

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

2 **Thursday, June 18th, 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: None

24 Public Works Co-Directors:

25 DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen – Hansen Absent

26 City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes - Absent

27 Museum Director: Roman Vega

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31 **CITIZENS:**

32 Albert Spensko, Sharon Denise Hawes, Starr Dowding, Than Woodward, Abby
33 Bedont, Jared Haddock, Harim Driggs

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37 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

38 Albert Spensko made a public comment in regard to a zoning issue behind his
39 property.

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41 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 4TH, 2026 MEETING AND**
42 **THE JUNE 8TH, 2026 WORK MEETING.**

Mayor Lenise Peterman asked if there were any changes or amendments.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve both sets of the minutes with the
aforementioned correction. Council Member Palacios 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>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FREEZER FOR THE HELPER
CITY POOL. -PUBLIC WORKS.**

Public Works Co-Director DJ Romero said the freezers up there are over 20 years
old. They're worn out and Mr. Romero would like to get approval for the purchase of a
commercial grade freezer to replace those old ones. The mayor said that there were
estimates included in the packet, while Council member Ed Chavez asked which one
Mr. Romero recommended. His response was they are all in the same specs of each
other. Council member Tyson Damron asked if Mr. Romero was seeking for the
council to choose a freezer, and Mr. Romero said he was seeking the approval of
\$2,500 to purchase one.

Council Member Palacios moved to approve \$2,500 for this purchase. 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>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ADDING A REHEARSAL FEE TO
THE RIO RESERVATION FEE SCHEDULE.**

Than Woodward discussed this with the council. Mayor Peterman said this was the
proposal Kenny Driggs had presented previously. Utility numbers from the Rio
were sought and the report was provided. The amount was around \$16 or \$17. Mr.

Woodward questioned how the price could go from \$16 or \$17 up to a \$60 fee. Council member Damron answered that it is more the cost of calling someone out than their wages. Mr. Woodward agreed that the proposal could be a great testing ground. A 3-days-a-week rehearsal schedule would be included within the proposal timeline. Council member Palacios asked if Mr. Woodward had a number in his head for a different fee. Changing to an hourly rate, but sticking to the \$60, was discussed. Mr. Woodward said another way to consider this would be looking at a flat fee.

Mr. Woodward is willing to take copious notes and then re-approach this in September to see how it would work for the city going forward.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the proposal for the fee schedule, but to re-visit it in September. Council Member Palacios 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>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR END 2025-2026.

Council Member Palacios moved to open the public hearing on amending the budget for Fiscal Year End 2025-2026. 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>X</u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

The hearing opened at 6:12 p.m. Community Administrator Cole Stapley said that there was a lot that went into amending this year. The budget is going up due to grants that were received. Some grants were budgeted for, though more had been received. The revenues raised, and the money was spent, which raised the expenses as well. Mr. Stapley went over the dollar amounts that were built in and allocated. The public were invited to comment, though none spoke.

Council Member Palacios moved to close the public hearing on amending the budget for Fiscal Year End 2025-2026. 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>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

The public hearing was closed at 6:14 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-09,
AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR END 2025-2026.**

Council member Palacios acknowledged that it seemed no further conversation was needed, to which Council members Chavez and Ruth Lee agreed.

Council Member Lee moved to approve Resolution 2026-09. 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>X</u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Motion passed</u>			

**PUBLIC HEARING ON TRANSFERRING \$365,000 FROM THE ELECTRIC
ENTERPRISE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR END 2025-
2026.**

Council Member Chavez moved to open the public hearing on transferring from the Electric Enterprise Fund to the General Fund for FYE 2025-2026. Council Member Palacios 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>

Lee	X		
Damron	X		
Palacios	X		
Chavez	X		
Motion passed			

The hearing opened at 6:16 p.m. The mayor explained that these funds are utilized to cover shortfalls across the city for the year. It is hard at times to know what all would be needed until the end of the year. These funds are disbursed throughout the city to cover what is needed. This has been done before. The public were invited to comment, and Museum Director Roman Vega had a comment on the inspection of the museum elevator. Mr. Stapley informed Mr. Vega that this hearing is the transfer, and Mr. Vega is talking about a budget item and the budget was already approved for the next fiscal year.

Council Member Damron moved to close the public hearing on transferring from the Electric Enterprise Fund to the General Fund for FYE 2025-2026. 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			

The public hearing was closed at 6:18 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TRANSFERRING \$365,000 FROM THE ELECTRIC ENTERPRISE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR END 2025-2026.

The mayor said this money is not pulled unless it is needed. This gives the city the ability to function and pay what is needed.

Council Member Chavez moved approve the transfer from the Electric Enterprise Fund to the General Fund for FYE 2025-2026. Council member Lee 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			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE 2026 APPROXIMATE CERTIFIED TAX RATE.

The county certified their rate just before this, making the city in line. \$162,869,340 was what came from the County Assessor. This is divided by the rate revenue, according to Mr. Stapley. Buildings or improvements are added and calculated. In doing the math, that gives Helper City the rate of .001834. That would be put into the system, then Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor, goes through to get it all for the county to present to the state, who approves it all.

Council Member Lee moved to approve the Certified Tax Rate. 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			

REPORTS ONLY FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Council Member Chavez moved to move into a closed session. 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			

CLOSED MEETING – A CLOSED SESSION WAS HELD REGARDING LEGAL MATTERS.

Council Member Palacios moved to move out of a closed session for property. Council Member 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>
<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>			

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Chavez moved to adjourn. Council member Palacios seconded. 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 June 18, 2026.


Lenise Peterman
Mayor


Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on July 2nd, 2026