

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

2 **Thursday, May 14th, 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 - Absent

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 – Absent

22 Police Chief: Sean Draper

23 Police Officer: Absent

24 Public Works Co-Directors:

25 DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen - Absent

26 City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes - Absent

27 Museum Director: Roman Vega – Absent

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31 **CITIZENS:**

32 None

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34
35 **DISCUSSION ON TENTATIVE 2027 FYE BUDGET.**

36 Community Administrator Cole Stapley led this discussion. This is a continuation of
37 the discussion the council has been having on the upcoming year's budget. Mr.
38 Stapley talked about possible transfers in funds, streamlining the meter-reading
39 process to save man hours in Public Works, and a 3% raise across the board versus
40 a 5% raise across the board. The raise discussion included a lessening of hours for
41 departments and the possibility of a reduced number in staff for Public Works.

42 Council Member Damron moved to move into a closed session for property. 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>Olson</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

Lee	X		
Damron	X		
Palacios	X		
Chavez	X		
Motion passed			

CLOSED MEETING – A CLOSED SESSION WAS HELD REGARDING THE COMPETENCE OF AN EMPLOYEE.

Council Member Chavez moved to move out of a closed session for property. 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			

A Closed Meeting Sworn Statement was signed and notarized for the record.

The council discussed the merit of giving the employees 5% across the board as a raise. Police Chief Sean Draper requested a higher raise for his secretary, Jaylee, and in return he would be willing to take a dip in the raise percentage for his department as a whole. It was acknowledged that the fire department also has their department's raise built in. Transferring funds from the water and lowering the electric to help offset the raises was favorable by the council. Fundraising was also discussed as a possibility. Council member Tyson Damron then brought up the "Get Out Utah" passes, which is free admission to Lagoon, a game, etc. He raised the idea of a "Get Out Helper" pass, charging around \$50 and allowing free museum admission, a possible free game from the bowling alley, and the like.

He said if everything is donated, money could also be raised that way. Business Licensing fees and Municipal Energy Tax needs to be looked at as well. The council discussed balancing the budget and exactly where to move numbers. Chief Draper was willing to work with Mr. Stapley to move some funding from the police department.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDING 2026 FYE BUDGET.

Mr. Stapley explained that he wanted to talk through his plan with the amendment. Starting on the back page, saying that utility bills are paid from the garbage fund, and said the contract with City Sanitation is listed. A rate change hadn't been adopted previously and will be added to the garbage. For the electric fund and where it is sitting now, most of those accounts are where they need to be. Mr. Stapley said his goal was to be able to go through the amendments line by line at the next work meeting. He covered amendments in regard to adjusting for amounts that are trending higher or lower. The mayor said that it doesn't sound as if it was very off, which she appreciates, since she knows that there are a lot of moving pieces.

Council member Ed Chavez brought up the uniform allowance that is in the streets department's budget. Right now, their uniform allowance is on the first paycheck in July. The co-directors are looking into options, such as getting a pair of boots, two shirts and a long-sleeved-shirt, or three t-shirts, etc.

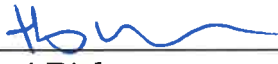
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Chavez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Palacios. 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></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>			

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