

ROGUE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 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 Van Arsdale at 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION Jim Williams, Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon Chaplain

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

QUORUM COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

City Councilor Sherrie Moss
City Councilor Grace Howell
City Councilor Mark Minegar
City Councilor Barb Hilty
City Councilor Barb Gregory (Online)
Mayor Pam VanArsdale

STAFF PRESENT:

Ryan Nolan, City Administrator
Diane Oliver, City Recorder

MEDIA PRESENT:

Brian Mortensen with the Rogue River Press

AUDIENCE: April Harrison, Rogue River's Superintendent, Sharen Rockefeller, and Lorrie Williams

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes Consider approving the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2026, and the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2026.

Move by: Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Howell

Discussion on the motion to approve with corrections.

Vote: All ayes, none opposed,

City Council Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2026, and the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2026, are approved with corrections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Chamber of Commerce Liaison: City Councilor Barb Hilty reports the meeting was held on August 20th. The digital walking maps are now available. Next mixer will be at the Moose Lodge on September 10th in Goldhill, and we are all invited. November's mixer will be at Caveman Bowl in Grants Pass; no date has been announced yet. Ride the Rogue is September 26th and the Chamber will be at the Gold Hill fire department. We are interested in hanging a banner in Rooster Park to thank the fire fighters.

Community Relations; Community Center Liaison: Councilor Dee Copley reports that the meeting was on August 13th and they toured the Thrift Store. They received a \$5,000 dollar donation. The electric bill has been running high, so they may purchase a programmable thermostat for the store. They may not be able to sell the van, so they will work on getting that vehicle donated since they are non-profit. They are trying to get Bingo set up again, but it is difficult. The Red Cross would like to partner with the community center soon to use the building as a shelter in the event of an emergency or another evacuation event. The next meeting is September 10th at 1:30PM.

Rogue River School District #35: Councilor Mark Minegar reports that the staff is having in-service week Aug 24th through the 28th. Tonight is the BBQ back to school event. Rogue River offers college credit up to forty credits. RRHS offers thirteen dual credit courses that go towards SOU, RCC, and KCC. The credits cost \$25 each. They are also offering chemistry, mixed media, and sculpting. Every year they have had one student graduate from high school with an associate's degree. Chieftain Pride stands for Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy. RRES's open house is also tonight. SVA's open house was Wednesday from 4-6pm with a BBQ. They have a fully remote two option from 3rd to 12th grade which is primarily a pencil to paper option spending less time on a screen. They have a special Ed classroom option on campus now run by Laura Lancaster. The next meeting will be a financial update in October.

Community Relations; Jackson County Fire District #. 1: City Councilor Grace Howell reports that the meeting was on August 12, and the next one is September 9, 2026. The chief hiring process will end at the end of August. They received eight applicants. Interviews will be on Thursday September 24th. The meet and greet will be held on September 23rd 5:30-7:30pm for the community. The Solar should be online in February of 2027. Tablet command is online and was evaluated on the recent Woodrat Fire. The department has a new ultrasound machine to help better diagnose people in transit. There were 23 fire calls, and 187 ambulance calls in the month of July.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ECISO): Ryan Nolan reports that there have been staffing issues in the past, and the current administrator is working on that. Right now, there are 33 of 37 positions filled, three dispatchers in training, and admin has 14 of 15 positions filled which are much better numbers. They are working on contract renewals and budget planning. They are also working on a new fee structure because the revenue does not match the cost of things. They will go live with the new radios in October. Both Jim and Lorrie Williams gave updates as well, and stated the importance of the 911 dispatcher's jobs, being the first people to answer phones! Perhaps the council can schedule a tour of the 911 operators' facility soon.

Finance Committee: City Councilor Sherrie Moss reports that between July 21st and August 21st, 2026, the finance committee met five times, issuing a total of ninety-three checks, and five electronic payments totaling \$162, 640.14.

Planning Commission Liaison: Councilor Barb Gregory did not attend the planning commission hearing due to the fact that the file would be coming before the city council. Ryan Nolan gave the update on the UGB agreement we have with Jackson County that is outdated.

Tree City Committee Liaison: Councilor Dee Copley reports that they met August 13th 2026, and the most important thing we discussed, was with Ryan Nolan who joined us for that meeting. We are working through the TCUSA volunteering application process and hope to get that updated soon. The committee feels like they need more volunteers. The irrigation at Palmerton Park is still watering the bark beneath the trees which causes damage, and even death to the trees. They will discuss this further with Public Works. The Elementary school has reached out to the TCUSA to help with some planting of trees near the playground. The new sidewalk and curb modification plans near the volunteer center will be affecting existing landscaping, so the committee is open to suggestions. FFA has also reached out to TCUSA in the hopes to have more kids help them. The next meeting is on September 10th at 11:00am in the chambers.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports there was no meeting.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports they did have a meeting yesterday. There was a great presentation given by La Clinica and they talked about the nurse practitioners and physician associate residency program that has been a huge success. Some of the people who have gone through the program have stayed in the Rogue Valley. Food and Friends have closed escrow on their new kitchen in Central Point. The Central Point city council also approved an application for funding that can help them renovate their new facility. The total meal service for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2026, was 251,227 meals that were served of which 23,407 were congregant. There were 227,820 home meals delivered!

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports there was a meeting where they added to the RTP 25-year plan for the Grants Pass to Rogue River greenway connection. The chair signed letters of support for the two different federal bills regarding the federal transportation funding package that congress is working on now called “Basics” and the other is “Build America”. We are asking the legislators to take the best out of both bills to come up with something that works the best.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Text Amendment Consider approving a legislative land use item, Text Amendment 2026-01, amending the text of the municipal code adding a Commercial-Residential Zoning District and adding Commercial Design Standards in the Commercial Zoning District.

Mayor Pam VanArsdale declared the public hearing open at 6:29PM and stated that hearing is conducted as a legislative hearing. Oregon land use law requires that several items be read into the record which is permanently part of the land use record. The council’s decision will be final this evening unless it is appealed to LUBA.

No Councilors declared abstentions.

STAFF REPORT:

Ryan Nolan presented his staff report for the record.

Questions from council regarding the fact that most of these properties that are getting the commercial residential zone are already residential uses, so this will make them more compatible with the use now if we approve this. There are houses that existed before 1984 and currently they can’t add on to the property or even add a second ancillary dwelling or replace it, so this would allow that, and give property owners more options to do what they want with their land.

The mayor asked if the council would consider adopting one part of this zoning amendment and continue the second part of this proposal regarding the Design Standards as she has some concerns and would like to get more feedback from the community.

Ryan City Administrator says yes, we can split this up, and continue the Design Standards for another workshop date, and let Onnie Heaters know. Then after the city council workshop work, staff will send out public notice again for the City Council public hearing.

If adopted, the C-R (Commercial - Residential) zone would be created. This zone creates a new zone (all of which were formerly zoned Commercial. The new C-R zone would allow primary commercial use (with some limitations), primary residential use, or mixed use. The existing commercial zone allows commercial or mixed use, but not **new** primarily residential use. This zone changes would affect sixty-one properties. The same Ordinance changes two lots from Commercial to Public (a small parking lot behind City Hall and a parking area near the Elementary School).

AGENCY TESTIMONY: None

PROPONENT'S TESTIMONY: None

OPPONENT'S TESTIMONY: None

OTHER TESTIMONY:

Lorrie Williams of 5686 East Evans Creek Road spoke in favor of the proposal.

Move to close the public hearing.

Motion by councilor Howell, seconded by councilor Moss to close the public hearing.

Discussion between staff and councilors on the motion

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilor Dee Copley-Yes
Councilor Mark Minegar-Yes
Councilor Barb Hilty-Yes
Councilor Barb Gregory-Yes
Councilor Sherrie Moss
Councilor Grace Howell

All ayes, none opposed, **hearing closed at 6:49PM**

Ryan Nolan City Administrator states that it sounds like during discussions the council would like to approve the text amendment with the amendment to limit it only to the establishment of Chapter 17.32 adding a Commercial – Residential district.

No other discussion

Move to adopt Ordinance No 26-449-O Chapter 17.32 adopting a text creating a Commercial Zoning District and amending the City's Zoning Map converting sixty-one properties from the Commercial Zone to the Commercial-Residential Zone, and converting two properties from the Commercial Zone to the Public Zone, and direct staff to move Design Standards to a city council workshop.

Motion by: Councilor Hilty, **seconded** by Councilor Mark

No discussion on the motion

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Dee Copley-Yes
Councilor Mark Minegar-Yes
Councilor Barb Hilty-Yes
Councilor Barb Gregory-Yes
Councilor Sherrie Moss-Yes
Councilor Grace Howell-Yes

Ordinance No 26-449-O Chapter 17.32 adopting a text creating a Commercial Zoning District and amending the City's Zoning Map converting sixty-one properties from the Commercial Zone to the Commercial-Residential Zone, and converting two properties from the Commercial Zone to the Public Zone is approved **and we will continue the work on the Design Standards to future city council workshop.**

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION Consider approving a resolution, **Resolution 26-1479-R**, amending the Committee Rules of the City of Rogue River, adding a Tree City Liaison position.

Move to approve Resolution 26-1479-R, amending the Committee Rules of the City of Rogue River, adding a Tree City Liaison position.

Motion By: Councilor Moss **Seconded by:** Councilor Howell

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, Resolution 26-1479-R is approved.

RESOLUTION Move to consider approving **Resolution No 26-1484-R**, a Recommended Top Five Issues that the City of Rogue River would like the League of Oregon Cities to focus on during the 2027-28 Legislative cycle. **1.** Infrastructure funding **2.** Invest in Community energy disaster planning **3.** Maintain local control of a safe modern right of way **4.** Emergency communication system resources **5.** Water re-use.

Motion by Councilor Barb Hilty, **seconded by** Councilor Dee Copley

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, **Resolution No 26-1484-R is approved.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

Park Consider approving a request to hang a temporary banner in Rooster Park from the Chamber of Commerce thanking firefighters for recent firefighting efforts.

Move to approve the request to hang a temporary banner in Rooster Park from the Chamber of Commerce thanking firefighters for recent firefighting efforts

Motion by Councilor Moss. **Second by** Councilor Howell

Discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, the request to hang the banner in Rooster Park is approved.

PARK USE

Consider approving the request for Rooster Park Pavilion to include amplified music, on September 19, 2026, and August 29th from **Brenda Gordon**.

Move: To approve the request for Rooster Park Pavilion to include amplified music, September 19, 2026, and August 29th, 2026, for amplified music.

Motion: By Councilor Hilty, **seconded by** Councilor Minegar

Discussion on the motion regarding the late departure time.

Amendment to the motion by Councilor Hilty, that the departure time be no later than 8:00PM.

Seconded by: Councilor Minegar

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, the amendment to the motion is approved, the time of departure from the park will be no later than 8:00PM, the park reservations are approved.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Tree City Consider accepting August 13th, 2026, Tree City Meeting minutes.

Move to: Accept the Tree City meeting minutes of August 13th, 2026.

Motion by: Councilor Howell, seconded by Councilor Moss.

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, Tree City minutes of August 13th, 2026, are approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT: Councilor Gregory invites everyone to the Chamber mixer at the Moose Lodge on September 10th in Gold Hill.

MAYOR COMMENTS: Yesterday, Ryan, the Mayor, and JoAnn Dixon went to the Board of Commissioners meeting where JoAnn Dixon was awarded a community service award for her contribution as a volunteer in our community.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM

Mayor Pam VanArsdale _____ Date _____

ATTEST:

Diane Oliver
City Recorder
