



Public Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Councilor Duron was present and Councilor Barron was excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Jason Edmiston, Operations Captain Scott Clark, Administrative Captain Robert Guerrero, Investigative Lieutenant Freddy Sotelo, Patrol Lieutenant Chris Martin, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Introductions & HPD Personnel Update

Hermiston's Police Department (HPD) Chief Jason Edmiston introduced members of HPD who were in the audience and gave construction updates stating construction has completed and furniture is being installed with an expected move in date on May 1st.

Police Accreditation Update

Scott Clark stated accreditation is 95% complete. The deadline to complete accreditation is July 2026, with items such as building inspection on the task list, items such as these were unable to be completed as the renovated building needs to be inspected for compliance. Once this has been completed the certification of accreditation should be accomplished within a couple of weeks.

1st Quarter (2026) Activity Report

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 1st Quarter Activity Report (attached). Information was provided to include: Total crime is down 11% from last year and down 17% from the previous 10-year average, this includes 31% year-to-year reduction in violent crime and 9% deduction in property crime. There was a loss of life this year, however homicide shows zero as this was classified as manslaughter. In Oregon, an attempted murder counts as a Murder, however a manslaughter resulting in death does not.

Case investigations are up 12%, as well as officer-initiated activity at 52% from last year and a 129% increase over the 10-year average. Traffic stops are down 14% from last year. Chief Edmiston stated he believes this decrease is directly related to the hospital contract work now at 100% as officers are in more frequent contact with citizens and doing building checks but not necessarily traffic stops. Total arrests are up 14% from last year with a 29% increase over the 10-year average.

Chief Edmiston clarified that this is not a political statement, however, as Oregon continues to decriminalize more crimes that were once felonies, it is very interesting to see felony arrests have increased 54% from last year with a 24% increase over the last 10-year period. Chief Edmiston stated he will continue to track this category in the coming months but believes this increase may be felony warrants for failing to appear, probation violations, and the like.

Hospital Contract Update

Chief Edmiston presented information (attached) regarding the activity logged by HPD for contract services performed at Good Shepherd Health Care System (hospital) from July 2025 through March 2026. Lieutenant Chris Martin continues to be the lead in maintaining communication with hospital staff which has proven to be successful.



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Questions, Comments, Concerns

Mayor Primmer thanked the Police Department for all the work they are doing to be accredited and all the service they do to the community.

Public Comment

None given.

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.

Incident Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Avg	Normal Range	2026	% Change Avg-'26	% Change '25-'26	
Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0-1	0	0%	-50%	
Rape	1	2	2	1	1	3	0	3	2	2	0-2	0	-100%	-100%	
Robbery	1	4	1	4	3	2	3	2	1	2	2-3	2	0%	100%	
Aggravated Assault	7	11	6	4	2	7	6	5	8	6	4-8	7	17%	-13%	
Burglary	12	26	14	20	18	11	15	8	5	14	10-19	5	-64%	0%	
Larceny	70	94	104	86	69	137	153	16	114	94	44-143	102	9%	-11%	
Auto Theft	11	11	10	7	9	14	18	10	5	11	6-15	6	-45%	20%	
Arson	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	2	0	1	0-2	0	-100%	0%	
TOTAL	103	148	137	125	103	174	199	195	137	147	110-183	122	-17%	-11%	
TOTAL VIOLENT	9	17	9	9	7	12	10	10	13	11	9-13	9	-18%	-31%	
TOTAL PROPERTY	94	131	128	116	96	162	189	185	124	136	100-172	113	-17%	-9%	
POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973						20322

Hermiston Police Department 2017-2026 Crime Stats

January through March 10-year Trends

Hermiston Police Department 2017-2026 Patrol Stats - January through March

Incident Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Avg	Normal Range	2026	% Change Avg-'26	% Change '25-'26
Total Incidents	4917	5820	5492	5421	5343	5356	5447	5024	7222	5560	4775-6345	9399	69%	30%
Calls for Service	2218	2607	2594	2605	2358	2685	2784	3194	2857	2656	2386-2926	2760	4%	-3%
Officer Initiated Activity	2699	3213	2898	2816	2985	2671	2663	1830	4365	2904	2079-3730	6639	129%	52%
Traffic Stops	1119	1267	1480	1606	1166	1425	1145	877	2697	1420	779-2062	2332	64%	-14%
Case Investigations	648	818	774	639	551	699	841	768	668	712	614-809	748	5%	12%
Total Arrests	310	326	326	237	201	258	310	306	326	289	243-335	372	29%	14%
Misdemeanor Arrests	237	226	243	147	139	212	240	246	269	218	173-263	385	77%	43%
Felony Arrests	73	100	83	90	62	46	70	60	57	71	63-79	88	24%	54%
Total Citations	1370	1593	1804	1477	885	1266	1338	898	1928	1395	1015-1776	1971	41%	2%

POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973
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HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Without Fear Without Favor

TO: City Manager Byron Smith & Public Safety Committee
FROM: Chief Jason Edmiston
DATE: April 27th, 2026
SUBJECT: Contract Services – July 2025 through March 2026

The following captures the hours and activity by Hermiston Police Officers (HPD) during the time working the Good Shepherd Health Care System (GSHCS) contract.

Incident Type	Total
Officer-Initiated Area/Property Checks	4,888
Miscellaneous/Information Calls for Service	135
Agency/Citizen Assists	58
Trespass Calls	36
Disturbance Calls	21
Arrests Made	25
Case Reports Taken	55

Of the 6,542 potential hours of coverage, HPD has been onsite and present 99% (6,460 hours) of the time.

Lieutenant Chris Martin and Facilities Manager Matt Moore continue to have open dialogue and HPD has provided several CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event) trainings to GSHCS employees.