

**City Of Cove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2025**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Sherry Haeger called the regular session of the Cove Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. located at City of Cove City Hall, 504 Alder St., Cove, Oregon, 97824. Remote access to the meeting was active.

Council Members Present: Council President Matt McCowan, Councilors Alexis Cannon, Eric Stone, Jason Hagey, Shawn Parker, Boss Parker and Youth Councilor Emma Carson.

Council Members Present Remotely: There were no councilors present remotely.

City Staff Present: City Recorder Lana Shira, Public Works Director Dave Johnson, and Billing Clerk Kerri McCowan.

City Staff Present Remotely: There were no city staff present remotely.

Council Members not Present: All councilors were present.

City Staff not Present: All city staff were present.

Public Present: Dennis Nostrant and Maxine Parker.

Public Present Remotely: There was public present remotely. See City of Cove Meeting Info printout.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Haeger.

**Council Roll Call**

Roll call was performed by Lana Shira, City Recorder. A quorum was determined to be present.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

- Union County Evacuation Maps (See Correspondence)
- Request for Donation to Thunder at the Peak (See New Business)
- Request for Letter of Support from Windwave for Oregon BEAD Program (See New Business)
- Anderson Perry Agreement for High Valley Road Utilities Evaluation (See New Business)
- Unsafe Parking Concerns from Cove Post Office (Added at the meeting. See Correspondence)

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

- Council Minutes April 1, 2025
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

Motion: Councilor Cannon moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council President McCowan seconded. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

- Avista 2025 Annual Update  
Presented as information only. No action needed.
- Union County Evacuation Maps  
Presented as information only. No action needed. However, it was questioned if property taxes increased in association with the update of the evacuation zones. Lana agreed to find out.
- Unsafe Parking Concerns from Cove Post Office  
Lana reported she received an email from the Cove Postmaster about safer parking in front of the Post Office. She noted she spoke to Dave, and they collaborated on a response. She verbally reviewed the Post Master's email and the response that was provided, noting the Postmaster was informed from curb to curb it is a state highway and as such ODOT would have jurisdiction over any new signage or other safety measures. She suggested a kind verbal reminder, or a notice posted inside the Post Office could be measures taken by postal personnel to create awareness of these unsafe parking issues.

### **Old Business**

- Confirmation of Budget Committee Meeting  
Lana reported she contacted the citizen Budget Committee members regarding the preferred dates for the meeting. She noted May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date that works best for most of the citizen Budget Committee members as well as the city council members. May 22, 2025, was confirmed as the Budget Committee meeting date.
- Union County Commissioners Matching Funds for Clean Up Day  
Lana spoke to the Union County Commissioners, and they approved matching half of the funds up to \$2,000.
- Step Increases for Current Employees  
Lana reviewed the step increases and cost-of-living adjustments for city employees. She noted she needs to know if the council wants to approve the COLA and/or step increases, and she needs to know if she should build the increases into the budget every year. It was agreed to budget for both step and COLA increases; however, it will be decided on a case-by-case basis if the raises are granted. It was also made clear that just because the raises have been added to the budget and an employee asks for a raise it does not mean they will be given a raise.

### **New Business**

- Shut-Off Day Postponement Considerations  
It was discussed that there are days on water shut off day where it is below zero in the winter, or extremely hot and dry in the summer where administration has made the determination to not shut water off and give those customers a grace period to avoid frozen pipes and/or hazardous conditions. The question is whether this decision can be made by administration, or does the council need to approve it. Discussion ensued and it was determined to review the ordinance to see how/if it is addressed and discuss any suggested changes at the next meeting.

- Request for Donation to Thunder at the Peak  
The donation request for Thunder at the Peak was reviewed. It was noted the city donated \$250 last year, and \$250 is in this year's budget.

Motion: Councilor Shawn Parker moved to sponsor as a Bronze Sponsor the \$250 donation to Thunder at the Peak. Councilor Stone seconded. Motion carried.

- Request for Letter of Support from Windwave for Oregon BEAD Program  
Lana provided an overview of the request from Windwave for a letter of support for the Oregon BEAD Program. She presented a draft support letter for the council to review. Discussion ensued and it was felt it could be seen as showing favoritism for Windwave over the other companies that provide fiber optic in Cove. It was ultimately determined not to send the letter of support.

Motion: Council President McCowan moved to hold off sending the letter of support to Windwave for the Oregon BEAD Program. Councilor Shawn Parker seconded. Motion carried.

- Anderson Perry Agreement for High Valley Road Utilities Evaluation  
Dave provided an overview of the Anderson Perry Agreement for High Valley Road Utilities Evaluation.

Motion: Council President McCowan moved to approve the Anderson Perry Agreement for High Valley Road Utilities Evaluation. Councilor Stone seconded. Motion carried.

### **City Council Working Committee Report**

- TSP – Land Use  
Dave reported he is still working on the TSP – Land Use document. He hopes to have it delivered before the June meeting.

### **City Recorder Report**

Lana provided a verbal report:

- Cove Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Garbage and Metal bins are reserved. There are some volunteers scheduled, but we are a little short-handed. Councilors Jason Hagey, Boss Parker and Alexis Cannon reported they will be available to volunteer at the event.
- She attended Public Meeting Law training.
- The City Audit is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>. They will follow the same agreed procedures they did last year and will prepare the financial report that goes to the Secretary of State.
- She provided an update on the chicken nuisance complaint. She reported she contacted the Sheriff's office and they indicated they will not enforce any city ordinance, and we have a nuisance ordinance in place that addresses chickens. After further discussion, it was requested to ask Sheriff Bowen to attend a council meeting to explain the county's stance.

### **Public Works Director Report**

Dave provided a verbal report:

- He has been busy with the Geni/Suzie rebuild.
- Hydro is finally at max production as of last week.
- The lower water tank recoating is out to bid. Bids will open May 27<sup>th</sup>, and he will determine who is awarded the bid pending budget funding.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Haeger provided a verbal report:

- She attended Ethics training but still needs to attend the Public Meeting Law training.

### **Youth Councilor Report**

Emma provided a verbal report:

- The May Day program was held May 1, 2025, and it went well.
- There have been two incidents involving students in the last two weeks which prompted a student body assembly to emphasize school safety. First Responders and a Sheriff's Deputy also responded to the incidents.
- ASB elections are coming up this month.
- Seniors graduate on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Good of the Order**

No good of the order was presented at this meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Dennis Nostrant asked for clarification on where he could find information on the evacuation zone maps. He also reported he has spent almost 50 years as a contractor dealing with engineering firms and stated he felt Anderson Perry is a top-notch firm.

### **Suggestions for Future Workshops & Meeting Agendas**

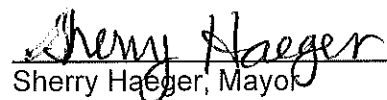
No suggestions for future workshops or meeting agendas.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Cove Clean Up Day scheduled for May 17, 2025
- Budget Meeting scheduled for May 22, 2025.
- Regular Council meeting scheduled for June 3, 2025.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

  
Sherry Haeger, Mayor

  
Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk

  
Lana Shira, City Recorder