

**City Of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2026**

Call to Order

Council President, Matt McCowan, 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, Cheryl Hargrove, Shawn Parker, Boss Parker, and Student Councilor, Emma Carson.

Council Members Present Remotely: There were no council members present remotely.

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: Mayor, Sherry Haeger, Councilor, Eric Stone.

City Staff not Present: All city staff were present.

Public Present: Dennis Nostrant, Donna Beverage, Charlie Kirksey.

Public Present Remotely: There was no public present remotely.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President, Matt McCowan.

Council Roll Call

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

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

The Public Hearing scheduled for this meeting was cancelled.

Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

Consent Agenda

- March 3, 2026, Council Minutes
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid
Council President McCowan asked if the city will be reimbursed for the money spent on advertising for the public hearing since it was cancelled. Lana noted we will discuss this during the discussion of the reason for the cancellation. However, she reported the bill has already been received.

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

- **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

- **Old Business**

- **Next Steps for Remaining Surplus Vehicles and Update on Hyundai Tucson Bid**
It was explained that the Hyundai was not sold to the highest bidder because the bidder backed out. The second highest bidder was still interested in purchasing the vehicle, so it was sold to the second highest bidder. Dave noted there are other options for selling the other two vehicles. The Ranger is non-running so we can sell it to B&K for scrap value, which would be approximately \$500. There is also an option for an on-line bidder called Public Surplus On-line Auctions which would be of no cost to us and items are advertised nationwide. It was recommended to pursue the on-line bidder option for both vehicles.

- **Possible Purchase and Pricing of Road Sander or Second Snowplow**
Discussion ensued. Dave noted it would be great to have a sander and then pursue another plow in the future.

- **Business Oregon - Water/Wastewater Fund - TA Grant Application & Supplement**
The Business Oregon - Water/Wastewater Fund - TA Grant Application & Supplement was presented for informational purposes. The mayor signed the application, and it has been sent to the appropriate entity. We have not yet received notification of approval.

- **Annual Statement of Economic Interest Filing Reminder**
Lana reminded all councilors who have not filed the SEI that they need to file by April 15, 2026.

- **Public Hearing 7:30 p.m. Minor Partition Request: 410 Mill Creek Rd, Cheryl and James Kinley**

The application from Cheryl and James Kinley for a Minor Partition at 410 Mill Creek was withdrawn by the Kinley's on April 6, 2026. Lana noted the reason it was withdrawn was because the lot had already been partitioned in 2000. The Kinley's need to file paperwork with the County Assessor's office to complete the process to segregate the taxes.

It was discussed that the Kinley's paid a \$300 fee for the minor partition request, and council needs to decide whether to refund the fee in total or reimburse them minus the city's fees for advertising. It was agreed to refund the fee minus the cost for advertising.

Motion: Councilor Cannon moved to approve a refund to the Kinley's of \$170 which is the amount of the minor partition fee minus the \$130 cost for advertising. Councilor Boss Parker seconded. Motion Carried.

- **New Business**

- **STCU Interest Earning Accounts**
Lana reported she met with a banker at STCU, and he suggested putting some of the General Fund money into a money market account. She reviewed the information she discussed with the banker and recommended opening a money market account with \$250,000 from the General Fund. Discussion ensued regarding interest rates and deposit amounts, and it was determined to pursue opening a money market account with STCU.

Motion: Councilor Shawn Parker moved to approve moving funds in the amount of \$250,000 to a STCU money market account to grow at 2.5%. Councilor Cannon seconded. Motion carried.

- **Public Purchase and Public Surplus On-line Auction Programs**
Lana reported this is the online option Dave spoke about during Old Business discussion of the surplus vehicles.
- **Ascension School Pool Development Discussion**
Lana reported that the Ascension School is moving forward with pool development. They will need a conditional use approval for an outdoor recreation facility, and a variance for parking because of what our current zoning rules allow. She also noted they have already designed their parking lot to accommodate the ADA parking spaces needed.

Dave reported the Fire Marshall has gotten involved because of the need for more fire hydrants. The current line is not big enough to service the hydrants needed. He noted the city may need to upgrade from at least the corner of High Valley to Church Street. He reviewed the estimation for the cost of the project and noted the Ascension School is willing to participate in the cost of upgrading the water line. The sewer line will also have to be extended. It was noted the water line will have to be budgeted in next year's budget. It was further discussed that the Ascension School has submitted their application to start the permitting process with the city and intend to start construction this summer. Therefore, the city should consider starting the line upgrades this year.

City Council Working Committee Report

- **TSP – Land Use Development Code Follow-Up**
Lana reported she was sent the model for small cities from the Land Conservation Development Dept. It is, in her opinion, very clear and organized and covers exactly what we need. She suggested a work session for all councilors to receive a copy for review. It was discussed that it is a template and we would put in the details specific to Cove, which we've already done with our current draft. Discussion ensued and it was recommended all councilors receive a copy of the template for review and then schedule a work session. Lana will provide hard copies to all council members.
- **Cove Beautification Pilot Project**
Lana reported that the yard sign and gift certificate will be presented to the award winners of the Cove Beautification Pilot Project at next month's meeting.

City Recorder Report

Lana provided a verbal report:

- Student Councilor applications were sent to the school and there are copies available at City Hall. The deadline is May 31st and the new Student Councilor will be chosen at the June council meeting.
- Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 16th. Fliers will be sent out next week.
- She requested input on the definition of a multi-family dwelling. She reported she has a current application that fits in somewhat of a gray area and provided details. Discussion ensued. It was determined that since there will not be a separate address and separate water meters, the application should not fall under a conditional use permit.
- She provided a verbal review of the P&L. She drew attention to the Hydro account and noted we are short on income for Hydro. Dave interjected noting we will likely make that income up this May and June.

Public Works Director Report

Dave provided a verbal report:

- Hydro plant is up and running as of March 17th. They are still having issues with the meter and have been estimating until today when the issues were resolved.
- Ramping up on First and Water Street paving. He is ready to get bids out and back for the next meeting.
- Employee evaluations need to be scheduled. He noted this is usually done in March. A three-person committee will need to be formed to evaluate Dave and Lana. It was discussed it may be the same people on the committee for each position. Council President McCowan, and Councilors Boss Parker and Cheryl Hargrove will form the committee. Lana will send the evaluation form to the committee, and they will need to schedule a time to perform the review with Dave and Lana.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger was not present to provide a report.

Student Councilor Report

Emma provided a verbal report:

- The ASB started a clothing swap. They are taking donations for clothing and will offer the clothes to anyone who needs them. She noted this was started as a community service project, and was advertised at Dollar's Store, the Cove Post Office and in a few places in La Grande.
- A meeting has been scheduled with all the current sophomores and juniors at the school to present details on the City of Cove Student Councilor position.

Good of the Order

- Councilor Shawn Parker complimented Lana on always finding ways to increase the city's income.
- Councilor Cannon reported she will likely not be at the May meeting.
- Student Councilor Emma Carson volunteered to be on the Budget Committee.

Public Comment

Donna Beverage announced she is once again running for County Commissioner. She reviewed her accomplishments as a past County Commissioner, including working with Buffalo Peak on a loan that she was able to help change from an escalating interest rate to fixed. She detailed other accomplishments as a past County Commissioner and highlighted the work she has done in a volunteer capacity since.

Suggestions for Future Work Sessions & Meeting Agendas

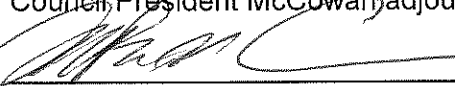
A work session will be scheduled in May to discuss the TSP.

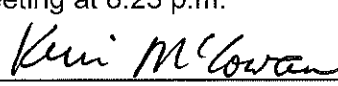
Upcoming Meetings

Regular council meeting scheduled for May 5, 2026.

Adjournment

Council President McCowan adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.


Matt McCowan, Council President


Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk


Lana Shira, City Recorder