

**City Of Cove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 2, 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: Councilors, Shawn Parker and Alexis Cannon.

Council Members Present Remotely: Council President, Matt McCowan.

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

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

Council Members not Present: Councilors, Eric Stone and Boss Parker.

City Staff not Present: All city staff were present.

Public Present: Cheryl Hargrove, Dennis Nostrant, and Jenny Beverage.

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**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

- August 5, 2025, Council Minutes
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

Motion: Councilor Cannon moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Councilor Shawn Parker seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence was presented at this meeting.

## Old Business

- **Island City Justice Court Follow-Up**  
Lana reported she sent an email to Karen Howton, City of Island City Recorder. She received a response that she's on medical leave but did get a call from someone from the office. This person noted they are working on coordinating their own Justice Court, but may contract with La Grande Justice Court for the time being. Lana reached out to the La Grande office, but the offices at La Grande will be closed until September 9<sup>th</sup>. She will follow up with them when they're back.
- **Nuisance Ordinance Follow-Up**  
The mayor noted she has concerns about our nuisance ordinance that stem from the conversation with Sheriff Bowen at the July meeting. She provided a recap of that conversation. She questioned why we have the nuisance ordinance since we don't have an ordinance officer or any other way to enforce it. Lana reminded council that the ordinance officer in Union has offered to coordinate with us. Additionally, she felt we could wait to make a decision about our ordinance until we find out whether we are able to coordinate with the city of La Grande for Justice Court. Councilor Shawn Parker noted that he thought we could state that we will follow the County ordinance. The mayor asserted she didn't think so but will get clarification from Sheriff Bowen.
- **High Valley Utilities Evaluation**  
Dave noted he emailed the draft High Valley Utilities Evaluation report to the council, which is also included in the meeting packet. Discussion ensued regarding the different options. Councilor Shawn Parker noted there is a discrepancy between the memorandum and the bids where it was noted in the memorandum that PVC would be used, but the bids indicate iron. Dave agreed to ask for clarification on that and then we can decide which bid to accept.
- **Student Councilor Scholarship Procedures Update**  
The revisions to the Student Councilor Scholarship procedure were reviewed. Further revisions were suggested regarding Recognition and Scholarship. Lana agreed to make the revisions to that section.
- **Part-time Public Works Worker Hours**  
Lana provided an overview of the part-time workers' current hours and wages, and what it would be with increased hours, explaining the breakdown of wages, taxes, retirement and health benefits for the fiscal year. The maximum number of hours he could work to fit in the current budget would be 28.

\*Discussion ended at 7:30 pm and moved to the Public Hearing.

\*Discussion resumed at 7:41 pm.

Council President McCowan asked for clarification on benefits and Lana noted anything over 20 hours makes an employee eligible for health and retirement benefits. However, health benefits are negotiable, noting we offer wages in lieu of benefits to the City Recorder and Public Works Director. Retirement benefits are not negotiable, set at 8 percent currently. Further discussion ensued and it was determined that this will be decided in Executive Session at the end of the next council meeting.

## **Public Hearing 7:30 p.m. Beverage Zoning Variance for Fence Height Along Caddie Street**

- **Open Hearing**  
The mayor opened the hearing at 7:30 pm. She requested conflict of interest, ex parte, etc. to be declared. Each councilor turned in a signed declaration form. There were no conflicts declared. The disclosure statement was provided.
- **Staff Report**  
Lana provided a verbal review of the staff report.
- **Applicant's Testimony**  
Jenny Beverage reported she is present on behalf of her parents, who will be living on the property, and provided reasoning for the requested variance.
- **Proponent's Testimony**  
There was no Proponents Testimony.
- **Opponent's Testimony**  
There was no Opponent's Testimony.
- **Applicant's Rebuttal**  
There was no Applicant's Rebuttal.
- **Close Hearing**  
The mayor closed the hearing at 7:38 pm.
- **Council Deliberation & Final Decision**

Motion: Councilor Cannon moved approval of the variance requested by Brett and Jenny Beverage to vary from Zoning Ordinance Section 8:12 (3) a fence height requirement of three and a half (3 ½) feet, allowing for a six (6) foot privacy fence built specific to Exhibit A of the application. Applicants have proven exceptional conditions apply to the property and that the fence height will not materially alter the stability of the land use pattern of the area and will not be injurious to other property in the vicinity. Councilor Shawn Parker seconded. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

- **Resignation of City of Cove Councilor Jason Hagey**  
\*Discussion began at 7:50 pm.

Mayor Haeger read the resignation letter of Councilor Jason Hagey. Lana noted that the position can be filled by nominating someone and if they accept the nomination, and the councilors agree, that person can be appointed to the council. It was determined that the councilors will ask around for anyone who might be interested in the position. Lana will also post the opening on our website and social media.

## **City Council Working Committee Report**

- **TSP – Land Use Development Code**  
The review of the draft TSP – Land Use Development Code was completed at the last two work sessions. Dave has some reworking to do on some sections and Lana will be following up for clarification on some sections as well. Dave will present a report at the next meeting.

- Cove Beautification Pilot Project  
It was reported there have been no applications received at this time.

### **City Recorder Report**

Lana provided a verbal report:

- She provided follow up regarding Island City Justice Court during the discussion under Old Business.

### **Public Works Director Report**

Dave provided a verbal report:

- The contractor has started recoating the lower reservoir. There will be a valve installed at the well house which will allow them to drain the line and possibly stop heating the building in the winter.
- They are in the process of staking out First and Water Street in preparation for paving.
- They have begun construction of the grate at the hydro plant.
- Hydro has been suffering all summer.
- He contacted WastePro about getting another cardboard bin. They notified him Union County bought the bins many years ago, so he contacted them to see if we could get another cardboard bin and whether we would need to purchase it or if the county will provide it. He hasn't yet heard back.
- He met with Dan Landa who wants to pursue installing water and sewer on his back lot. Dave noted he feels the city should help with the cost, and there is precedence established. He also reported our ordinance states the city can help with costs if it benefits us with future development.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Haeger provided a verbal report:

- She participated in the Cherry Fair parade and handed out candy. Cherry Fair was successful.

### **Student Councilor Report**

Emma provided a verbal report:

- Homecoming plans are in process.
- FFA had a booth at the Cherry Fair.
- Kerri asked her to check with Brett Dunten regarding advertising the monthly council meetings on the school reader board.

### **Good of the Order**

Councilor Shawn Parker asked if Dave was still looking to purchase a new city truck. Dave noted he is still working on it.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this meeting.

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

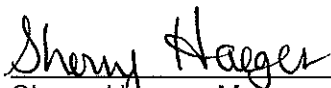
No suggestions for future workshops or meeting agendas were made.

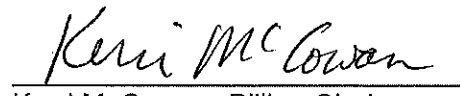
### **Upcoming Meetings**

Regular council meeting scheduled for October 7, 2025.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

  
Sherry Haeger, Mayor

  
Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk

  
Lana Shira, City Recorder