

1 **MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING**
2 **Thursday, January 22, 2026**
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 Tyson Damron
15 Robert Olson
16 Ruth Lee
17 David Palacios
18 Edward Chavez

13 **City Staff:**

14 Community Administrator: Cole Stapley
15 City Recorder: Traci Bishop
16 Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez - Absent
17 Police Chief: Sean Draper
18 Police Officer: Absent
19 Public Works Co-Directors:
20 DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen – Romero absent
21 City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes - Absent
22 Museum Director: Roman Vega
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27 **CITIZENS:**

28 Kathy Fausett, Jeanann Zmerlikas, Lori Barrett
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32 **GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION.**
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34 Mayor Lenise Peterman explained that typically in June, the budget end-of-year,
35 there is a general panic, as the money has been spent. With that having been said,
36 she would like to get to quarterly reviews and have the council members review the
37 departments they are over. Though Mayor Peterman believed the documents in-
38 hand were a 6-month look at the budget, Community Administrator Cole Stapley
39 clarified that this is a general budget training. The mayor said to move forward
40 with that, as she really wants the council to understand how to read the budget,
41 and what to do with it. She said a budget is a projection, based on reality, and what
42 has been done in the past as well as what is being looked toward in the future. She
43 said she would like to do quarterly budget check-ins going forward.
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45 Mr. Stapley prefaced by saying that he has started to dig in going over the budget
46 with different departments. He said what is in front of the council is the budget for
47 this year. He broke down the revenue accounts, expenses, expectations, different
48 funds, and how the budgets are allocated. He said the tax rate is certified every
49 June for the next year and Helper's is around \$286,000 to be collected through the
50 county assessor. He also spoke on the process of truth in taxation and how
51 everyone's portion of property taxes comes from that process. Mr. Stapley explained
52 the different taxes such as RAP tax and Highway tax. Mayor Peterman explained
53 that funds do not move willy-nilly. Even though there is a general fund, it is
54 allocated to a department and the council would have to vote. Mr. Stapley also
55 explained that the budget is sent to the auditor to review.

56
57 Mayor Peterman said over the last several years, revenue strengths have been
58 diversified and that is a very positive thing for the city. Mr. Stapley spoke on a
59 presentation on different municipalities and how to utilize the available taxes. He
60 said that Helper is using the ones that are available for the city. The mayor then
61 suggested bringing in the gal that had done the presentation to see if she could
62 come to Helper and do a training on the budget, as she is an amazing resource, and
63 knows Helper's budget pretty well. This is something that the council said they
64 were interested in, and the mayor said she would reach out to her. Mr. Stapley also
65 detailed adopting a balanced budget and seeing the zero on the line, as the revenues
66 and expenses have to be equal. He said that it can be a challenge, explaining the
67 way it can be balanced out, such as how to work through a surplus or an over-
68 estimation.

69
70 The mayor cautioned to never start a budget in the red, as it is far too difficult to
71 come out of the deficit if you begin there. The goal is to start looking at the budget
72 with the council members over them in February. Last year, the Electric Fund
73 transfer was a bit bigger and Mr. Stapley said that it was likely, in part, due to the
74 loss of Camping World. He also stated that Helper is in need of more Sales Tax
75 Revenue. To wrap up the budget conversation, Mayor Peterman asked where the
76 budget was at. He said the city would like to look at the buildings budget as
77 insurance funds were received and a balance would need to be added to bring in
78 that revenue. The mayor encouraged the council to get with City Hall and those
79 over the budgets with any questions.

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83 **ALL WHEELS PARK SURVEY DISCUSSION.**

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85 Mr. Stapley began by explaining that the grant Helper City was awarded is for a
86 conceptual design of an all wheels park within Helper City. They have engaged the
87 community through a survey, which is what would be gone over during the meeting.
88 There were 55 responses on it within about 7 days. The survey results went over

89 ages and zip codes of those that took the survey, the way they would be transported
90 to the park, how often it would be used, the time of day that it would be used, and
91 users per household. Questions from the survey, what could benefit the park
92 further, and more information was gathered for a conceptual design. Mr. Stapley
93 said council needs to decide where the park needs to be put, which is the basis of the
94 conversation, and how much of the land will be used for it. In February, the council
95 will take action on the location itself.

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97 Location possibilities such as the Castle Gate Park, near Bryner Street, etc., were
98 discussed. The mayor said hopefully Dalton Vaughn of American Ramp Company
99 would be available during the February meeting to discuss things further.

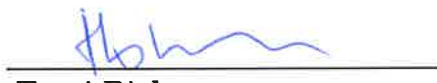
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103 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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105 There being no further business, Council Member Chavez moved to adjourn.
106 Council Member Palacios seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
107 vote is as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Olson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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110 I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record
111 of the Helper City Council meeting held on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026.

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117 Lenise Peterman
118 Mayor

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117 Traci Bishop
118 City Recorder

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122 Approved on February 5th, 2026
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