



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Linton, Duron, Kelso, and Barron. Councilor Myers was excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Jason Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Roberts asked to remove item I, from the Consent Agenda. Councilor Hayward moved, and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-H, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Faith-Based Advisory Committee Reappointment Recommendation to Dan Mahon to Position #5, for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2028
- C. Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee Appointment Recommendation to Cari Shafer to Position #7, At-Large, for a 3-year term expiring 06/30/2028
- D. Airport Advisory Committee Reappointment Recommendation to Jesse McCormach to Position #5, for a 3-year term expiring 10/31/2028 1
- E. Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee Reappointment Recommendation to Val Hoxie to Position #2, Representing the Chamber of Commerce for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2028
- F. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Reappointment Recommendation to Carlisle Harrison to Position #4 for a 3-year term expiring 10/31/2028
- G. Budget Committee Reappointment Recommendation to Rod Hardin to Position #3 for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2028
- H. Minutes of the October 27th Regular Meeting of the City Council

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

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- I. Cancel the December 22, 2025 City Council Meeting

Councilor Roberts stated he asked to remove this item so it can be publicly announced. After City Manager Smith spoke regarding the annual cancellation of this meeting, Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Linton seconded to approve Consent Agenda item I. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Resolution No. 2396- Initiates the Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Annexation Process for 19.5 Acres of Land Located at 1835 E. Airport Road- Planning Director Spencer reviewed information from the agenda packet regarding annexation of Farm City Pro Rodeo property in order to construct a new 100-space RV Park on the land.

Councilor Kelso moved, and Councilor Hayward seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2396 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.



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Resolution No. 2397- Master Fee Schedule: Recycling Rate- Assistant City Manager Morgan reviewed information from the agenda packet and gave additional information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the "Recycling Modernization Act" a 2021 Oregon legislative approved Bill which required cities with a population of more than 4,000 to offer curbside recycling. Staff recommends that \$8.00 per month be added to utility bills to pay for this service through Sanitary Disposal.

Sanitary Disposal District Manager, Kevin Miracle, spoke regarding why the Oregon Legislature approved this bill and answered questions from the Council regarding recycling logistics both in Hermiston and on the west-side of the state where our area's recycling will be taken for processing; how recycling depots in Hermiston will be changing; trucks and bins that have been ordered to fulfill the State's mandate; and Sanitary Disposal's 8-12% profit for this service.

Public Comment

Krista VanVeen, 764 W Alder Ave- Asked if composting will be part of this program, what will be considered recyclables, who will be sorting the bin materials, and how many jobs this program will be creating.

Mr. Miracle stated composting will not be part of this program, a list of recyclables along with many other information will be released to all constituents (and gave her a paper list), bin materials will be driven to the sorting facility in Clackamas, and about 3.5 full-time employees will be hired.

The Council spoke regarding their discontent with yet another unfunded State mandate and how the State is requiring material producers to share costs associated with the passage of this Senate Bill; yet, unfairly, rate payers are still being required to pay an additional fee for this service- on top of having inflation go up as material producers will be passing on their additional costs to constituents as well.

Councilor McCarthy and Hayward spoke regarding their disappointment of not being presented this information prior as members of the Solid-Waste Advisory Committee, and the lack of knowledge staff has regarding Council questions.

Councilor Duron and Barron stated another unfunded mandate regardless of the great cause is unpleasant, however, this information is not a surprise as staff presented this information to Council in previous years, and Council could have previously asked staff to investigate these other options that is being asked tonight.

After further discussion, Councilor Hayward moved and Councilor Barron seconded to table this item to return to the Council within one month for staff to address the following Council questions: What penalties would be imposed on the City if the City were to not comply with the State Mandate, and what a reduced rate might be for low-income individuals and families. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, and Barron in favor; and Councilor Kelso against.

Renaming the Basketball Courts at Newport Park

City Manager Smith reviewed information from the agenda packet regarding possibly renaming the basketball courts at Newport Park after Joe Thompson and recommended referring this item to the Parks and Recreation Committee for their review and recommendation per the City Facility Policy.



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Councilor Kelso moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to refer the item to the Parks and Recreation Committee for discussion and recommendation. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Options for Additional Court Funding for Public Defense Services

City Manager Smith reviewed information from the agenda packet regarding funding possibilities for public defense services for the Municipal Court to include possible expenditure cuts and possible revenue enhancements to provide the additional \$500,000 needed to the Municipal Court budget and spoke regarding our Pendleton neighbors who are also struggling with costs associated with their current defense attorney and are considering actions similar to Hermiston.

Councilor Barron suggested partnering with the City of Pendleton to pool resources for a combined Court, as well as offering incentives to attorneys hired by the City, as he is not in favor of cutting positions.

The Council agreed that this scenario was very difficult and felt like a no-win situation and asked Chief Edmiston for his opinion on the matter.

Chief Edmiston stated Officers will continue to do their jobs and the people committing crimes are usually seen in both the Municipal Court and Circuit Court as they are chronic offenders.

After further discussion, Councilor Roberts moved, and Councilor Duron seconded to send all misdemeanor cases to the Circuit Court while continuing to seek public defense services at or near current compensation amounts and to include the full state amount of \$500,000 into the 2026-27 budget for the Budget Committee's review and consideration. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor.

Options for Additional Funding for the Harkenrider Center

City Manager Smith reviewed information from the agenda packet regarding the City's current Facility Use Agreement with the Senior Board, as well as possible expenditure cuts to provide additional funding to the Senior Board.

Council members asked if the Senior Board is seeking grants, donations, fundraising and other resources and opportunities to help their financial burden.

City Manager Smith stated he was unsure of the efforts they are making.

The majority of the Council expressed concern over the amount being requested stating this would not be a long-term solution, the possibility of other non-profits in the community asking for the same financial donation the Council is considering giving to the Senior Board, and agreed giving additional resources to an already underperforming entity is ill advised and a more in-depth discussion could be held at the next Goal Setting Session.

Councilor Linton gave a breakdown of the meals the Senior Board provided for the month of September and stated the additional \$30,000 she is requesting would be used for meals and could be taken from the recent Amazon project.



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After further discussion, Councilor Hayward moved, and Councilor Roberts seconded to direct staff to work with the Senior Board to renegotiate the City's use agreement for the Harkenrider Center to better allocate resources. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, Kelso, and Barron voting in favor, Councilor Linton voting against.

Committee Reports

Airport Advisory Committee- Councilor Roberts gave updates regarding: All committee members were in attendance with public attendees as well, Life Flight move from the Municipal Airport to Good Shepherd Hospital, Fuel Sales, and hangar construction updates.

EOTEC Advisory Committee- Councilor Barron stated the Committee did not have a quorum but will meet next month with the hopes of a quorum.

Faith-Based Advisory Committee- Councilor Hayward stated a quorum was not present; however, the Committee heard community updates regarding various items and did have two youth advisors present

Vacancy Review Board- Mayor Primmer stated the Committee reviewed applications and appointments and reappointments will continue to be presented to the Council.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- His recent meeting with Congressman Bentz where community leaders shared problems each community is facing specifically related to: Water, transportation, and mental health
- Treats on Main- and what a great event it was
- Ward Council Primary Election- encouraging constituents to run for office

Council Presidents Report

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding:

- Veteran Day Breakfast put on by the Parks and Recreation Department
- Holiday Market put on by the Parks and Recreation Department
- Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting events

Council Reports

Councilor Hayward spoke regarding the November 18th Grand Opening for Planet Fitness.

Councilor Kelso stated he attended the Dia de Los Muertos event, as a volunteer for HAC, and stated the event was a wonderful success and thanked all those who volunteered at the event, and especially to the event volunteer organizers as well. Councilor Kelso stated he attended the Hayden Homes Open House event- the homes are beautiful and reasonably priced for the area, and encouraged all to attend future events such as these, as housing is important and allows Hermiston to grow. Congratulated Marines on their 250th Birthday.

Councilor Roberts stated he had the honor of escorting the American Veteran's Traveling Tribute. This group travels the Country showcasing the traveling Vietnam Wall and Cost of Freedom Tribute- honoring, respecting, and remembering those who have paid the ultimate price and sacrifice for our freedoms. The display will be at the Cultural Center in Pendleton through November 12th and encouraged the public to go see it.



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Councilor Duron thanked City staff for the unveiling of the new My Hermiston App stating it is great and there are many unique and useful features and encouraged everyone to download it. Thanked HPD for investing in their team by allowing staff to attend a recent training course in Texas- stating this is what helps make our community safer.

Youth Advisory Report

None present.

Manager's Report

None given.

Adjourn

There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 9:07pm.

SIGNED:

Doug Primmer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Just Along for a Bumpy Ride

- Statewide Recyclable Materials List
- Supply Chains & Cashflow Questions
- Lawsuits against DEQ



Rubber Meets the Road

- Trucks & Carts Ordered
- Rate Needed for Financing



Proposed Rate

- \$8/Month
- 95 Gallon Cart
- Picked Up Every Other Week



Understanding “Solid Waste”

Existing Waste
Generated for Removal

Waste Generated for
Removal in Future





Most Common Household

Additional



95 Gal.
47.5g/Wk



Existing



90 Gal.



Rate Increase? Expanded Options?

Additional



95 Gal.
47.5g/Wk



Existing



90 Gal.



My Household

Recommendation: Eliminate
35g service

Gallons/wk	\$/Mo
Garbage	90 29.05
Garbage	
Recycling	47.5 8
Total	137.5 37.05
Net	12.5 \$ (9.46)

Existing

Example: Young Family of 5

Gallons/wk	\$/Mo
Garbage	90 \$ 29.05
Garbage	35 \$ 17.46
Recycling	
Total	125 \$ 46.51



Multi-Generational 5-Person w/Teens in Home

Recommendation: Reduce 2nd
90g to 35g

Gallons/wk	\$/Mo
Garbage	90 29.05
Garbage	35 17.46
Recycling	47.5 8
Total	172.5 54.51
Net	-7.5 \$ (3.59)

Example: Multi-generational
Home of 5 w/teens in home

Gallons/wk	\$/Mo
Garbage	90 \$ 29.05
Garbage	90 \$ 29.05
Recycling	
Total	180 \$ 58.10





Example: Retired Widower		
	Gallons/wk	\$/Mo
Garbage	35	\$ 17.46
Garbage		
Recycling		
Total	35	\$ 17.46



Empty Nesters

Gallons/wk		\$/Mo
Garbage	35	17.46
Garbage		
Recycling	47.5	8
Total	82.5	25.46
Net	-7.5	\$ (3.59)

Example: Empty-Nesters who work outside the home		
Gallons/wk		\$/Mo
Garbage	90	\$ 29.05
Garbage		
Recycling		
Total	90	\$ 29.05



- Rates Effective Immediately
- No Customers Charged until Service Begins
- Trucks/Carts Expected in 2026
- Significant Public Outreach Prior



Questions?

