

1 **MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
2 **Thursday, September 3rd, 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
17 Edward Chavez

18 **City Staff:**

Community Administrator: Cole Stapley
City Recorder: Traci Bishop
Police Chief: Sean Draper
Police Officer: Garrett Newman
Public Works Co-Directors:
DJ Romero & Brittany Hansen – Hansen Absent
City Attorney: Dominique Kiahtipes
Museum Director: Roman Vega

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24 **CITIZENS:**

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26 Jeanette Bergren, Amanda McIntosh, Aidan Mortensen, John Diehl, Temple
27 Jackson, Roman Vega, Robert DeVincent, Malarie DeVincent, Gary DeVincent,
28 Jerry Pendleton, Pat Symchych, Kathryn Knight, Kris Kiahtipes, Starr Dowding,
29 Joan Burgess, Anne Kaferle, John Kaferle, Gary Burnham, Charlene Burnham,
30 Wendy Wood, Beth O'Leary, Trish Tidwell, Jake Gray, Chris Bardsley, Daniel R.
31 Campbell, Jeanann Zmerzlikar, Terrie Saccomano, Steven Adams, Diane Lodeserto,
32 Shawn Barston, Luke Matsuda, Karla Jones, Stephanie Olsen, Kathy Fausett

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34 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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36 Jeanette Bergren made a public comment regarding a derelict property near hers.
37 Malarie DeVincent represented those that signed the petition representing a public
38 hearing regarding the North Frontage Road zone change. Katy Knight read a
39 comment on behalf of David Lebaron regarding the zone change. Joan Burgess,
40 Terri Saccomano, and Daniel R. Campbell all also made a public comment
41 regarding the zone change. Wendy Wood made a public comment in regard to
42 convex mirrors, the Helper pool, and accessing the staff at City Hall.
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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 6, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING, THE AUGUST 20, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING, AND THE AUGUST 20, 2026 WORK MEETING.

Council member David Palacios had one minor correction to make on line 82 of the August 6th minutes.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the meetings with the proper 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> </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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 2026-02, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF HELPER, UTAH, BY REZONING PROPERTY AT 1377 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD A CERTAIN 3.25-ACRE PORTION OF HELPER CITY KNOWN BY PARCEL NUMBER 1A-1601-0000 FROM RR-1-30,000 TO I-1 INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

Mayor Lenise Peterman made the decision to move this item out of order on the agenda and bring it to the forefront. Council member Bob Olson first questioned why this was on the agenda again, as he believed the zone change had already been passed. The mayor explained that due to litigation associated with the zone change, there was a need to wait for that to settle before being able to approve the Ordinance to change the zoning on the county map. Council member Olson questioned if that was not an administrative action rather than a legislative one, to which the answer was that an Ordinance must be passed to amend the map. City Attorney Dominique Kiahtipes said this Ordinance enacts the approval already made.

Council member Olson then addressed some of the concerns, such as that the land is in an impression and that most municipalities he's worked in over the years have Industrial areas on the edges of their towns. Council member David Palacios said the zoning change was already approved. The owner has the property up for sale and he does not believe there will ever be a dump down there, as there are too many hoops to jump through. The owner himself had said he ran into roadblocks. Council member Palacios said to him, passing the Ordinance is cleaning things up. Then, he

said he has no problem going back and seeing about re-addressing the entire situation, and he said he hoped everyone understood that. Council member Palacios clarified that this Ordinance is simply a map change and nothing else.

He continued by saying he would be happy to start at the beginning and see if there is something the council could or should do to give everyone peace of mind. Council member Palacios said he loves this town and his heart is here. He said he believes the council would agree they would not allow something harmful to come to Helper City. Due to continued outcry from the crowd, Chief Sean Draper stood to control the meeting and informed the council that speaking out of turn is not allowed and it is time to move on with the meeting. Council member Palacios once again assured the crowd he would work on the issue, and asked for them to give him a chance. Council member Olson made a clarification on a concern, saying the area is not a great area for a residential subdivision. He does not believe it will ever be residential again.

He also talked about how another business will increase the tax base. Council member Tyson Damron said the meeting where the zone change was approved was his first meeting, as well as Council member Ruth Lee's. He said he did not think it would be a terrible idea to get a handle on how the whole process works and then possibly starting over. City Attorney Kiahtipes cautioned it would be quite a process and that Helper does have other people that rely on the decision that was made that were not present at the meeting. Council member Lee said that though the dump was proposed, it was only one option, and the community took that and ran with it. The property owner did have other ideas for the area as well. She feels that it is being looked at in such a negative light, but a great business could also be put in place with Industrial zoning and possibly, Truth in Taxation or another process would not have to be undergone with a higher tax base.

Once again, it was clarified that the vote on the Ordinance is a formality to put the zone change on the county map. Council member Ed Chavez clarified that even though the zoning was changed, the council still ultimately decides whether or not a business goes in place in that area. Council member Palacios said he would be happy to take a call from anyone in attendance and answer questions. Council member Olson chose to abstain from the vote.

Council Member Palacios moved to approve Ordinance 2026-02. 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>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>Chavez</u>		<u>X</u>	

Motion passed

PROCLAMATION TO MAKE SEPTEMBER SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH. – AMANDA MCINTOSH.

Amanda McIntosh, Suicide Prevention Liaison with Four Corners Community Behavioral Health, among many other titles, explained that she was there with a request to proclaim September Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month in Helper, as she has for many years in the past. Mayor Peterman then read the proclamation, which had statistics and information on suicide prevention and awareness. Mrs. McIntosh said that this is about her 13th approach to government to proclaim September Suicide Prevention and Awareness month and she appreciates the opportunity to get face to face with community leaders. It also opens the door to talk about potential training opportunities. There are multiple evidence-based trainings for suicide prevention.

Mrs. McIntosh said there is still a lot of stigma and taboo surrounding self-help seeking behaviors. She said the proclamation allows the opportunity to talk about mental health the way that physical health is talked about. Mrs. McIntosh also invited the council to the many suicide preventions events that are hosted throughout the month of September locally.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF TERMINATING THE HELPER SATURDAY VIBES CONTRACT.

Kim Kuehn was unavailable for this item.

Council Member Chavez moved to table this discussion until the next meeting. 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> </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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CLOSING MAIN STREET FOR THE HELPER TRUNK-OR-TREAT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026.

Jake Grey said it is the same closure that has been done for the last two years. It will be the weekend before Halloween and in conjunction with Price. Closure will be from 9 a.m. until noon and the event is from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The only access during the closure would be for emergency services and Mr. Grey said there has been no issues with that in the past. He briefly spoke on a bit of fundraising underway to help Public Works, the Police and the Fire Departments of Helper with candy for the event.

Council Member Damron moved to approve the road closure for the trunk-or-treat. 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>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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CLOSING MAIN STREET FOR HELPER HOGWARTS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026.

The mayor explained the closure would be from Depot Street to the park. It is an extremely well-attended event with many events.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve road closure for Helper Hogwarts. Seconded by Council member Olson. 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT & WAIVING THE FEES FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR HELPER MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY EVENT.

Community Administrator Cole Stapley spoke on this, with two options available. The initial ask is to close the eastbound lane of Sunset out of Sally Mauro and then first avenue over to Spring Canyon Street for about two hours. The race would start on first avenue; they would run up the pathway up Spring Canyon Rd and go up it to Castle Gate Way. They plan to have the SRO station there at the crossing and Public Works would have someone there to help the kids as they cross. There is a bit of private property that would be used and the landowner has been spoken to. They would travel through, come down Spring Canyon Road and cross the road. Public Works would help with traffic at that point and they would loop back around to Sally Mauro.

There were concerns with them crossing the road. Part of the road is county, and Mr. Stapley said he spoke with the county and they were willing to help support. Mr. Stapley said that last year, they had raced around the park by the pool. They could do that again, but Cemetery Road would need to be closed completely during the run to utilize it for the mileage that is needed. Council member Palacios stated that he liked the Castle Gate subdivision plan before Chief Draper said that he does not support that plan due to that road being sped on most often in Helper, too many curves, and people on the walkways. He does not see the positive of risking a runner being hurt. He said they do not have enough staff for a huge law enforcement presence and in his experience, people just ignore signs.

Not only would they cross the road twice, but they would run down Spring Canyon Road up to a quarter mile. This race would be on a Monday. Chief Draper said he is not particularly in favor of either plan, but he acknowledged that it is not his decision. At this point, the school would prefer the Spring Canyon Road choice. Mr. Stapley said that he has learned from this experience and will bring more people into the discussion going forward. Discussion continued on locations, with Mr. Stapley explaining that certain places wouldn't be feasible as parking is needed for buses and there needs to be bathrooms at the start and end of the race, as well as space for spectators. The chief also asked the council to keep in mind that the race would be during the time that people would be getting off of work and driving home.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the permit in regard to running at 2nd East the Helper Pool/Park. 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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222 **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF A \$500 DONATION FOR THE**
223 **VETERAN'S DAY EVENT HONORING VETERANS.**
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225 Diane Lodeserto and Shawn Bartson with the Aviation Program of USU Eastern
226 spoke on this. They explained that they are part of a committee that wants to do a
227 first annual Veteran's Day Hangar Hop. They wanted to follow up the whole
228 Veteran's week with a 40's style Hangar Hop, but they do not have a lot of funding
229 and they want the event to be free to the community. With that in mind, they are
230 asking for any sort of donation to help fund the event. It was also stated that if
231 anyone on the council would like to volunteer their time, that would be accepted as
232 well.
233

234 Council Member Damron moved to approve the \$500 donation out of the
235 contingency fund. Council Member Palacios seconded the motion. Motion carried,
236 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

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239 **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPLYING FOR THE ORI GRANT.**
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241 The mayor said this is an Outdoor Recreation grant and is due mid-September. This
242 would be in support of the All Wheels Park, which is coming in at about 1.3 million.
243 This grant does not require a match, but to be competitive, they suggest throwing some
244 cash at it. The mayor thought some money could be taken from RAP Tax, submit, and
245 hope for the best.
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247 Council Member Palacios moved to approve applying for the ORI grant. Council
248 Member Chavez seconded the motion. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as
249 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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion passed

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASING STREET LIGHTS. – PUBLIC WORKS.

Public Works Co-Director DJ Romero said that he is seeking approval to purchase 14 street lights. 14 gets free shipping. Ordering a smaller amount would put the delivery out a couple of months and he would rather get a larger amount and have them on the shelves.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the purchase of street lights. 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> </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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF REALLOCATING \$3,000 IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO CERTIFY & OUTFIT AN OFFICER WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR CARBON COUNTY METRO SWAT. – CHIEF DRAPER.

Chief Draper said that it has been his goal to get rid of the stepping stone aspect of the police department. A part of that is to make sure department members receive training and go through law enforcement perspectives they want to do. He was approached and asked if Helper City wanted to be part of the SWAT team and he thinks it is a good idea due to when there are calls regarding SWAT in Helper they can have more of a say. They do have the Flock camera budget they won't be using this year. \$3,000 are allocated for that and he wants to re-allocate it to certify Officer Drake Valdiviezo for SWAT. The school itself is about \$1,000 and the chief is not sure how much gear is, so he wanted to use that buffer to see. There are no additional costs or re-certification. There would also be no additional costs to send him to training just for SWAT.

Council Member Damron moved to approve the re-allocation for SWAT certification and outfitting. 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> </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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF LOWERING SPEED LIMIT AT JANET STREET UNDERPASS.

The mayor explained a citizen wanted this put on the agenda, but upon hearing that there is an ongoing effort through the police department to try and minimize these concerns, the citizen agreed to put off the discussion for the time being.

Council Member Chavez moved to table this item. 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> </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>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

REPORTS ONLY FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS.

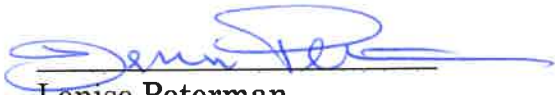
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Palacios moved to adjourn. Council member Chavez seconded. Motion carried, the council roll call vote is as follows:

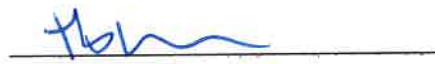
<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Olson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Lee</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Damron</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Palacios</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Chavez</u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>Motion passed</u>			

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council meeting held on September 3, 2026.

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Lenise Peterman
Mayor



Traci Bishop
City Recorder

Approved on October 1st, 2026