

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 6, 2025: PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jared Hillier called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jared Hillier, Council President Nick Hainline, Council Member Nathan Kerbs, Council Member Wes Owsley, Council Member Erika Cornett, and City Attorney Tim Stover (via zoom) were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council President Nick Hainline made a motion to accept the consent agenda (Minutes for 7-16-2025 and Treasurer's Report) as written. Council Member Nathan Kerbs seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Council President Nick Hainline, aye; Council member Nathan Kerbs, aye; Council member Wes Owsley, aye; Council member Erika Cornett, aye under the condition that the minutes are amended and "Council member" is added in front of her name. All in favor, no opposed. The motion passed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: City Administrator Justin Hulme was present to give the report. The report is on file.

POLICE REPORT: Sergeant Kelby Cornett with Gooding County Sheriff's Office was present to give the report. The report is on file.

PUBLIC HEARING: Annual Business License Implementation

Mayor Jared Hillier opened the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM. There were no comments from the community. Mayor Hillier closed the Public Hearing at 6:09 PM.

Mayor Jared Hillier opened the Public Hearing for the Business License Fee at 6:12 PM. There were no comments from the community. Mayor Hillier closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Annual Business License Implementation-Action Item: Council President Nick Hainline made a motion to implement business licenses as of January 1, 2026. Council member Nathan Kerbs seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Council President Nick Hainline, aye; Council member Nathan Kerbs, aye; Council member Wes Owsley, aye; Council member Erika Cornett, aye. All in favor, no opposed. The motion passed.
- B. Resolution 2025-04: City Fee Schedule-Action Item: Mayor Hillier informed the community present that a \$10.00 Annual Business License Fee has been added to the City Fee Schedule. Council President Nick Hainline made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-04: City Fee Schedule. Council member Nathan Kerbs seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Council President Nick Hainline, aye; Council member Nathan Kerbs, aye; Council member Wes Owsley, aye; Council member Erika Cornett, aye. All in favor, no opposed. The motion passed.
- C. Water and Sewer Rate-Discussion-Action Item: Mark Holtzen with JUB was present and addressed the Council and gave a brief update on the status of the Water Project funding. The current update is as follows:
The City and Mr. Holtzen had hoped for approximately \$1.2 Million in grant funds. USDA has said there will be 'maybe' \$800,000.00 in grant monies. There was a fire and safety issue which has

been rectified, Hagerman median income is too high, the priority point of the application was low, and that the subject of raising water utility rates had been raised by USDA. The City has obligated over \$300,000.00 from Treasury fund savings to make up for the loss in grant funds.

USDA has now suggested that Water utility rates be brought to \$62.00 a month per person, and if the City will commit an extra \$12.00 bringing Water rates to \$74.00 per person it will trigger two more 'priority points' on the grant application. The City does not have to, but USDA believes it will help trigger more grant money. The rate increase does not have to be immediate, the rate would have to be at the target number at the time of project closeout. The target date for the Water Project closeout is January or February 2027.

-Council President Nick Hainline asked what the shortage amount of grant funds is. The answer is approximately \$400,000.00.

-Council member Nathan Kerbs stated that without knowing more information, it is hard to make a decision.

-Council member Erika Cornett stated that she does not want to raise water rates approximately \$31.00.

No decision was made. The meeting moved on.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

MAYOR'S COMMENT: Mayor Hillier stated that everything is coming along in town and that the Spring Street paving should be starting the last week of August.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT: Mark Holtzen with JUB informed the Council that elected officials and employees have access to Magic Valley Air Show tickets through JUB if they would like one. Mayor Jared Hillier asked City Attorney Tim Stover if that was allowed. Mr. Stover stated that it is fine as long as it stays under \$50.00 per person.

CLOSE: Council President Nick Hainline made a motion to close the City Council Meeting for August 6, 2025. Council Member Wes Owsley seconded the motion.

ADJOURNED: 6:29 PM.

Jared Hillier, Mayor

Ashley Cook, City Clerk/Treasurer