 1200 Fielder Creek Road in Rogue River 97537 spoke about his opposition on ICE, the immigration and customs enforcement.

Paul Kraetssch of 350 Beechwood Drive in Grants Pass 97526 spoke about his opposition ICE, the immigration and customs enforcement.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 26-1465-R, a resolution adopting a policy for the review, approval, and granting of support, sponsorship, "partnering", or financial award using discretionary public funds for the City of Rogue River.

Moved by Hilty, seconded by Gregory to approve **Resolution 26-1465-R** adopting a policy for the review, approval, and granting of support, sponsorship, "partnering", or financial award using discretionary public funds for the City of Rogue River.

Discussion on the motion

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

Resolution 26-1465-R was approved.

Resolution 26-1466-R, a resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Ordinance No. 97-241-O, also known as RRMC Title 13.15, the City of Rogue River Water Ordinance, and rescinding Resolution No. 25-1445-R.

Moved by Gregory, seconded by Minegar to approve **Resolution 26-1466-R**, a resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Ordinance No. 97-241-O, also known as RRMC Title 13.15, the City of Rogue River Water Ordinance, and rescinding Resolution No. 25-1445-R.

Discussion on the motion

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

Resolution 26-1466-R was approved.

Resolution 26-1467-R, a resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Ordinance No. 98-275-O, also known as RRMC Title 13.10, the City of Rogue River Sewer Ordinance, and rescinding Resolution No. 25-1444-R.

Moved by Moss, seconded by Howell to approve **Resolution 26-1467-R**, a resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Ordinance No. 98-275-O, also known as RRMC Title 13.10, the City of Rogue River Sewer Ordinance, and rescinding Resolution No. 25-1444-R.

Discussion on the motion

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

Resolution 26-1467-R was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

Audit Consider accepting the audit report and communication with those charged with governance from SENSIBA, LLP regarding the Cities 2024-2025 financial statements.

Moved by Hilty, seconded by Minegar to approve the audit report and communication with those charged with governance from SENSIBA, regarding the Cities 2024-2025 financial statements.

Discussion on the motion

Motion amended by Hilty and seconded by Minegar to include the “LLP” in the motion, approving the audit report and communication with those charged with governance from SENSIBA, LLP regarding the Cities 2024-2025 financial statements

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

The 2024-2025 annual audit report was approved.

Goals to adopt goals for the 2026-27 year.

Move to approve the Goals for the 2026-2027 Year
Motion by Hilty, seconded by Howell

Discussion on the motion

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

The goals for the 2026-2027 year were approved.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Tree City Consider accepting the January 8, 2026, Tree City Committee minutes.

Moved by Moss, seconded by Howell to accepted the Tree City Committee meeting minutes of January 8th, 2026.

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

The Tree City Committee minutes for January 8th, 2026 were accepted.

OTHER BUSINESS: City Administrator Nolan advised the council that it'll be good practice to sign the Council Rules once a year, so make sure and sign them before you leave tonight. We have legislative letters going out regarding the ODOT'S 50/30/20 Split of the Highway Fund. February 7th is the FFA'S beef feed event. We have invited Noah Robinson and Alek Skarlatos to join us at our table. There is FFA funding that is being threatened. On February 5th we're going on a jail tour.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT: Councilor Moss, and Barb Hilty reported that they have received a couple of compliments on how the city has taken care of neighbors in town.

MAYOR COMMENTS: There was discussion regarding the conference in Pendelton. There was also, a discussion regarding the new traffic signs that are up in town.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon a motion duly made (Gregory), seconded (Howell) and carried (Vote: Davis, yes; Howell, yes; Minegar, yes; Hilty, yes; Moss, yes; and Gregory, yes) the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale Pam VanArsdale Date 2/26/2026

ATTEST:

Diane Oliver
City Recorder

Diane Oliver