ROGUE RIVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 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 Pastor Lucas Bradburn, Creekside Bible Church

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
Mayor Pam VanArsdale

STAFF PRESENT:

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

MEDIA PRESENT:
Chrissy Ewald, Daily Courier

AUDIENCE: Jerry Gay, Rogue River resident, April Harrison, Rogue River's new Superintendent, Colleen Roberts, Jackson County Commissioner, Dee Copley, Rogue River resident, Trent Carpenter, President and CEO of Southern Oregon Sanitation.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes Consider approving the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2026, and the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2026.

Move by: Councilor Hilty, to approve with corrections on June 25th minutes, seconded by Councilor Howell
Vote: All ayes, none opposed,
City Council Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2026, and the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2026, are approved with corrections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Chamber of Commerce Liaison: City Councilor Barb Hilty reports that meeting was held on July 16th. Work is continuing to be done on the digital map. Stickers should be available soon. The Grange is getting the front porch and steps are being rebuilt. The work should be done on October 3rd. June 17th, 2027, will be the annual awards chamber banquet at Del Rio Winery in Gold Hill. Our next meeting is on August 6th at WBCP at 213 E Main Street in Rogue River.

Community Relations; Community Center Liaison: No Report as this position is vacant.

Rogue River School District #35: Councilor Mark Minegar reports that due to technical issues at the school meeting, there was not a report to give.

The mayor introduced April Harrison, Rogue River's new Superintendent, who was in the audience, and thanked her for joining us. April spoke about being thankful that this council has a member who attends the school meetings, and thought she would join our meeting, and thanked us for the support. She's excited to serve this community.

Community Relations: Jackson County Fire District #. 1: City Councilor Grace Howell reports that the meeting on July 8th was well attended. The Solar Grant has been awarded to True South Solar. There will be 180 Panels, and 13 poles. She provided a visual so the council could see where they would be placed on the ground. The new ambulance is in use as the other truck is being repaired. They are recruiting a new chief, and hope to have one at the end of July. There are ten properties being considered for annexation into Fire District 1 due to access. These properties fall within seven miles of JCFD1. The department received a Wildfire Season Grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal in the amount of $35,000.00 to be used for staffing, and summer firefighting. There were twenty-six fire calls, and ninety-two ambulance calls.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ECSO): Ryan Nolan reports that there was an inner governmental meeting on July 21st where a new chair was elected, Police Chief Jenn Snook from the city of Talent. Ryan believes it will be a good thing to have someone from a small jurisdiction representing which tends to have the most challenges with funding.

Finance Committee: City Councilor Sherrie Moss reports that between June 19th and July 18th, 2026, the finance committee met four times, issuing a total of eighty-seven checks, and ten electronic payments totaling $283, 135.60.

Planning Commission Liaison: Councilor Barb Gregory has no update due to cancelled meeting.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports there was an interesting presentation from some local governments talking about transportation issues and challenges. Road's need repairing, and there's not enough money to do it. The mayor shared some interesting statists with the council. Jackson County has nine hundred and fourteen miles of County roads to maintain. Of that number seven hundred and sixty of them are paved, and the rest are gravel. They have seventeen thousand four hundred traffic signs, and three hundred thirty-two bridges. Medford has a population of nearly ninety-one thousand, they 27.7 square miles, with two hundred and eighty-eight miles of streets! What a job to maintain all the roads! Grants Pass has a utility fee to help pay for street maintenance that increases with by the CPIU. They did try to pass a gas tax with no luck. They also have a storm water utility fee they collect on their bills. They get a lot of help being part of the MPO like we do.

The mayor introduced Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts who joined us this evening. Mayor Pam VanArsdale thanked her for her commitment to Jackson County Roads. Steve Lambert is an excellent employee.

In the meeting they also discussed competitive transit grant applications, they have three applications, one for a low emission bus replacement, a low emission bus refurbishment, and to restore one of their routes. Their number one priority would be to get the low emission bus refurbishment done because they can't use federal money for that. Josehine County Transit is working on two projects, one for a fleet maintenance vehicle, especially to run around and charge vehicles when needed, and to help when buses break down. They also discussed the Connect Oregon Applications, established in 2005 by the legislature to invest in non-highway modes of transportation. The program currently funds aviation, rail, and marine projects.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports they did not have a meeting.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): Mayor Pam Van Arsdale reports there was no meeting, not enough for an agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ORS 192.660 (2)(a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q): None

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

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:

Reservoir

Convene as the Contract Review Board to consider bids for 1-million-gallon drinking water reservoir. Loree the city Engineer joined us via zoom and answered questions from the council and based on the bids, they were all over budget.

Move to reject all reservoir bids due to all being over budget.
Motion by Councilor Sherrie Moss, seconded by Councilor Grace Howell

Discussion and questions were asked and answered by the engineer and staff on the motion

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

Motion passes unanimously; All bids are rejected for the reservoir project due to being over budget.

While the city engineer was in the meeting via zoom, the council asked many questions on how we are to move forward. Since Loree Pryce meets with staff once a week, Ryan will provide an update at each workshop.

Grant

Consider accepting a Seismic Rehabilitation Grant in the amount of $1,617,876 from the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to seismically retrofit the City's Police Station.

Ryan Nolan provided an explanation as to why we need this grant, and how the building would not survive an earthquake because of the age, and how it was built. Nolan, city administrator, recommends to council we accept this grant.

Move: To accept a Seismic Rehabilitation Grant in the amount of $1,617,876 from the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to seismically retrofit the City's Police Station.
Motion: By Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Gregory

Discussion and questions on the motion

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

Motion passes unanimously, the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant in the amount of $1,617,876 from the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority to seismically retrofit the City's Police Station is approved

Franchise

Council is considering authorizing the mayor to provide written consent to Southern Oregon Sanitation to sell more than 50% of their stock to Waste Connections US Holdings, Inc. (as required by solid waste franchise agreement with the City).

Move: To approve the mayor to provide written consent to Southern Oregon Sanitation to sell more than 50% of their stock to Waste Connections US Holdings, Inc. as required by solid waste franchise agreement with the City.
Motion: By Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Gregory

Discussion on the motion, Trent Carpenter, President and CEO of Southern Oregon Sanitation answered questions of council.

Vote: all ayes, none opposed, the mayor will provide written consent to Southern Oregon Sanitation to sell more than 50% of their stock to Waste Connections US Holdings, Inc. as required by solid waste franchise agreement with the City.

Appointment

Consider approving the mayor's appointment to Council Position #1 as she has recommended Dee Copley.
Move: To approve the mayor's appointment to Council Position #1 Dee Copley
Motion: By Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Gregory
Vote: All ayes, none opposed, **Dee Copley is appointed to council position #1.**

Dee Copley introduced herself to the audience and council and thanked them.

Oliver, City Recorder swore Dee Copley into office

Appointment

Consider approving the mayor's appointment Dee Copley to the Rogue River Community Center Liaison position

Move: To approve the mayor's appointment Dee Copley to the Rogue River Community Center Liaison position.
Motion: By Councilor Moss, seconded by Councilor Minegar
Vote: All ayes, none opposed, Dee Copley is appointed to the Rogue River Community Center Liaison.

Appointment

Considering approving the mayor's recommendation to appoint Dee Copley as the Tree City committee liaison

Move: To approve the mayor's appointment for Dee Copley to serve as the Tree City committee Liaison position.
Motion: By Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Howell
Vote: All ayes, none opposed, Dee Copley is appointed as the Tree City committee Liaison.

PARK USE

Consider approving the request for Rooster Park Pavilion to include amplified music, on August 22, 2026, from **Brenda Goron**.

Move: To approve the request for Rooster Park Pavilion to include amplified music, on August 22, 2026, for Music in the Park
Motion: By Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Minegar

> *Discussion on the motion, we will send her the park rules. What time is dusk?*

Motion dies
Amendment to the motion by Councilor Hilty, that the departure time be no later than 9:00PM.
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 9:00PM, the park reservation is approved.

CITIZEN-REQUESTED ITEMS:

Park Use Consider approving a park use request from the **Ammerman Family Reunion** for the reservation of Rooster Park on October 10, 2026, from 11:00AM to 7:00PM for 75 people

Move: To approve a park use request from the Ammerman Family Reunion for the reservation for Rooster Park on October 10, 2026, from 11:00AM to 7:00PM for 75 people

Motion by: Councilor Gregory, seconded by Councilor Howell.

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, **the park request from the Ammerman Family Reunion for Rooster Park on October 10, 2026, from 11:00AM to 7:00PM for 75 people has been approved**

Park Use

Consider approving a request to place permanent signage honoring veterans in Rooster Park
Because the artwork is not done, we will continue this item to a future workshop.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Tree City Consider accepting July 9th, 2026, Tree City Meeting minutes

Move to: Accept the Tree City meeting minutes of July 9thth, 2026

Motion by: Councilor Hilty, seconded by Councilor Minegar.

Discussion on the motion, Ryan will be meeting with the TCUSA to go over the volunteer process.

Vote: All ayes, none opposed, Tree City minutes of July 9, 2026, minutes are approved.

PERMISSION TO ADD AGENDA ITEM:

Move to: Approve adding an item to the city council agenda
Motion: By Councilor Howell, seconded by councilor Hilty
Vote: All ayes, none opposed, the added agenda item is approved

Added Park Use Item:

Consider approving the late request to add an item to the agenda for a park use application from **Grace Baptist Church** for Rooster Park Pavilion on both August 7th, 2026, and August 21st, 2026, from 6:30PM to 8:30PM both Friday evenings for a night of worship.

Staff passed the application out to City Council

Move: To approve the request of Grace Baptist Church to use Rooster Crow Park on August 7th, 2026, and August 21st, 2026, from 6:30PM to 8:30PM for amplified music.
Motion: By councilor Hilty, seconded by councilor Howell.

Discussion on the motion

Amended motion: By Councilor Hilty to include that the reservation is for the Rooster Park Pavilion only on August 7th, 2026, and August 21st, 2026, from 6:30PM to 8:30PM for amplified music.
Second: By Councilor Howell
Vote: All ayes, none opposed, the park reservation is approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: Ryan Nolan City Administrator spoke about having a backup plan in the unfortunate event National Night Out needs to move indoors due to the smoke. The School District has agreed to let us use the elementary school's cafeteria. NNO should be a great event on August 4th, 2026.
Ryan did get those who were interested in the LOC annual conference signed up. The next event will be in Yoncalla Oregon for the small city's meeting on September 10th at the Grand Hotel. The contact list has been updated, and it was handed out to the councilors.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT: Councilor Howell mentioned the Petion 28 (IP28) also known as the Peace Act has failed.

MAYOR COMMENTS: The mayor thanked everyone for joining us this evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

No discussion on the motion

Vote: All ayes, none opposed

The meeting adjourned at 7:06PM

Mayor Pam VanArsdale _____ Date _____

ATTEST:

Diane Oliver
City Recorder

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