

1 **MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
2 **Thursday, August 20, 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 - Absent

14 Robert Olson - Absent

15 Ruth Lee

16 David Palacios

17 Edward Chavez

12 **City Staff:**

Community Administrator: Cole Stapley

City Recorder: Traci Bishop

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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23 Planning & Zoning Board Members Present: John Diehl
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26 **CITIZENS:**

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28 No public showed.
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31 **DISCUSSION ON CODE UPDATE WITH HANSEN.**
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33 Mike Hansen explained that they are working on the code, making it better and more
34 consistent. So far, an analysis on the basics of the titles in the code has been conducted. It
35 has been gone through top to bottom once and the lowest hanging fruit has been grabbed.
36 Mr. Hansen had previously met with the Planning & Zoning board, who discussed
37 Conditional Uses at length, and well as nuisances and Code Enforcement. The intent is to
38 ensure the goal lines up with the General Plan and the Strategic Plan. The Planning &
39 Zoning board also gave Mr. Hansen a list of topics to work on and he wished to cross-check
40 it with the council and see if they had other ones to focus on as high priority. Mr. Hansen
41 also wanted to present a road map to the public to show what the code said, what changes
42 were made, and what it now says.
43

44 Mr. Hansen said part of the motion would be repealing, it its entirety, the code book. He
45 said that when they re-write the code, they will re-write it in plain language and make it
46 easier to interpret. Mr. Hansen also said a public notice would need to go out that would
47 resemble a public hearing notice to inform the public on the work being done. From there,
48 the council worked through discussion on the code with Mr. Hansen. Part of that discussion
49 included code enforcement and how nuanced it could be, including when to involve officers

or not, which Chief Sean Draper made comments on as well. The council considered partnering with someone such as the county for an Enforcement Officer, though Mr. Hansen cautioned the city to be careful with outsourcing. Chief Draper said that he still believes that Jaylee, his secretary, would be a great option if they could give her more pay.

It was stated that the money that had been left over from the previous Deputy Recorder's budget that was just allocated could have benefited the Code Enforcement work, though it was not remembered before it was disbursed. Housing, property types, etc. were also discussed in regard to allowances and enforcements. What is abandoned versus what is art became a hot topic due to the fact that Helper is an art town. Mr. Hansen said that during the next meeting he would come with "homework" for the council to look over and determine what can and should be done with the code. Noise enforcements, animals, site triangles, short-term rentals, and a master fee schedule were among the listed items that Mr. Hansen is going to work on for the next work meeting.

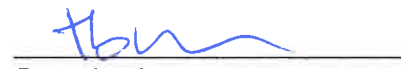
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Chavez moved to adjourn. 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>			

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council work meeting held on August 20, 2026.


Lenise Peterman
Mayor


Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on September 3, 2026