

ROGUE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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 6:02 p.m.

INVOCATION Rodger Coale, Pleasant Valley Cowboy Church

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 Grace Howell

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

City Councilor Mark Minegar

STAFF PRESENT:

Paige Chick, Administrative Services Director
Michael Bollweg, Public Works Director
Diane Oliver, City Recorder

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:

Presentation Brenda Bartlett, Sensiba LLC, discussed and explained the 2024-25 financial audit report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Move to accept the regular city council January 22, 2026, and Special Council meeting minutes from February 19th, 2026.

Motion by Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Gregory

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

Both sets of minutes are approved.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale welcomed Commissioner Colleen Roberts

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Chamber of Commerce Liaison: City Councilor Barb Hilty reports that meeting was held on February 19th, and work is continuing on the design of the digital map for Rogue River, and they should have samples by the end of February. The installation dinner is May 30th, it will be a military theme. We will be donating to the Rogue River little league for balls and first aid kits. Next mixer is Thursday March 5th at Sams Creek Cellars in Gold Hill at 5:30PM.

Community Relations; Community Center Representative: City Councilor Barb Gregory reports that the sweet and sour chicken dinner was last Friday and sixty people attended. March 20th is the next dinner serving Shepards Pie with ground beef. There was a volunteer appreciation party today from 1:30 to 4:00pm.

Rogue River School Board Liaison: Councilor Barb Hilty reports in Mark Minegar's absence that the 2021 graduation rate was lower than 68%, and last year we were above the State average. Currently we are above 80%. There are fifty-five students on track to graduate, and 2 that are not. The graduation projection rate currently is 96.36%. The new superintendent Dr. April Harrison is effective July 1st, 2026. The Rogue River Beef Feed raised \$50,185.00 this year.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ECSO): No report given

Finance Committee: City Councilor Sherrie Moss reports that between January 17th, 2026, and February 24th, 2026, the finance committee met five times, issuing a total of eighty-one checks and eight electronic payments totaling \$109,904.17.

Planning Commission Liaison: Councilor Barb Gregory reports that the Planning Commission meeting was cancelled to give staff enough time to draft the next steps in the Tree Ordinance.

The mayor did hear at the RVCOG meeting yesterday that Jacksonville is looking to amend their Tree ordinance because one of their conditions when removing a tree, is that you must replace it. With the wildfire risks being what they are, Jacksonville is realizing that it is a huge conflict.

The mayor wants the commission to keep this in mind when discussing changes and rules about this for Rogue River. We will be looking forward to seeing what the commission has for us.

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

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor VanArsdale reports that she attended the meeting yesterday, and they just had their audit too. Same thing as us, a modified opinion with no significant deficiencies, and no material weaknesses and they are in good shape. There was a discussion about staff using AI and Chat gpt. The mayor will have more discussion with the City Administrator about this, maybe putting a policy together for our staff here for guidance. There are some cities that are having problems and we may want to make a policy that would protect us.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports that they elected officers as we do every year, and the chair will be Wade Elliott from Grants Pass, who is a Planner, and the vice chair will be Pam VanArsdale. They also decided on the dues that will be collected, and the method of how they came to that decision. There was discussion about moving the location of their meeting, so they will decide next month, and decide to meet here in our Rogue River after they check if our equipment will work for them.

CITIZEN-REQUESTED ITEMS:

Park Consider approving a request for Ride the Rogue event at Palmerton Park from Rogue River Greenway Foundation.

Move to approve the request for Ride the Rogue event at Palmerton Park from Rogue River Greenway Foundation

Motion by Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Howell

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

Motion to approve the request passes unanimously.

Banner Consider a request to hang a 'Ride the Rogue' event banner above Depot Street from the Rogue River Greenway Foundation.

Move to approve the request to hang a "Ride the Rogue" event banner above Depot Street from August 30th to September 27th from the Greenway Foundation.

Motion by Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Howell

No discussion on the motion
Vote: All ayes, none opposed

Motion to approve the request passes unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT: Craig Berry from Gold Hill who is the secretary treasurer of the fire district speaking on his own personal capacity. He came before the Council before when he was seeking a letter of recommendation of support for a solar resiliency project grant that they received this time in the amount of \$603,000.00! We are still deliberating to accept the grant. The main thing about this project is that it will give this community an alternate 911 center, where we could give field medicine and take care of some extremely sick people in a catastrophic event. Please support the members of the board that are charging this project. People in our community need to know that it is funded by the State 100%, and we are excited that this could be here in town.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution Consider approving Resolution 26-1468-R, a resolution updating the Committee Rules for the City of Rogue River, adding a Fire District Liaison position.

Moved to approve Resolution 26-1468-R, a resolution updating the Committee rules for the City of Rogue River, adding a Fire District Liaison position.

Motion by Councilor Gregory, seconded by Councilor Davis

No discussion on the motion

Vote:

Davis, yes
Howell, yes
Hilty, yes
Moss, yes
Gregory, yes

Motion passes unanimously, Resolution 26-1468-R is approved.

Ordinance Consider adopting Ordinance 26-445-O, an ordinance revising the liquor licensing processing procedure for the City of Rogue River replacing Chapter 5.15 of the City of Rogue River Municipal Code in its entirety.

Move to approve adopting Ordinance 26-445-O, an ordinance revising the liquor licensing processing procedure for the City of Rogue River replacing Chapter 5:15 of the City of Rogue River Municipal Code in its entirety.

Motion by Councilor Howell, seconded by Councilor Gregory

Discussion on the motion

Vote:

Davis, yes

Howell, yes

Hilty, yes

Moss, yes

Gregory, yes

Motion passes unanimously, Ordinance 26-445-O is approved

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660 (2)(a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q): {As/If required}

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

Appointment Consider approving the mayor's appointment to the Fire District Liaison position.

Move to approve Grace Howell to be appointed to the Fire District Liaison position. Motion by Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Davis

discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

Motion passes unanimously; Grace Howell is our new Fire District Liaison.

Agreement Consider approving the 2026 Annual Rooster Crow agreement with the Rogue River Kiwanis Club.

Move to approve the 2026 Annual Rooster Crow agreement with the Rogue River Kiwanis Club

Motion by Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Gregory

discussion on the motion regarding the date

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

Motion passes unanimously; the 2026 Annual Rooster Crow agreement with the Rogue River Kiwanis Club is approved

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Tree City Consider accepting February 12, 2026, Tree City Committee minutes.

Motion by Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Howell

Discussion on the motion regarding a reminder from the mayor that she appoints people to the TCUSA committee, not the TCUSA. Staff will reach out to the committee, and if Ed Hudson decides he wants to serve; the mayor will interview him and appoint him.

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

February 12, 2026, Tree City minutes are approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT: Councilor Hilty suggested the council do their work from tablets so we do not have to use so much paper. We can discuss this at the next workshop.

Kiwanis Easter egg hunt will be at Beck Field Saturday April 4th at 10:00AM. The city-wide garage sale will be on May 29th and 30th and if you would like to add your address to the list you can call Tracy. The SOS Spring trash pick-up date will be Friday June 5th. June 3rd is the first day that City Council candidates can file for the November 3rd elections. Those candidates will be Sharie Davis, Sherrie Moss, and Mark Minegar.

Councilor Moss mentioned how clean our streets look today. Public Works went out early this morning and began sweeping. Sherrie drove around and mentioned how good it looked! A resident mentioned how beautiful our new stop sign looks at the four-way stop.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Our next workshop is March 5th at 10:00AM

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon a motion duly made (Gregory), seconded (Howell)

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All Ayes, none opposed

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale *Pam VanArsdale* Date *3/26/26*

ATTEST:

Diane Oliver
City Recorder

Diane Oliver