

FIRST CDBG PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
HELPER CITY FIRST CDBG PUBLIC HEARING  
HELD AT THE HELPER CITY AUDITORIUM,  
19 SOUTH MAIN ST, HELPER, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 6 P.M.

The Helper City first CDBG public hearing was held on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Helper City Auditorium, 19 South Main St., meeting commenced at 6 p.m.

Present: Mayor Lenise Peterman, Council Member David Palacios, Council Member Lori Barrett, Council Member Bob Olson, Council Member David Dornan  
Helper City Police Chief Sean Draper, Helper City Police Officer Garrett Newman, Public Works Co-Directors DJ Romero and Brittany Hansen

Public - Nancy Elkins, Debbie Davis, Temple Jackson, Kathy Fausett, Roman Vega, Jen Buttrick, Matt Montoya

City Recorder: Traci Bishop,

City Clerk: Traci Bishop,

City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor/Commissioner Lenise Peterman opened the public hearing for the CDBG program and stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to provide citizens with pertinent information about the Community Development Block Grant program and to allow for discussion of possible applications for the 2026 funding cycle. It was explained that the grant money must be spent on projects benefiting primarily low and moderate-income persons. The Southeastern Region, in which Helper City is a member, is expecting to receive approximately \$700,000 in this new program year. All eligible activities that can be accomplished under this program are identified in the CDBG Application Policies and Procedures Manual and interested persons can review it at any time. Mayor Peterman read several of the eligible activities listed including examples, such as Construction of public works and facilities, e.g., water and sewer lines, fire stations, acquisition of real property, provision of public services such as food banks or homeless shelters. Mayor Peterman indicated that in the past, Helper City has received no CDBG money. The city has handed out its capital investment plan as part of the regional "Consolidated Plan". This list shows which projects the city has identified as being needed in the community. It was asked that anyone with questions, comments or suggestions during the hearing please identify themselves by name, before they speak. The clerk will include your names in the minutes and we would like to specifically respond to your questions and suggestions during the hearing. Mrs. Kathy Fausett asked how much, dollar-wise, Helper would get. Mayor Peterman responded that Helper may get

\$0, Helper may get \$600,000. It depends on the rankings of all of the projects that get submitted for the region. Mayor Peterman said she has no idea if Helper will get anything, or nothing at all. Mr. Roman Vega of the Helper Museum said that he has had a lot of people ask about parking and wondered if that funding could be utilized to repair or fix parking places. He has had people that mentioned behind Main Street, the area that is not paved, that could possibly be paved and mark for adequate parking spaces with identification on where to park. When there are events, parking is a mess. He thought using the fund to pave, clearly mark, and make the area handicap accessible, would be a great avenue. The mayor responded that she was not sure if they would cover roads, and asked City Recorder Traci Bishop if that was a possibility. Mrs. Bishop responded that the list is so vast that it is hard to remember, though later in the meeting, she stated that upon looking at the eligible activities, parking facilities under construction were listed. Mayor Peterman assured that it would be marked down as potential. Council member David Dornan asked if the items that the board suggests are looked at and calibrated. Mayor Peterman explained that Helper takes in feedback and will have a second public hearing, at which time, council will decide what project the city will go for. Mrs. Fausett suggested bathrooms placed in the Main Street Park, as it is used for a lot of events. Mayor Peterman asked for affirmation that there is culinary water at that park, to which Public Works Co-Director DJ Romero assured there was. Public Works Co-Director Brittany Hansen then suggested upgrading the Helper Auditorium. Mr. Vega said he thought that there was a grant in place to update the facility and put in an elevator. Mayor Peterman explained about the Brownsfield grant and the progress. Mr. Vega then brought up acquiring an engine that has been de-activated from Union Pacific. One of the things that has been brought up is the cost of transportation. He is not sure how much it is going to cost to get the engine moved and placed, but wondered if those funds could be used, as he would like to see it go that way. Mayor Peterman affirmed she knew about the engine donation. Council member David Palacios said in talking on the cemetery update, a mausoleum for ashes and urns was brought up. He said he would like to see that done and it would be nice for the cemetery. Public Works Co-Director Brittany Hansen brought up needing a sweeper, saying they do not have a way to clean sewer lines right now. Mayor Peterman stated that if Fire Chief Matt Montoya was in attendance, he would be all about equipment, so she threw that out on his behalf, such as turn-out gear, breathing equipment, and a new fire truck. Mrs. Hansen also mentioned a fan for the auditorium, which was acknowledged. Police Chief Sean Draper brought up re-paving the River Walkway and adding lighting for safety reasons. Council member David Dornan asked for the status on the path from Helper to Price, to which Mayor Peterman explained about an upcoming public hearing hosted by UDOT. From there, Mr. Romero suggested the bathrooms and kitchen at Locust Park, which is busier now that the playground equipment for the all-access park has been placed. Council member Dornan brought up bathrooms at the cemetery, but Council member Palacios stated it is already in the expansion plans. Mayor Peterman said that all the ideas that had been presented were great ones and she wishes they could do them all. Council member Dornan brought up triangular shades in the Main Street Park, and Mayor Peterman said maybe it could be thrown into Mrs. Fausett's suggestion

about bathrooms for the Main Street Park as well. Mr. Romero brought up crack sealing for the streets and Mayor Peterman asked where they would be sealed. The Fire Chief joined the meeting at that time and Mayor Peterman asked him to clarify his suggestions, which were a new truck, a compressor, and turn-out gear. Mr. Vega said that when the HVAC was installed on the third floor of the museum, there was damage done to the ceiling and suggested using some of that funding to fix what was damaged and/or have the ceiling replaced on that side of the building. He said if that can be done, he would also like the swamp cooler removed and the skylight in the basement installed. Mayor Peterman clarified that the ceiling is plaster. Council member Dornan said he appreciated that suggestion, but he asked if there was anything to do with the Blackhawk Annexation. He said it will bring a lot of money and housing to Helper and asked about the water line. Mayor Peterman spoke on the cliff face and asphalt placement in the spring, though that won't have anything to do with the pipe or water. So far, they are seeing good things and the mayor said it is significantly better. Mr. Vega then said his last thing was to ask for assisting in the upgrade of the power grid. Mayor Peterman said she wasn't sure if that was a possibility, but she would put it down. Fire Chief Montoya said that the bid on the compressor may come in lower than originally planned and said, if possible, he would like to push some money over to Mr. Vega. Ms. Temple Jackson asked about the path on Janet Street under the bridge. Mayor Peterman said there is a group out of Salt Lake that does the work to preserve the historic aspect. With the last minute of the hearing, the timeline of the grant application process was laid out. The hearing was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



Lenise Peterman  
Mayor



Traci Bishop  
City Recorder

Approved on December 4th, 2025

Published on State of Utah's Public Meeting Notice Website – [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn)  
on Dec. 5th, 2025