

MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, December 4, 2025

at 6:00 p.m.

in the Council Chambers

19 South Main Street

Helper, Utah 84526

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Lenise Peterman

Council Members:

David Dornan
Robert Olson
Lori Barrett
David Palacios - Excused
Edward Chavez

City Staff:

Community Administrator: Cole Stapley

City Recorder: Traci Bishop

Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez

Police Chief: Sean Draper

Police Officer: Absent

Public Works Co-Directors:

DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen - Absent

City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes

Museum Director: Roman Vega

CITIZENS:

Amber Simmons, Archer Anderson, Alex Anderson, Darla Anderson, George Anderson, Angela Anderson, Christina Pay, Ruth Lee, Jeanann Zmerzlikar, Aidan Mortensen, Stacey Ann Maxwell, Shara Sumnall, Brenda Addley, Brittnie Anderson

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 6, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING AND NOVEMBER 13, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING.

Mayor Lenise Peterman asked for any changes or updates from the council before seeking a motion to approve. Council member Ed Chavez clarified that he was not in attendance during the November 6th hearing or meeting, so he abstained from those votes but approved the 13th.

45 Council Member Olson moved to approve the minutes for the aforementioned dates.
46 Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
47 vote is as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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51 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR CASTLE GATE PARK**
52 **IMPROVEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ARCHER ANDERSON'S EAGLE SCOUT**
53 **PROJECT.**

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55 Archer Zacariah Anderson, Troop 271, said his proposal is being able to put up a
56 fence at the Castle Gate Subdivision Park and be able to install a few benches. He
57 also wants to do minor repairs and maintenance of the park itself. He said he is
58 doing it for his family and those with children in the subdivision so that their kids
59 have a place nearby to be safe and have fun. Mayor Peterman asked for a timeline,
60 he said his plan is to start in the spring or summer, he just has to wait to get his
61 paperwork approved. The mayor then asked what the city can do to help with the
62 project. He said he'd appreciate donations of money, fences, benches, etc. Council
63 member David Dornan asked if this was the last project to get his eagle, which Mr.
64 Anderson confirmed. Mr. Anderson said his troop is an awesome one to be in. He
65 was nervous when he first joined, but it has helped him find his voice.

66

67 Mayor Peterman said she believes it is an amazing project and assumes Helper City
68 would love to support. In the spring, she requested Mr. Anderson returns with
69 specific requests. Council member Bob Olson asked how many merit badges Mr.
70 Anderson has, which he responded with 78 at 14 years old.

71

72 Council Member Chavez moved to approve Archer Anderson's Eagle Scout Project.
73 Council Member Dornan seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
74 vote is as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		

Motion passed

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78 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF "A BOLDER WAY FORWARD"**
79 **RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES, LEADERSHIP AND**
80 **WELL-BEING FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN CARBON COUNTY.**

81

82 Christina Pay with the Carbon County Chapter of A Bolder Way Forward was
83 joined by a few other colleagues. She explained the mission behind A Bolder Way
84 Forward, which aims to empower Utah women and girls, and to help them thrive.
85 Each woman presenting gave their "why" in joining the mission. Stacey Ann
86 Maxwell also spoke on the mission and bridging gaps for females in the community.
87 A 'cowboy poem' was then read to highlight the strength and togetherness of A
88 Bolder Way Forward. The purpose of the resolution is to declare Helper as an A
89 Bolder Way Forward city, opening the door to collaboration and showing that the
90 city is part of helping women and girls in the city. Mrs. Pay then read the resolution
91 supporting A Bolder Way Forward.

92

93 Mrs. Pay also said they would provide Helper City with a certificate of recognition
94 upon agreement. Council member Bob Olson said that he supports the effort and
95 thinks it is wonderful. He went over some of the statistics, which show that Utah
96 has the lowest rank for women's equality. The women explained the spokes on the
97 wheel that aim to support Utah women and the effort being organized by Dr. Susan
98 Madsen. There is male and female allyship for A Bolder Way Forward.

99

100 Council Member Olson moved to the resolution supporting A Bolder Way Forward.
101 Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
102 vote is as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		

Motion passed

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106 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESIDENTIAL ANTI-**
107 **DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN AND**
108 **CERTIFICATION.**

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110 Mayor Peterman explained that this is part of the CDBG application. These are
111 some of the supporting documents they require. City Recorder Traci Bishop had the
112 policies and procedures book with templates for the displacement policy and civil
113 rights resolution. The mayor said this is because the money is federal dollars. She
114 wanted to make it really clear that Helper is not looking to remove people. It is to
115 preserve community stability by helping long-term residents stay in their
116 neighborhoods and more. Mayor Peterman said if Helper was going to pursue
117 dollars for housing or to renovate a space and people were being displaced, this puts
118 forth a policy to show how people will be treated so that they are not abandoned.
119 Mrs. Bishop reiterated that the format was taken directly as it read in the book and
120 was approved by a member of SERDA.

121
122 Council member Olson brought up concerned citizens, saying he believed that they
123 misunderstand what the documentation is for. Council member Chavez urged those
124 confused to get a copy of the documentation and Mayor Peterman said that it is not
125 working to displace, but protect. The mayor said this is a critical component to
126 adopt in order to continue the application on the Community Development Block
127 Grant.

128
129 Council Member Dornan moved to approve the Residential Anti-Displacement and
130 Relocation Assistance Plan. Council Member Chavez seconded the motion. Motion
131 carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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135 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTION**
136 **2025-07.**

137
138 Mayor Peterman said this is again a request by SERDA for the CDBG program.
139 This shows Helper will adhere to the Civil Rights and Regulations set forth by the
140 federal government.

141
142 Council Member Chavez moved to approve the Civil Rights resolution. Council
143 Member Dornan seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as
144 follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		

Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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147 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF APPLYING FOR JOINT**
 148 **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE-STP SMALL URBAN FUNDING FOR ROAD**
 149 **MAINTENANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION.**

150

151 The mayor explained that the outline of the program as put forth by UDOT was in
 152 the council member's packets. Helper would be pursuing non-Urban funds for
 153 populations at less than 5,000. To do this, roads have to be classified as a major
 154 collector or higher. Helper has three of those: Bryner, Main and Hill streets. Those
 155 are the 3 roads eligible for the program. It is proposed that Hill Street be the
 156 repaired road. Community Administrator Cole Stapley explained there would be
 157 total reconstruction. It includes a portion of Canyon St, as well as micro surfacing
 158 mostly likely over the rest of Bryner as it is in better shape. The total to apply
 159 would be about 1.5 million. The grant application would be turned in this year and
 160 funded in fiscal year 2029. This is a long-term outlook but the process to follow to
 161 get it in place.

162

163 Mr. Stapley explained that this came out while working on the Transportation
 164 Master Plan with Jones & DeMille. Council member Chavez brought up the match,
 165 asking if it could be in-kind or had to be monetary, to which Mr. Stapley said he
 166 believes it is dollars. Mayor Peterman stated that road B&C funds can be used for
 167 the match. The mayor said the city has to start somewhere; the roads need it.

168

169 Council Member Dornan moved to approve the Joint Highway Committee-STP
 170 Small Urban Funding application. Council Member Olson seconded the motion.
 171 Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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175 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONTINUING WITH SMITH**
 176 **HARTVIGRESEN AS HELPER CITY REPRESENTATION FOR THE**

177 **GOOSEBURY NARROWS PROJECT, WITH FEES PROPORTIONATE TO**
178 **WATER SHARE OWNERSHIP PERCENTAGE NOT EXCEEDING 15%.**

179
180 Council member Chavez said Helper has the least water shares of all involved.
181 When the attorney is paid, Helper pays the lowest amount. It would represent all
182 involved to keep the water local. Council member Dornan asked for clarification on
183 where Goosebury is, to which Council member Chavez explained that it is in the
184 area on the top of Huntington Canyon, going toward the other side of San Pete. The
185 water comes to Carbon County now but San Pete wants to divert it. Mayor
186 Peterman explained that this litigation started in the 1980s and gets revived every
187 20 years or so. It was again, which is why Helper is taking this step to restrict the
188 ability to take the water out of the Price River. The 15% is the maximum. If other
189 cities join in, which is expected, it would drop down to 6%. PRWID is carrying the
190 big portion.
191

192 Council Member Chavez moved to approve continuing with Smith as Helper's legal
193 representation on the project. Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. Motion
194 carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		

Motion passed

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198 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-08, PRIVACY**
199 **POLICY FOR HELPER CITY.**

200
201 Mr. Stapley said this is one piece of a bigger picture and ties back to the
202 Government Data Privacy Act that was passed by the legislature. He said a Privacy
203 Statement would be brought back next month. This policy as written was followed
204 by the template put out by the Office of Data Privacy. A lot of other Utah
205 municipalities have already followed it. Mr. Stapley said this mirrors the policy in
206 place by Price because it was already set in place by the Office of Data Privacy. Mr.
207 Stapley would be the Chief Administrative Officer and Mrs. Bishop would be the
208 Records Officer. Council member Chavez asked if it all has to be done by the end of
209 the year, or just a part of it. Mr. Stapley explained that during a webinar the day
210 before, they learned that to satisfy the requirement for the year, the city has to
211 assure that a Data Privacy Policy has been started, which Helper has.
212

213 By July of 2027, processes need to be updated to the new policy. As other data is
214 gathered, it must meet the criteria of that as well. Mr. Stapley said that the city will
215 be updating the utility application and adding a QR code to show what happens
216 with collected data. At the City Hall windows, the library and the schools, messages
217 detailing what is done with data will be put in place. Mr. Stapley said that it is very
218 arduous for a small municipality to go through all the forms but they have started
219 to be gone through. The Office of Data Privacy has been very helpful with training.
220

221 Council Member Chavez moved to approve Resolution 2025-08. Council Member
222 Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		

Motion passed

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226 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT 2025-01 TO THE**
227 **HELPER CITY MASTER RECREATION PLAN.**
228

229 Mayor Peterman said this is in support of the master plan, adopted by the council in
230 February. At that time, the USU relationship was not established and she wishes to
231 amend it to say here is a new thing and these are the steps taken. This will be
232 helpful for the Land Water Conservation Grant as well, to show that improvements
233 have been put in as part of the recreation plan.
234

235 Council Member Dornan moved to approve Amendment 2025-01. Council Member
236 Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X		
Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		

Motion passed

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240 **REPORTS ONLY FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.**
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242
243 **CLOSED MEETING – NO CLOSED MEETING WAS HELD.**
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247 **ADJOURNMENT:**
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249 There being no further business, Council Member Dornan moved to adjourn.
250 Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
251 vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Dornan	X	—	—
Olson	X	—	—
Barrett	X	—	—
Palacios	—	—	X
Chavez	X	—	—

Motion passed

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253
254 I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record
255 of the Helper City Council meeting held on Thursday, December 4th, 2025.
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260
261 Lenise Peterman
262 Mayor



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266 Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on January 8th, 2026