

Meadow Town Council Meeting
August 7, 2026
Meadow Church
8:00 p.m.

*****THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED *****

Attendance: Mayor Gary Bishop, Councilmember Sunny Guild, Councilmember Robert Beckstrand, Councilmember Justin Jensen, Councilmember Jim Beckstrand, Clerk Monica Dearden, Treasurer Haley Abplanalp, see sign in sheets for others in attendance.

Opening Ceremonies: Mayor Bishop welcomed those in attendance. No Pledge of Allegiance was said as a flag was not available at the location. Kaden Abplanalp offered a prayer.

**** The following agenda topics were addressed, but not in the order listed on the agenda; Weather forecast, Fire update and Flood Preparation work.**

Mayor Bishop first wanted to acknowledge the stress that all are feeling. This fire has been both amazing and extreme with 10-12 mile runs in short amounts of time. It's hard to breathe when you see the concerns and threats that the fire and possible flooding bring. There have been SO many reach out in support, expert advice, and offers of help. Mayor Bishop publicly thanked Delta City for their community sandbag filling and delivering. There have been donated loads of sand delivered from Hales Sand and Gravel in Redmond and Carlings and he anticipates there will be more offers of assistance. He thanked Treasurer Haley Abplanalp for taking on the role of 'sandbag czar' and getting the ball rolling on that undertaking. He also took a moment to recognize the tragedy of the helicopter crash that happened today in an effort to fight the raging wildfire. He reported that today the fire is 106,450 acres and sits at 18% containment. The primary focus is on the southern end of the fire and keeping it from I70, on the northern end the focus is on Mt. Catherine. Meadow town proper is still in set evacuation status, but that could change to go status due to fire or flooding at any time.

The meteorologist that was planning to attend the meeting could not make it. Mayor Bishop referred to a seven day color coded weather chart and noted that for the fire green conditions are good, red is bad and for the flooding it is opposite with red being good and green bad. He noted that we are seeing both green and red, which means we need to prepare.

He reported that much work has been accomplished already and will continue to be ongoing. All five of Meadow's springs were burned over. Andrew was able to visit the springs on Tuesday and overall they looked good, the seals were intact and the spring infrastructure fared fairly well as the fire moved through each area. Lone Cedar is one of the lower producing springs, and appears to have the most potential for damage. Andrew was able to turn the springs out from the town's water supply before the fire reached any of them and we will rely on the well only until all the testing comes back

from the springs. The well fared well and the fire did not reach it. He thanked Dan Anderson and Leo Stott for their efforts in creating disced lines around the well for potential protection. It was also noted that work is happening all around to help build up and protect the town, people and infrastructure. The diversion dam at June Hill was created in 1965, it is being cleaned out and made larger. Equipment has also been ordered to pull debris out that could potentially pile up there. It is asked that the community members give these guys space to work, as there is heavy equipment operating and lots of traffic. There is also work being done at Dead Man's pond.

Mayor Bishop has declared a state of emergency for Meadow Town. This is in effect for 30 days. Mayor Bishop read the prepared EMERGENCY DECLARATION RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05 (see attachment). Justin motioned to approve the resolution. Sunny seconded. All were in favor.

A roll call vote was held:

Jim Beckstrand- Aye

Robert Beckstrand- Aye

Sunny Guild- Aye

Justin Jensen- Aye

Cindy Leadbetter from the BLM discussed flood mitigation. She noted some work had been done after the 2019 fire at Meadow Creek, some of which needed to be cleaned out or possibly rebuilt and will be assessed by an engineer and engineer tech. They have begun emergency containment structures and erosion control, this is all happening while the fire is burning. They are looking for needs and this will be an ongoing process.

Mayor Bishop, the BLM, and Forest Service will continue to coordinate and he is optimistic to work together. There has also been contact with; Ensign Ranch and Jeff Loveless, NRCS, Sunrise Engineering, Jones and DeMille Engineering, Director of the Division of Drinking Water, Director of Geological Services, Director of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, and countless community members. Countless hours have been spent and work is happening all around. Mayor Bishop noted some maps that were on display for community members to look at.

The floor was opened up for questions and or comments:

Quint Robison asked about a plan for debris that may possibly plug up the grates in the irrigation ditches through town causing overflow and flooding issues. Tyler Stewart is the president of Meadow Irrigation Company and can answer irrigation company questions. It was asked if you see debris to be proactive and get it out. Mayor Bishop also asked Quint if he would be willing to spearhead some able bodied community members to help if needed. Quint was willing.

Kayli Guild shared some websites and social media pages that can keep citizens updated on fire activity and containment. Monica will add those to the Meadow Facebook page.

Jim Beckstrand noted that Meadow is blessed to have the leadership of Mayor Bishop with his years of fire experience and his networking contacts.

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robert seconded. All were in favor.