

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

2 **Thursday, April 17th, 2026**

3 **at 11:30 a.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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12 **Council Members:**

13 Tyson Damron

14 Robert Olson

15 Ruth Lee

16 David Palacios

17 Edward Chavez - Absent

12 **City Staff:**

Community Administrator: Cole Stapley - Absent

City Recorder: Traci Bishop

Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez - Absent

Police Chief: Sean Draper - Absent

Police Officer: Absent

Public Works Co-Directors:

DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen - Absent

City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes - Absent

Museum Director: Roman Vega - Absent

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26 **CITIZENS:**

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28 None in attendance.

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32 **BUDGET TRAINING FOR THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

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34 Mayor Peterman explained that the council was reviewing budgets with Kerri
35 Nakamura. Ms. Nakamura thanked the council for having her today, back in
36 Helper. She explained that she will be presenting most of the information viewed
37 today next week at the Utah League of Cities of Towns and asked the council to
38 bear with her, as it is a few sessions in one, but also personalized for Helper City.
39 Align and Shine is the name of Ms. Nakamura's training, who said that she loves
40 budgets and public budgeting. It is what she has done her whole career. Beginning
41 with "what is a budget?" Ms. Nakamura took the mayor and council clear through to
42 Truth in Taxation. Ms. Nakamura also explained that budget is what you think,
43 actual is what really happened.
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45 In going over different Utah cities and budgets in comparison to Helper, the council
46 asked questions such as which revenue is biggest in certain cities. Council member
47 Tyson Damron also asked about if there are restrictions as to what projects can go
48 in the capital project's lists. Ms. Nakamura explained that fire truck purchases with
49 impact fees can be added, though it is usually brick and mortar capital projects. She
50 cautioned to not put sewer and water projects in the capital projects. Ms. Nakamura
51 explained the process of preparing the budget and making it available to the public
52 which, by law, is the first meeting in May or the first Tuesday in May. Following
53 the budget being made public for 10 days, a public hearing will be held. Usually, it
54 is held during the first meeting in June.

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56 Transparency, percentages, growth, and more were discussed. As the presentation
57 drew to a conclusion, Ms. Nakamura drew the focus to all things Truth in Taxation.
58 One of the main things she explained was that those going through Truth in
59 Taxation will not have the budget finished in June, it would be in August. She
60 stated that the city staff would be very busy, putting out notices and the like.
61 Agendas, particular agenda items, notifications, statements, and procedures were
62 outlined. Ms. Nakamura said that a post showing each hearing for the Truth in
63 Taxation in the county must stay posted up until after the rate is certified. It was
64 stressed that the notices must be posted for at least two weeks, and the council was
65 cautioned to watch that closely.

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67 At the conclusion, Council member Bob Olson asked if Helper has done this before,
68 to which Mayor Peterman said that Helper hasn't raised taxes in many years. He
69 then asked if Helper still has time to do it this year. The answer was yes, though
70 the city would need to hit the ground running as soon as possible. Council member
71 Olson asked how many cities are doing this, this year. Ms. Nakamura said a lot of
72 entities did this last year and a lot of them did not get certified. The council thanked
73 Ms. Nakamura for her time, ensuring her that the training was very helpful.

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76 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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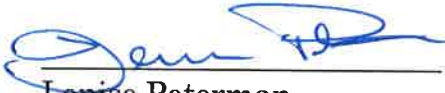
80 There being no further business, Council Member Palacios moved to adjourn.
81 Council Member Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call
82 vote is as follows:

<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>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>X</u>

Motion passed

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I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council work meeting held on April 17, 2026.



Lenise Peterman
Mayor



Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on May 7, 2026