

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

2 **Thursday, July 2nd, 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 - Absent

17 Edward Chavez

18 **City Staff:**

19 Community Administrator: Cole Stapley - Absent

20 City Recorder: Traci Bishop

21 Deputy Recorder: Shaley Vasquez

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

27 Museum Director: Roman Vega

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31 **CITIZENS:**

32 Temple Jackson, Gary Burnham, Charlene Burnham, Nancy Elkins, Olivia
33 Dudding-Rodriguez, Stephanie Olsen

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37 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

38 None.

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40 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING**
41 **AND THE JUNE 26, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING.**

42 Mayor Lenise Peterman asked for changes, updates, or corrections. There were
 none.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve both sets of the minutes with Council Member Olson recusing as he was absent for both meetings. 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> </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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF APPOINTING A LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER.

Olivia Dudding-Rodriguez spoke, stating they had the opportunity to interview Kristi Talbot a few weeks ago and found that she had a lot of exciting, great ideas. Currently, there are three board spots they are trying to fill. They're taking their time and trying to find the right people to meet their ambition. They liked Kristi and wanted to present her to council for approval. Council member Ruth Lee said as a board, they were able to interview the applicants all together for the first time. This recommendation comes from the whole board.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the new member. 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> 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF APPOINTING A PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEMBER.

Council member Bob Olson had the opportunity to interview candidates, as well as City Recorder Traci Bishop. The interviewee that was chosen was John Diehl, though he wasn't able to be in attendance that evening. Mrs. Bishop noted that he had already attended a P&Z meeting and had already come to the interview having

looked at the city's code. He was interviewed along with one other. Council member Lee clarified that there is only one seat on the Planning & Zoning Board right now.

Council Member Olson moved to approve the new member. 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Palacios</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CLOSING MAIN STREET FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS PARKING LOT TO THE POST OFFICE ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 FOR HEART FOR HELPER EVENT.

Mayor Peterman said that this is the Wildcat event held last July. They wished to move it into a cooler time, proposing the time in September. It would be from the morning into the mid-afternoon, with a barbecue, music in the park, etc. They had submitted a Special Event Permit.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve closing Main Street for the event. 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>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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF LOCAL AREA CONSENT FOR HEART FOR HELPER EVENT SATURDAY, SEPT. 26.

Mayor Peterman said they sold beer out of the gazebo and would like to again.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve local area consent for Heart for Helper.
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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CLOSING HELPER MAIN STREET AND RESCINDING NOISE ORDINANCE ON JULY 31 FOR THE LEGENDS AFTER DARK 3-ON-3 FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT FOR CARBON HIGH SCHOOL.

Taylor Brower, Head Boys Basketball Coach at Carbon High, said he has been part of the community for a while. He approached Price City about six months ago, as he did this tournament in Price last year. However, there has been some conflicts. He said that Mayor Peterman has always been very open with school involvement and very helpful to Brower, so he reached out to her. It is a 3-on-3 tournament held on Main Street. Last year, about 30 teams showed up and this is a fundraiser for the team to minimize costs for the players. Mr. Brower said it was a great turnout and great environment last year, and he thinks that Helper will be even better. Council member Tyson Damron questioned what the conflicts this year with Price City were.

Mr. Brower explained that last year, the Price City mayor did the heavy lifting and got the ball rolling. It was held during International Days and the closure worked, but Mr. Brower has a statewide moratorium where he can't contact his players in early August. Due to that, he can't hold the 3-on-3 tournament during International Days and the city is hesitant to continually close Main Street for the varying events. Council member Damron clarified that it's more an issue of timing than permitting. Prompted by Council member Chavez, Mr. Brower explained that the street will be closed from 4:30 p.m. to about midnight. The courts will be painted the night before with a water-based paint that will naturally fade, and the paint will be white, so it should not be confusing for traffic.

Mayor Peterman clarified that the closure will not block the fire department. Food trucks will be provided to feed patrons as well. Girls and boys' teams will be provided if enough sign up.

Council Member Damron moved to approve the Main Street closure and rescinding the noise ordinance for the tournament. 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 RESOLUTION 2026-11, A RESOLUTION UPDATING GARBAGE RATES.

The resolution was included in the packet. Mrs. Bishop said that when City Sanitation's rates go up, so do Helper's. The length of the contract, the percentage that was raised, possibly re-approaching the contract with a set rate, and more were briefly discussed.

Council Member Lee moved to approve the Resolution 2026-11. Council member Olson 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 PURCHASING WI-FI HOTSPOTS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL VEHICLES.

Chief Sean Draper said during the budget conversation, there was an implementation of this. The chief got break downs of estimates, from AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile. They're similar, though Verizon offers discounts to set up a cell phone through them for the hotspots. Right now, the department goes through AT&T and the chief would like to stay with them. He continued with T-Mobile's and AT&T's fees. He highly suggested the AT&T deal, saying in January the discount currently with AT&T will be removed.

As of now, the department is paying about \$270 a month for the phones, which will go up to \$300 a month in January. However, a 3-year contract with the hotspots and cell phones, the bill would drop for phones by \$83, making the total \$226 and hotspots would be \$210 a month.

Basically, instead of going with the cheaper option of T-Mobile, it would total \$440 rather than around \$500. The council discussed the prices with the chief, who also clarified that T-Mobile doesn't offer first responder network, but the others do, and their internet would get priority. Overall, his suggestion remained with AT&T. Council member Damron asked for the initial reasoning for hotspots, which are essentially that the chief is trying to avoid personal phones getting subpoenaed for court purposes and this will ensure their work phones have better coverage and data. Council member Damron said sticking with AT&T meant the monthly payment will go down with the hot spots.

Council Member Damron moved to approve the hotspots through AT&T. 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></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></u>	<u></u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PURSUING THE COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE USDOJ.

Chief Draper said this was discussed during budget season, and there was some support from council. The hiring program is set up to basically assist an agency to hire an officer. The chief's goal is to get a detective position. He said he hoped for the city attorney's support in how many search warrants and subpoenas are being written, which is bogging down the active duty of the officers during their shifts. The Department of Justice would give \$150,000 over the course of 3 years to assist in hiring an officer, if approved. After the three years, it's up to the city to figure out how to support that long-term, and there is a commitment for a fourth year. The agency is not able to let the officer go after the third year. This is a one-time grant that helps to jump start a municipality into hiring an additional officer.

Council member Damron said when this was brought up during the budget meetings, there were savings that had been discussed in which having a sixth officer would bring in. The chief said that would be involved in vacation time, off-

setting after paying a portion of the salary. The chief and the sixth officer would ensure that the officers are taking their holidays off, which realistically saves the city money. It also assists with mental health at the department, giving the officers time to spend with family. An exact anticipated number that the city would have to pay was not available at the time, though there is a 25% match with the grant. The goal would be to expand it over the three years, giving the city extra time to figure out the budget.

The chief reminded the council this agenda item is not seeking approval for the officer, it is seeking approval to pursue the grant and hopefully proceed with hiring a detective.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the chief pursuing the grant for the COPS Hiring Program. 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>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Palacios</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

REPORTS ONLY FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Council Member Damron moved to move into a closed session. 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>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></u>	<u></u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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

Council Member Chavez moved to move out of a closed session for legal. 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Palacios</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</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 Lee 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>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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</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 July 2, 2026.


Lenise Peterman
Mayor


Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on August 6th, 2026