

**City Of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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, Alexis Cannon, Boss Parker and Shawn Parker.

Council Members Present Remotely: Councilor, Cheryl Hargrove.

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: Councilor, Eric Stone.

City Staff Not Present: All city staff were present.

Public Present: Liz Blake.

Public Present Remotely: There was no public present remotely.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor, Sherry Haeger.

Council Roll Call

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

Oath of Office

Mayor Haeger gave the Oath of Office to Student Councilor, Eliza Pettit.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- Welcome to Cove Signs (See New Business)
- Parking Issues Near the Baptist Church (See New Business)

Public Comment

There was no public comment made at this time.

Consent Agenda

- August 4, 2026, Council Minutes
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

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

- **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

- **Old Business**

- CCA Request for Donation

Lana referred to the redacted minutes from the July 7, 2026, regular council meeting which outlined the amount of money the city received from Union County TRT funds, and how much the city gave to the CCA out of those funds. Discussion ensued and it was determined that no further discussion of this agenda item would be held until CCA President, Heidi VanSchoonhoven, could be present to present her request for additional funds and provide an accounting of how past city donations have been used. It was also stressed that the request for an accounting of city donations has been asked for on numerous occasions. Lastly, it was questioned whether there was a timeframe specified by the county in which the city has to disburse the TRT funds. Lana agreed to look further into the matter.

- Snowplow Purchase

Dave reported he has found a snowplow to purchase for \$8,100. The plan will be to outfit the new truck with this plow. This purchase is within the amount that has been budgeted.

Motion: Councilor Shawn Parker moved to approve \$8,100 to purchase a new snowplow. Council President McCowan seconded. Motion carried.

- **New Business**

- Liz and Jason Blake, 1008 Orchard St., Request Financial Assistance for Tree Removal

Liz Blake presented her request for financial assistance for the removal of a large tree that has rotted and is presenting a dangerous situation with falling branches and the potential for the entire tree to topple at some point. She noted she asked the Public Works Director, Dave Johnson, to assess whether any portion of the tree was on city right of way. Dave noted that approximately a quarter of the tree was on city right of way. Discussion ensued and it was determined there is no precedent for this and it would put the city at risk to set a precedent. Councilor Hargrove reported she had researched what other cities do in similar situations and found that they typically have grant programs established for their citizens to apply for funds to help. Additionally, there is no line item in the budget that would cover such an expense. In the absence of an existing grant program and budgetary limitations, it was determined that the city does not have the authority to assist financially in the removal of the tree and would not be able to help the Blakes with the cost of removal.

- Main Street Waterline Upgrade

Dave indicated that the city needs to begin the process of upgrading the water line from Church Street to High Valley Road. He noted this is being driven by the Ascension School Pool development. The city budgeted \$150,000 for the project and Anderson Perry was asked for an estimate of the cost of the project. Their estimate was \$149,000. He questioned if the council felt the need to have Anderson Perry participate in the project, noting that he is limited on time and the scope of the project is quite large. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the city needs to determine what the Ascension School's expectations of financial participation will be before moving forward. Dave agreed to contact the Ascension School for that discussion.

- **Upper Reservoir Cleaning**
Dave reported it has been six or seven years since the upper reservoir has been cleaned. He has received quotes with the lowest quote of \$3,750 from Inland Potable Services, which is within budget.

Motion: Council President McCowan moved to approve \$3,750 for the upper reservoir cleaning. Councilor Shawn Parker seconded. Motion carried.

- **Parking Issues Near the Baptist Church**
Councilor Cannon reported that vehicles parking near the Baptist Church during school hours and events is obstructing the view of oncoming traffic. Dave confirmed that section has been painted yellow to help address this problem. It was further suggested that a letter be sent to the Cove School Superintendent to ask that he address this parking issue. Student Councilor Pettit will also talk to the Student Body at the next assembly.
- **Welcome to Cove Signs**
Mayor Haeger noted she has been approached by members of the public about the need to refresh the paint on the Welcome to City of Cove signs at either edge of town. It was reported that those signs are sponsored by the CCA and Dave reported the paint and paint kit had been stored at the city well house, but he has given those materials back to the CCA. The mayor agreed to contact the CCA about this matter.

City Council Working Committee Report

- **TSP – Land Use Development Code**
There was no TSP – Land Use Development Code report provided.
- **Cove Beautification Pilot Project**
Councilor Cannon provided a verbal review of the updated City of Cove Winter Beautification flyer. She noted she made the changes based on suggestions from the last meeting. There was an additional suggestion made to change the verbiage of the rules to participate to "Residents must reside within the City of Cove." Councilor Cannon further suggested a label be added to the monthly bills advertising the contest.

City Recorder Report

Lana did not provide a report.

Public Works Director Report

Dave provided a verbal report:

- They have been working on cleaning the shoulders along 1st and Water Streets.
- They are working with the Locken's on water/sewer hookups.
- The 2nd Street sewer extension is complete.
- We received a violation from the state regarding water testing. He said it is nothing to be overly concerned with and explained that the lab we use, Box R, did not submit the proper report to the state. He reported he explained this to the state, but they issued the violation anyway. He further stated that Box R recently sold to another company and he has been having problems with them in the transition. Consequently, he is no longer using that lab and has transitioned to URC Table Rock Labs out of Pendleton.
- The hydro plant was down from August 19th through the 24th. He explained there was a wire that shorted out on a pole that they couldn't fix themselves. It happened on the same day OTEC workers went on strike, but OTEC was able to send a company they were working with during the strike to make the repairs.

- ODOT has requested that we rehab the Rose Ridge bridge. There are grants available to help with the costs. He will do some research and report on his findings at the next meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger did not provide a report.

Student Councilor Report

Eliza provided a verbal report:

- Cove Football beat Elgin Football by a score of 98 to 50.
- Cove Cross Country performed well.
- The school has added a Building Maintenance Class.
- The ASB is planning a Homecoming Assembly.
- The Homecoming Dance will be held at the Ascension School.
- FFA members are busy participating in events.
- FBLA provides concessions at games and is planning bowling and flamingo fundraisers.
- HOSA received a new mannequin for teaching purposes.

Good of the Order

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment made at this time.

Suggestions for Future Work Sessions & Meeting Agendas

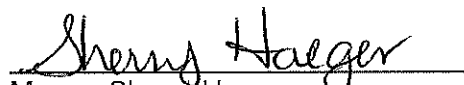
There were no suggestions for future work sessions or meeting agenda items.

Upcoming Meetings

Regular council meeting scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Adjournment

Mayor Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



Mayor, Sherry Haeger



Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk



Lana Shira, City Recorder