

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

2 **Thursday, May 21st, 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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12 **Council Members:**

13 Tyson Damron

14 Robert Olson

15 Ruth Lee

16 David Palacios

17 Edward Chavez

18 **City Staff:**

19 Community Administrator: Cole Stapley

20 City Recorder: Traci Bishop

21 Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez

22 Police Chief: Sean Draper

23 Police Officer: Absent

24 Public Works Co-Directors:

25 DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen – Hansen Absent

26 City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes - Absent

27 Museum Director: Roman Vega – Absent

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30 **CITIZENS:**

31 CJ McManus

32 **DISCUSSION ON AMENDING 2026 FYE BUDGET.**

33 Community Administrator Cole Stapley said there will be a public hearing for this
34 as well, and the budget will be looked to be amended on June 18th. There should
35 also be a public hearing scheduled for the transfer from the electric fund to the general
36 fund. Mr. Stapley talked about some accounts having higher budgets, some being coded in
37 the wrong account, and some accounts inaccurately showing more that was spent. Going
38 over the water account, Mayor Lenise Peterman wanted to update the council on the water
39 project. She mentioned that Council member Bob Olson had relaying a message from
40 an advisory committee regarding the selling of a Helper building. The mayor talked
41 about precarious aspects of the project and how costs would soar, since the bid had
42 taken place three years prior.

43 She spoke on how it was decided to take a more strategic route for the funds. At this
44 point, selling the building is off the table as it is not needed. Mr. Stapley walked the
45 council through all the ways that small tweaks could be made to square the budget

away, including appropriately allocating the Wildcat donation that had been received in the fall. Council member David Palacios said that all-in-all, the amended budget looks good. Mr. Stapley agreed, saying that the revenue was pleasing to see. The council remarked on how the budget was in such a great spot for the time of the year, and how it was impressive. Briefly, direction went toward the ice maker that continues to need to be replaced. Rather than needing to replace it as often, Council member Tyson Damron encouraged alternative options to keep the current machine running and usable.

The council then discussed the idea of approaching Truth in Taxation for the next fiscal year. Mr. Stapley walked the council through how they would need to make the public aware and educated well beforehand, the hearings that would need to be hosted, how the budget would be adopted, etc. The topic of charging a processing fee for utility bills was brought up once again, as well as possibly charging for paper statements, and other various ways to cover the cost of the utility bills for the city.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Palacios moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Damron. Motion carried, the council roll call 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>			

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council meeting held on May 21, 2026.



Lenise Peterman
Mayor



Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on June 4, 2026