

1                   **MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

2                               **Thursday, December 4, 2025**

3                                       **at 6:00 p.m.**

4                                       **in the Council Chambers**

5                                       **19 South Main Street**

6                                       **Helper, Utah 84526**

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9   **ATTENDANCE:**

10   Mayor Lenise Peterman

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13   **Council Members:**

14     David Dornan

15     Robert Olson

16     Lori Barrett

17     David Palacios - Excused

18     Edward Chavez

13   **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

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27   **CITIZENS:**

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

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33   **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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36   **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 6, 2025 PUBLIC**  
37   **HEARING, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING AND NOVEMBER 13,**  
38   **2025 SPECIAL MEETING.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion passed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Dornan</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Olson	X		
Barrett	X		
Palacios			X
Chavez	X		
Motion passed			

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

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

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

Council Member Dornan moved to approve the Joint Highway Committee-STP Small Urban Funding application. Council Member 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			

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **REPORTS ONLY FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.**

CLOSED MEETING – NO CLOSED MEETING WAS HELD.

ADJOURNMENT:


There being no further business, Council Member Dornan moved to adjourn.  
Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call  
vote is as follows:

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record  
of the Helper City Council meeting held on Thursday, December 4th, 2025.



Lenise Peterman  
Mayor



Traci Bishop  
City Recorder

Approved on January 8th, 2026