

City of Shaniko

Special Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2025

(1) The meeting was called to order by Council President Pam Brown at 6:06 PM.

(2) Council present were Pam Brown, Stacy Wilson, Andrea Kegel and Interim recorder, Debra Holbrook. Visitors were Shaun Cooper, Joe Walter, Mark Haskett, and Dave Lisle.

(3) Pledge of Allegiance

(4) **Special Meeting Minutes from June 30, 2025, were passed; motioned by Andrea Kegel, second by Stacy Wilson, and All in favor.**

(5) The Recorder's Report: Budget produced in emergency in July to be completed July 28th. The budget will need to be readdressed in a supplemental budget process as spending and income dictates and the bond will need to be increased if the funds of the year exceed \$40,000 a year.

Three special financial research projects were defined. (A) To find accurate budget figures due to the blank requirement pages missing from 24-25 budget. (B) Research into the relationship and history of the Event-Tourist Committee, the fund found separate once in the 2023-24 budget, then was removed without a reason listed in the 24-25 budget committee message. No file containing transaction or spending documents but for the reports occasionally in the minutes. The funds were vulnerable because it was connected to the General Fund and high spending in legal fees, audits and insurance. (C) The extreme use and misuse of lawyers in spending not called for in the minutes by Council motions, with evidence of election interference and weaponizing the legal system against targeted citizens. The research may aid in negotiating a reduction in the \$11,000 plus debt left by the departing council. All these extra special financial projects will have council and civilian eyes to ensure transparency.

A financial issue concerning water testing with Box R, a large test performed in 2024 for over \$1000 was never paid for, a copper/lead test due three years ago was never done, and Consumer

Confidence. The report (CCR) from 2024 was never sent to the Oregon Health Authority. When the RV park was opened a

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dialogue occurred raising the monthly testing quarterly to monthly. Sherri of Box R said we do not have the number of water customers to put us in monthly testing. Savings will come at \$103 each month to only four times a year. The council has the 2025 CCR and will be mailed to customers soon. The financial Report listed monies deposited from July 8th, categorized by funds, three bank accounts explained and balances of each ending in June. Monthly bills by resolution without council approval in “crisis” were paid, and the other listed for the study of the council, as funds are not available to pay off the accounts. The Secretary of State rejected the 2024 In Lieu of Audit report with five issues. April 8, 2025, letter is with the council for review. The “City” phone and internet were a Marrs personal account, and the City of Shaniko could not access them for payment. The services went “offline” June 6th. Records are in “the cloud”. The landline service and internet will be returned to the office by Reliance Connects.

(6) The Water Report

The water master was replaced by certified small systems operator, Pam Brown. **Motion to replace Marrs and appoint Brown as Shaniko Water Master by Stacy Wilson, second by Andrea Kegel, all in favor.** Brown spoke to an Oregon Health Authority Report.

(7) The Community Block Grant report had several Engineering invoices for phase one of the project. **Motion to send in the payment requests totaling \$13,310, by Pam Brown, second by Andrea Kegel, all in favor** The money from the Grantor will be electronically deposited into the City Water Grant account.

(8) The Marquart water connection plan for a 48712 “B” Street connection was discussed. The route along Hwy 97 was not an option. A “C” street connection plan to an existing line that does not cross a paved street plan will be investigated. **Motion to pursue a, “C” to 3rd to “B” street plan made by Andrea Kegel, second by Pam Brown, all in favor.**

(9) The fire report by interim Fire Chief, Mark Haskett noted, the fire hall was cleaned up and much garbage removed and there are 6-8 volunteers. The inventory in the department has some items in
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abundance that can be sold for revenue, and others can be donated, Hoses no longer useful can be picked up by residents for soaker hoses. Craig Nichols of the R2 Ranch let the current department into the Wool Barn to find resources locked up there. Medical incident files, new radios, etc. were brought back to the fire hall and Nichols secured the R2 building for only ranch access. At school the old ambulance was found to have supplies in it. Some were brought to the Fire Hall, and a return to the truck later found the rest missing. The only operating brush truck, Ford F-450 was “transferred” out of the Shaniko Fire Department on 5/9/25 by Scott Marrs without council approval to the Ashwood/Antelope RFDA who took possession on May 14, 2025, and was also “gifted” other items. Nothing was mentioned at the May 12 meeting of the collectively planned Mass Resignations. The fire safety status check found two of six blowoffs not working, so several portable water “Depots” were placed in areas near homes around town. There was some training on the operation of the stations, and on the city structure truck. Grass removal and checking on making a few elderly owner’s properties safer to defend was in process. With no water issues the department advises everyone to green up their laws around structures for a first line of fire defense.

In the area of public works the department volunteers are doing the garbage pickup, finding leaks behind the restrooms and one known of at the school as well as repairing the broken blowoffs will take time with little investment. Restrooms in the school can still be turned on in case the fire nearby goes to evacuation levels and the building needs used for temporary “housing”.

Locks were cut on all water accesses, and the reservoir was found at 6 feet. The long-standing leak behind the city halls is currently being fixed. A leak related to the coffee shop installation four or so years ago. Saturated ground was releasing water under the Old City Hall. Water running into the alley road created the discovery. [Two months before a running water issue was reported but was

dismissed as wet ground from rain, yet only a few holes in the alley and a narrow southeastern path of wet ground was affected.]

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(10) The Fire Staffing Grant report revealed it to be a roll-over grant. The volunteers doing anything related to fire safety can be paid out in two-week intervals.

(11) The Restroom issue already reported, however, a Parks and Recreation Grant due in November can be applied for to fix the ADA handicap issue, adding a changing station, and in answer to an allowed public comment, requesting better toilets, replacing the closet toilet and storing supplies elsewhere.

(12) The schoolhouse will be open, overdue by the requests of citizens. As stated, a water leak is there to be found and fixed. A grant will be sought for the roof.

(13) A Special Meeting will be held for the budget hearing and any other items not addressed listed below on July 28, 2025 at 6 pm.

(14) Shaniko Days items were opened for public comment input. The first motion to close the streets the same as last year was amended by an adjustment to make the restrooms more accessible for the handicap to drive up to them. So, 4th street from the alley by the P.O east to “F” street and from just south of the restrooms on E street south to 3rd street and the alley of block 11. The hours of closure will be Saturday from 6 AM to Sunday at 6 AM. **An amended motion with specific details above was made to keep the streets downtown closed due to most citizens requests of tradition by Pam Brown, second by Andrea Kegel, all in favor.**

Some Activities taking place are on private property due to the messaging from the Tourism Committee telling the public after the resignations that there would be no Shaniko Days.

Businesses, all three non-profits and Martin Property engaged in planning offerings to the event. The city will fundraise with vendors, pancake breakfast, a chili cookoff and lawnmower races. The Fire Hall will be a first aid station. A speed bump is ordered for the north town entrance.

(15) Workshops to be planned for council needs and public comment items.

(16) There is other water hookups planned for. An application is found online at the cityofshaniko.org

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(17) Special election and council appointment “town talk” concerns to be clarified when the rest of the council is seated at the August 11, 2025 meeting.

(18) An Open House Town Hall idea for visiting all city facilities and ideas for uses and improvements by the citizens was proposed.

(19) Public Comment (5 minutes)

Shaun Cooper and Joe Walter spoke to the Shaniko Days Road closure.

Cooper mentioned the lack of participation with the tourist committee last year and the need for a new liaison from the council.

Dave Lisle spoke to the hazard of the open Ice Cream Parlor needing fenced off and business across town needing ODOT access.

Motion to adjourned at 7:30 pm by Pam Brown, second Stacy Wilson, all in favor.

Adopted minutes date _____

Mayor _____

Attest by Recorder _____