

1 **MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
2 **Thursday, May 14th, 2026**
3 **at 7:30 p.m.**
4 **in the Council Chambers**
5 **19 South Main Street**
6 **Helper, Utah 84526**
7

8
9 **ATTENDANCE:**

10 Mayor Lenise Peterman
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12 **Council Members:**

13 Tyson Damron
14 Robert Olson - Absent
15 Ruth Lee
16 David Palacios
17 Edward Chavez
18

12 **City Staff:**

Community Administrator: Cole Stapley
City Recorder: Traci Bishop
Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez - Absent
Police Chief: Sean Draper
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:**

27
28 None
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31

32 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-06, A**
33 **RESOLUTION AMENDING EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS.**
34

35 Mayor Lenise Peterman said that Community Administrator Cole Stapley noticed a
36 gap in the Personnel Policy. Helper City is trying hard to stay on top of the policy
37 and amend it. Mr. Stapley said that what is being added is Helper doesn't employ
38 anyone under the age of 16, with the exception of lifeguard and clerk roles at the
39 pool. The two pool managers have gone through training in regard to this, and
40 training will be undergone with the minor employees as well.
41

42 Council Member Palacios moved to approve resolution 2026-06. Council Member
43 Lee 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>
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Olson			X
Lee	X		
Damron	X		
Palacios	X		
Chavez	X		
Motion passed			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CIB APPLICATION FOR THE MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY.

A public hearing was hosted at the previous meeting, where feedback was positive, according to Mayor Peterman. She wanted to share solid numbers – the total project cost to expand is \$452,501. It is a 50/50 split proposal, with 50% being grant and 50% being loan, with an anticipated 3% interest rate on the loan amount. Over 15 years, payments would be \$14,850 a year to undertake this with CIB funding. The mayor explained that currently, Helper is running at about \$20,000 in revenues from plot sales, meaning that the city is in a great position to cover that cost. She also informed the council that inevitably, there is on-site negotiation when presenting to the CIB board. On the fly, as long as it is going down, it is adopted. It is believed these numbers are the worst-case scenario.

Council member Tyson Damron wanted to ensure that the funds are in next year's budget, or if Helper would have to add into that. The budget for next year is \$35,000. The project likely would not start until January, as funds are given in October. As the grant is a bond, there is typically about 18 months before a first payment, meaning that the first payment wouldn't be until fiscal year 2028.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the proposed CIB application for Mountain View Cemetery. Council Member Palacios seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

Council Member	Yes	No	Absent
Olson			X
Lee	X		
Damron	X		
Palacios	X		
Chavez	X		
Motion passed			

73 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CIB APPLICATION**
74 **FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.**

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76 This is a much bigger number than for the cemetery at 1,656,000. Again, proposing
77 a half loan, half grant deal. With road improvements, they must be paid off in 10
78 years. If successful, payments would be \$85,284 per year with a total loan amount
79 of \$852,840. The plan is to use Road B&C Funds to accomplish this. This would
80 cover the first four years of proposed road maintenance from the Master
81 Transportation Plan. First, chip & seal, then micro-surfacing, and then mill and fill
82 on probably roughly 11 out of 17 miles of road. According to Mayor Peterman, the
83 joint highway funding that awarded 1.6 million will not kick-off until 2029. That
84 will re-do Hill Street, Vernal, and Bryner with a micro-surface and complete
85 replacement. Those roads aren't incorporated in this ask.

86
87 CIB members have been informed that other resources are being looked at. The
88 mayor met with JR Bird and David Hinkins to try and get appropriation from the
89 legislature that would fix Martin Road.

90
91 Council Member Palacios moved to approve the proposed CIB application for road
92 maintenance. Council Member Damron seconded the motion. Motion carried, the
93 council roll call vote is as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Olson</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>X</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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97 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2027 FISCAL YEAR END**
98 **TENTATIVE BUDGET.**

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100 Mayor Peterman said this is what the council spent the previous work meeting
101 discussing. Mr. Stapley said if it is approved today, he will enter it into Caselle, as it
102 is easier for the public to read that way. He said a public hearing would then be
103 scheduled on the June 4th meeting to adopt the final budget.

104
105 Council Member Palacios moved to table this item. Council Member Chavez
106 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>Olson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>X</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>			

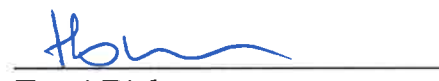
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Palacios moved to adjourn.
Council member Damron 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>Olson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</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 14, 2026.


Lenise Peterman
Mayor


Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on June 4, 2026