



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:01pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron. Councilor Linton was absent. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Richard Tovey, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Police Chief Jason Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates for the 2025-26 School Year

Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave updates for the 2025-26 School Year as follows: enrollment increase at an average of 5% for the last four years, the many State and National competitions competed in extracurricular activities, increased trade programs that are being pursued with an emphasis on these classes building homes, play houses that are auctioned, and other community projects, Army JROTC program has grown rapidly and will be hiring a second instructor, Education Pathways program, recognition in financial reporting, receiving a summer learning grant, rejoining ESD, one-year partnership with Umatilla County Health Department to provide health services at HHS, the many scholarships that were awarded, and the very successful 2025-26 school year had.

Mayor Primmer thanked the HSD for the updates and commended their efforts for the increase in trade programs and accomplishments.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Virginia Rome Garcia, City Resident- Thanked the City for participating in the Juneteenth Event stating the event was successful in the clean city park and thanked the Hermiston School District for offering so many programs for kids to be involved in.

Consent Agenda Items

Mayor Primmer removed Consent Agenda item G. Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Hayward seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-J, with the exception of G, to include:

- A. E Theater Lane Dedication Deed – 4N 28 02BC TL 2300 – Horizon Project Inc.
- B. Committee Vacancy Announcements 1
- C. Recommend Appointment of Erick Peterson to Position 4 of the Library Board for a four-year term ending June 30, 2030
- D. Recommend Appointment of Hawley Hawkes to Position 4 of the EOTEC Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2029
- E. Recommend Appointment of Hawley Hawkes to Position 9 of the Budget Committee for the remaining three-year term ending December 31, 2027
- F. Recommend Re-Appointment of Jessica De La Cruz to Position 2 of the Hispanic Advisory Committee for the three-year term ending June 30, 2029.
- H. Minutes of the May 14th Budget Committee Meetings for the City and Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency
- I. Minutes of the May 26th, Regular Meeting of the City Council
- J. Minutes of the June 8th, Regular Meetings of the City Council and Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency

Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.



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Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

G. Certifying the Ward Councilors and Municipal Judge Primary Election Results

Mayor Primmer stated Councilor Roberts discovered a number discrepancy from the Umatilla Election Division Results that should be shared with the public for transparency purposes.

City Manager Smith read aloud the following email explanation from Umatilla County Election Manager Kim Lindell,

“The difference between the statistical votes cast and the total number of votes per race is one.

We have ballots that are called "permanent limited" that are issued to Overseas Individuals whose return to the State of Oregon is uncertain. This is also referred to as a "Federal Only" ballot. The only races on those ballots are US Senator and US Representative.

One of these ballots was returned and showed in the statistics for ballots cast totals for the precincts included in the City of Hermiston, yet the City of Hermiston races were not on the ballot itself.”

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Hayward seconded to approve Consent Agenda item G. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Mayor Primmer congratulated all who were elected into office and all those who ran, stating running for office is a very difficult thing to do and should be commended.

Resolution No. 2433- Renewal of IGA for IT Services with Cities of Milton-Freewater and Pilot Rock, Morrow County, and Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District and amendment to IGA for IT services with the City of Echo.- City Manager Smith stated this resolution allows the City to renew IGA's with organizations where IT Contracts will soon be expiring.

Councilor Kelso stated it is clear that the IT Department does a great job as organizations continue to want to renew their contracts. Councilor Hayward moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Resolution No. 2433 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, McCarthy, Roberts, Myers, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Resolution No. 2434- Refer Amendments to the Charter to the November 3, 2026 Election.

City Manager Smith reviewed the recommended charter amendments with the recommendation to refer the amendments as one proposal to the voters at the November 3, 2026 election made by the Charter Review Committee.

After comments from the Council, Councilor Duron moved and Councilor Hayward seconded to approve Resolution No. 2434 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, Myers, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.



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May 2026 Monthly Financial Report

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Hayward seconded to accept the May 2026 Monthly Financial report as presented by Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Assistant City Manager Morgan, and City Manager Smith (PowerPoint Presentation attached). Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Myers, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Committee Reports

Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee- Councilor McCarthy stated the Committee heard presentations and will be presenting recommendations at the next City Council meeting.

EOTEC Advisory Committee- Councilor Kelso stated the Committee did not have a quorum but was presented with Placer AI cell phone intelligence data, and heard information regarding Fair planning, HEROS, RV Project, and water rights.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Duron and Myers spoke regarding new parks and recreation staff members- specifically those hired for the Aquatic Center, 1,200 trees were disbursed at the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway event, Belt Parks new bridge built and donated by the HHS Metal Class, 2nd Grade Swim Lessons where Kiwanis Club provided free goggles and more, Stars and Stripes 4th of July event, and planning for Melon Fest in August.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- Many events that took place in the City to include: Juneteenth at McKenzie Park, the Disability Walk, and CarTunes Music Festival at EOTEC. City Manager Smith stated the CarTunes event was described by EOTEC General Manager Al Davis as "a great event that no one saw".
- Many upcoming events that are taking place in the City to include: Grand Re-Opening of the Cozy Tavern on June 28th, Watermelon Slam Pickleball Tournament on Saturday, June 27th, Stars and Stripes Shootout 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on July 4th at Funland Park as well as other 4th of July activities, vendors, and fireworks, and Free Summer Movies in the Park starting in July at Butte Park
- Thanked the HSD for the Updates.

Council Presidents Report

Council President McCarthy encouraged the public to view community events posted at Hermiston Live and participate in these events such as the Chamber of Commerce Chamber Mixer and more.

Council Reports

Councilor Hayward reminded the community about the speed reduction on HWY 395, fire safety in this dry climate, and the 2001 High School Class Reunion.

Councilor Barron asked City Manager Smith if the City would be doing anything special for the 4th of July, commemorating the 250th Anniversary.

City Manager Smith stated the Parks and Recreation Department will be selling special 250th Commemorative Coins and enhancing fireworks and other festivities at the 4th of July Butte event.



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Councilor Roberts spoke regarding the Special Meeting of the Pendleton City Council regarding their Resting Ordinance and making sure the City of Hermiston continues on the right path.

Councilor Duron spoke regarding her attendance at the OLLG Meeting stating it was the first time this type of LOC meeting was held on this side of the state and stated she will be attending an LOC Board meeting in La Pine on Thursday.

Councilor Kelso spoke regarding the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundations Scramble for Scholarships Golf Tournament was a great success which raises money for students in the medical field.

City Manager's Report

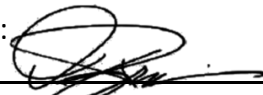
City Manager Smith announced the Peace Pole from the Rotary Club will be unveiled Thursday at noon and the Council and Community were welcome to attend.

Councilor Kelso stated the Cozy Corner grand reopening is immediately after and it seems like a natural migration to attend this event after the unveiling.

Adjourn

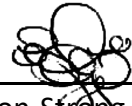
There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 7:54PM.

SIGNED:

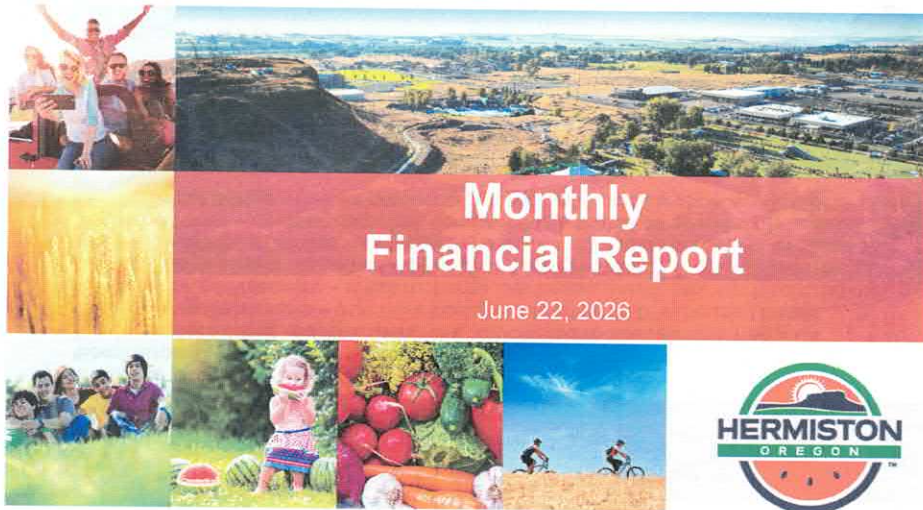


Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency (HURA)

- Hermiston URA
 - **92% through current fiscal year**
- North Hermiston Urban Renewal Area – ROW acquisition complete, design finalizing, bidding anticipated fall/winter 2026.



General Fund

- Eleventh month (or 92.0%) of 2025-26 fiscal year
- Monthly Revenues ended over projection by ~\$1.8 million
 - **Primarily due to receipt of property taxes and franchise fees**
 - **Revenues meeting expectations**



General Fund

- Monthly Expenses were under projection by ~\$379k
 - **Several Departments are 'over' projected budget (City Council, Finance, PS Center & Non-Departmental) and were further evaluated**
 - **City Council and Non-Departmental are over budget due to annual LOC membership and transfer to building inspection fund, respectively.**
 - **Public Safety Center over budget due to single time purchases for PD building renovation.**



Special Revenue Funds

- Observations:

- EOTEC

- revenues reflect partial reimbursement from campground project
 - RV project underway



Utility and Street Funds

- Observations

- Regional Water Fund ~\$201k under revenue projections and expenditures are ~\$449k under projection.



Capital Projects

- A number of projects in design:

- Geer/Harper Realignment – project underway
 - NW 2nd Street Paving – contract awarded, anticipated to start summer/fall 2026
 - RWS Backup Generators – purchase contract awarded, 2027 estimated install
 - Aquifer Storage/Recovery – initial recharge has begun, anticipated April completion
 - Orchard Water Line replacement – project underway anticipated completion late fall
 - Well #6 Chlorination Structure – project underway anticipate completion by late fall
 - Dogwood Street – contract awarded, construction anticipated summer through fall 2026
 - SE 10th Street Bridge – design proceeding, anticipated construction winter '26-'27 during off-season
 - E. Evelyn Avenue gravity sewer line – project underway continuing through fall
 - Lift Station #7 Rebuild – bid package released, construction anticipated summer/fall

- TBD (budgeted and part of CIP):

- Well #4 Controls – delays may require rescheduling project
 - Lift Station #5 – design to begin



Capital Projects

- Sherman Park – Bid package in review





Discussion Questions?

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