

**City Of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2026**

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, Boss Parker, Cheryl Hargrove and Shawn Parker.

Council Members Present Remotely: Councilor, Eric Stone.

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: Councilor, Alexis Cannon.

City Staff not Present: All city staff were present.

Public Present: Amy Jayne, Executive Director, Ascension School, Dennis Nostrant, Jake Seavert, Union County Commissioner, Scott Findholt, Nancy Findholt, Maxine Parker, Timur Gaston-Collazo.

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

Alex McHaddad, Elgin City Administrator – Proposal to Jointly Purchase Street Sweeper.

Public Comment

- Alex McHaddad – Joint Purchase of Street Sweeper
Alex McHaddad, Elgin City Administrator, joined the meeting remotely, and presented a proposal to approach the Oregon Legislature for funds to jointly purchase a street sweeper to be used between cities in Wallowa and Union Counties. Discussion ensued regarding logistics and who would pay for the purchase, noting an IGA would need to be formed and proposing whoever in the Legislature was approached for funding would hopefully fund the entire purchase. Discussion ensued and it was determined that there was a definite upside for the city to have access to a street sweeper, and we should move forward in cooperation with the proposal. Dave will work with Alex McHaddad on next steps.

- Dennis Nostrant made comments regarding the proposed TSP model noting he obtained a copy and after review felt it was a good opportunity for the city to use this as an outline to tailor it to the City of Cove.

Consent Agenda

- April 7, 2026, Council Minutes
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

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

Correspondence

Union County, Planning Department – Notice of Planning Commission Hearing
The Union County, Planning Department – Notice of Planning Commission Hearing was presented for informational purposes. No action was required.

Old Business

- Presentation of Cove Beautification Award
The mayor presented the Cove Beautification Award to Nancy and Scott Findholdt. They were presented with a yard sign and a gift certificate to the Mill Creek Meadows Nursery.

- Surplus Vehicles Update
Dave reported he listed the city's two surplus vehicles on Gov Deals online. The 2008 F150 bid closed yesterday afternoon for \$3,100 and we are in the process of receiving payment. The Ranger bid closed today for \$475. The minimum bid he advertised for the Ranger was \$500; however, he recommended accepting the \$475 bid.

Motion: Council President McCowan moved to approve selling the Ford Ranger for \$475. Councilor Boss Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Public Hearing 7:30 p.m. Conditional Use and Variance: Ascension School Pool

- Open Hearing
The mayor opened the hearing at 7:30 pm. She requested conflict of interest, exparte, etc. to be declared. Council President McCown, Councilors Shawn Parker, Boss Parker and Cheryl Hargrove turned in a signed declaration form and Councilor Stone affirmed on-line he had no conflict. There were no conflicts declared by the councilors physically present at the meeting. The disclosure statement was made available to the public.

- Staff Report
Lana provided a verbal review of the Staff Report for the Conditional Use and Variance.

- Applicant's Testimony
Amy Jayne, Executive Director, Ascension School, provided a verbal review of the application noting the funds that have been raised and emphasizing that the pool aligns well with what the Ascension School does. She also felt it was important to note that the stated occupancy of the pool is much larger than the expected occupancy.

- Proponent's Testimony
There was no proponent's 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 7:45 pm.
- **Council Deliberation & Final Decision**
Discussion ensued. Parking was discussed and it was noted the 10 parking spaces shown on the map include a soon-to-be-paved area that will include 8 regular parking spots and 2 ADA parking spaces. The current gravel parking area will accommodate 40 to 50 parking spaces. There was some concern that there would not be enough space for parking due to the perceived popularity of the pool. Discussion moved to pool operating times, and it was reported the pool will be open seasonally, from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day with flexibility depending on the weather. It will also be open to the public and include private rental opportunities.

Lead abatement was discussed. Amy noted it was inspected at the request of the Sportsman's Club, which found much of the lead is beyond the pool area in the habitat restoration area. The Ascension School is in conversation with DEQ about voluntary remediation pathways. Further discussion will need to be held regarding the fire hydrant implementation.

Discussion moved back to parking, and it was a concern that the way the variance was presented the perception could be that the council is only approving 10 parking spaces to be available. It was requested that the Ascension School designate how much square footage would be available for additional parking in the gravel area. Amy agreed to submit an adjusted site plan that will lay out the space designated for parking. The council requested a continuance on the Variance for parking.

Motion: Councilor Boss Parker moved to approve the Conditional Use allowing for a community pool to be constructed within the City of Cove Zone SP (Semi-Public) as set forth in the Zoning Application submitted by the Episcopal Church of Eastern Oregon. Council President McCowan seconded. Motion carried.

The mayor outlined the next steps for the Variance noting the Ascension School will need to provide an amendment to the map showing how much additional square footage will be available for parking. There will be no need for another hearing, the council will vote on the Variance at the next meeting.

- **New Business**
 - **Employee Performance Reviews (discussed at 7:21 pm)**
Evaluations were completed by Council President McCowan and Councilor Hargrove. Council President McCowan noted Lana and Dave are doing a fantastic job. Councilor Hargrove noted she feels they are both very competent. Councilor Boss Parker was unable to schedule a time to perform the evaluations. It was noted by Councilor Hargrove that Dave requested a new desk which will be discussed at the upcoming budget meeting. He also discussed the need to receive training to be able to service fire hydrant valve.
 - **Appoint Budget Officer and Committee and Confirm Budget Committee Meeting**
The mayor called for nominations for the Budget Officer. Council President McCowan nominated the City Recorder, Lana Shira, as the Budget Officer to prepare and oversee the adoption of the 2026-27 budget for the City of Cove. Lana accepted the nomination.

Motion: Councilor Shawn Parker moved Lana Shira to be appointed as the Budget Officer to prepare and oversee the adoption of the 2026-27 budget for the City of Cove. Councilor Hargrove seconded. Motion carried.

The mayor reported that the City Recorder contacted and had the following citizens of Cove volunteer for the 2026-27 Budget Committee: Emma Carson, Sandy Stephenson, Brad Stephenson, Becky Turner, Dennis Nostrant, Alan Cadinha, and Amy Jayne.

The mayor noted that as stated in the Rules of Procedure the entire council must consent to the citizens appointed to the Budget Committee. Therefore, if any Councilor is opposed to any of the volunteers named, please state so now and that name will be removed. No councilor objected to any of the volunteers named. The mayor then affirmed that the appointees stand unopposed and appointed them to the 2026-27 Budget Committee. All councilors voiced aye in favor of these appointments.

The Budget Committee meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th. The mayor and Dave will not be able to attend the Budget Committee meeting.

**Discussion stopped at 7:30 pm for the Public Hearing.*

Discussion resumed after the Public Hearing and it was reported that dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, and the meeting will begin at 7pm.

- Councilor Availability for Clean Up Day and Advertising on School Marquee Sign
Lana noted we have received confirmation from several volunteers who will be available for Cleanup Day. Councilor Hargrove confirmed she will be available to volunteer.

The mayor agreed to text Student Councilor, Emma Carson, to ask that Clean-up Day be advertised on the school marquee.

City Council Working Committee Report

- TSP – Land Use Development Code
A work session was scheduled to review and discuss the TSP small cities model on June 23rd at 7pm.
- Cove Beautification Pilot Project
There was no report made at this meeting.

City Recorder Report

Lana provided a verbal report:

- The City's Money Market account was opened on April 27th. She noted it has already made \$61.
- She will attend the Union County Commissioners' meeting tomorrow to request funds for Clean-up Day.
- The June meeting will include a Minor Partition request.

Public Works Director Report

Dave provided a verbal report:

- Work continues on Water Street and 1st Street.
- He has found a sander he would like the city to purchase.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger provided a verbal report.

- She was ill and was unable to talk to the Cove High School students about the Student Councilor position.

Student Councilor Report

Emma was not present to provide a report.

Good of the Order

There was no Good of the Order presented at this meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

Suggestions for Future Work Sessions & Meeting Agendas

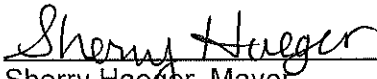
- Budget Committee meeting, May 19, 2026. Dinner at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm.
- TSP Work Session, June 23, 2026, 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Regular council meeting scheduled for June 2, 2026.

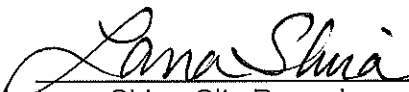
Adjournment

Mayor Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.


Sherry Haeger, Mayor


Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk




Lana Shira, City Recorder