



CITY OF PRINEVILLE
Regular Meeting Brief
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City Council Meeting Brief
April 14, 2026

Council Members Present:

Scott Smith
Marv Sumner
Steve Uffelman
Shane Howard

Janet Hutchison
Jerry Brummer

Council Members Absent

Jason Beebe

Additions to the Agenda

Dispatch Annual Update to Council (Item # 8) is being moved up to Council Presentations. Item 6A – Consideration of a Proclamation – Vietnamese-American Remembrance Day is being added under Council Business, and Item 6B under Council Business – Consideration of Supporting a Request for Legislative Action on Investing in Highway 97 Safety Improvement and Operations.

Jered Reid, City Attorney, announced that we initially intended to hold a public hearing on legislative amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Economic Opportunity Analysis. The notice did not get published in the newspaper, and the public hearing has been moved to the April 28th Council meeting and will be properly noticed again.

Consent Agenda

1. Regular Meeting Brief 3-24-2026

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion on the motion. Motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances, and Requests

Steve Holliday came forward and complimented the City on how nice Prineville is after he and his wife recently visited another town, similar in size to Prineville, that had a lot of homeless and drug activities all over at 6:00 P.M. He appreciates all the work the city does to keep Prineville nice.

Council President Uffelman also thanked the Police Department for all that they do to keep our community nice.

No one else came forward. No one online raised a hand.

Council Presentations

Dispatch Annual Update to Council – Katie Kemper

Katie Kemper, Public Safety Communications Director, and a recently graduated dispatcher, and two new call takers came forward.

Ms. Kemper announced that it is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week this week and continued with a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the roles and responsibilities of a dispatcher, and an annual recap of the number and nature of calls taken over the last year. Ms. Kemper also highlighted the amount of time it takes for the interview process and to train a dispatcher before going on a console solo, which is about 6-8 months.

Ms. Kemper wanted to introduce the three who recently graduated from the Basics academy training on April 10th, and explained that they also have to swear or affirm to a formal code of ethics as required by Oregon before they can be certified.

Aubrey Robins was hired as a dispatcher with a background in the banking industry. Aubrey is joined here tonight by her parents and boyfriend.

Ashley English was hired as a public safety call taker and was an electrician prior to being hired. She is a Prineville native.

Grace Leer was also hired as a public safety call taker. She spent a few years in the service industry and was also a certified esthetician. Grace is joined by her Mother and Grandmother.

Ms. Kemper administered the Department of Public Safety and Training Code of Ethics to the three ladies and had them each sign.

Council Business:

- 2. Consideration of Republic Rate Increase (PUBLIC HEARING) – Lori Hooper Antram**

Council President Uffelman opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Jered Reid provided background on the process needed in order for Republic to request a rate adjustment per the franchise agreement. Mr. Reid explained that they are requesting less than the industry CPI of 4.22%. Mr. Reid then explained the criteria that the Council can look at regarding a rate adjustment.

Erica Haitisma, Republic General Manager, John Heylin, Republic Municipal Representative, went through a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted a franchise overview and where their focus is for continued improvement of quality of service.

Ms. Haitisma went over details for the 2025 financial results, which consisted of revenues and costs of operations.

Dan Strandy, Republic Finance Manager, went through the 2026 projections, explaining that the general inflation just recently came out at 3.6%. He explained that what is going on with fuel at the moment, and the request is not based on what is going on in the Middle East now. Mr. Strandy said that they hope this is temporary and they will absorb the cost.

Ms. Haitisma continued with a slide of all the activities they participated in with the community in 2025.

Mr. Heylin took over the community involvement and explained that it is important to them because they have over 20 employees who live and work in this community.

Lori Hooper Antram, Finance Director, presented the staff report explaining that Republic requested a 3.5% rate increase, primarily driven by inflation and increased disposal costs at the Crook County landfill. Staff reviewed the request, and the proposed rates are just, reasonable, and adequate to support continued service. Based on the city's analysis, staff is recommending that the Council approve a rate increase not to exceed 3%.

No one came forward from the audience, no one online raised a hand, and no written comments were received.

Council President Uffelman closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Councilor Brummer stated that he had met with staff and went over all of this with them, and agreed that he believes a 3% increase would be justified.

Councilor Howard stated that he has been hearing a lot of things from his constituents, and Republic has had a pretty consistent pattern of increases and shares the same sentiments with his constituents.

There were discussions regarding the CPI rate, a range of 8-12% rate of return, efforts Republic has made to provide services, opening up the office again on N. Main Street, and personal experiences in going up to the office.

Mr. Reid explained that, based on what he heard, we will prepare a resolution at the 3% increase.

Discussions continued regarding rate reductions and how you would not see that in a direct rate reduction, but would see it favorably in lower costs experienced, with more discussion regarding the rate of return being between 8-12%, with a target of 10%.

3. **Intent to Award Headworks Rail System Installation** – Mike Kassberger

Mike Kasberger, Assistant City Engineer, presented the staff report, explaining that three bids were received, with one bid being non-responsive.

There were discussions regarding Bateson Enterprises doing good work for us before, and the other bidder was unable to provide the bypass equipment as required in the bid.

Councilor Brummer made a motion to approve the intent to award to Bateson Enterprises for \$71,354.00. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Consideration of Heart of Oregon Funding Request** – Sponsor Councilor Hutchison

Patrick Orr, Program Director, went through a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted some of the projects they have completed, other skills training they offer to youth, and the rate of pay they can earn in the program.

There were discussions regarding Heart of Oregon not asking for funding every year, and Heart of Oregon not wanting to spoil any relationships by asking for too much funding.

Councilor Hutchison talked about why she supports this program and the request.

Councilor Hutchison made a motion to approve the funding request of \$2,000 to Heart of Oregon. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilor Hutchison asked Mr. Orr to come back after the summer program with the youth to talk to the Council.

5. **Consideration of Rural Oregon Community Foundation Funding Request** – Sponsor Mayor Beebe

Mr. Holliday, President, said that this is the foundation's 5th year, and why they formed a board. They have a program called Boots and Roots, where they bring down 4th graders to introduce them to western activities. They have a good partnership with schools.

They also brought Cowboy Poetry after the rodeo to the Bowman Museum, where there was standing room only because there is such an interest. They are going to do the Cowboy Poetry again.

They were able to give scholarships for the last four years and will be having a fundraiser dinner in June.

There were discussions regarding the amount and number of scholarships, and the majority of the scholarships stayed right here.

More discussion on needing the money to help put on the fundraiser, seed money to make more money, and supporting the mission.

Councilor Brummer made a motion to approve a \$2,500 fund contribution to the Rural Oregon Community Foundation. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Consideration of a Proclamation – May Foster Care Month – Sponsor Councilor Marv Sumner

Councilor Sumner talked about why he supports the proclamation and marveled at the commitment made by fosters.

Councilor Sumner made a motion to approve the reading of the May Foster Care Month proclamation. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

6a. Consideration of a Proclamation – Vietnamese-American Remembrance Day – Sponsor Mayor Beebe

Council President Uffelman said that he is aware of how Mayor Beebe is in support of this proclamation.

Council President Uffelman made a motion to approve the reading of the Vietnamese-American Remembrance Day proclamation. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

6b. Consideration of Supporting a Request for Legislative Action on Investing in Highway 97 Safety Improvement and Operations – Councilor Smith

Councilor Smith referred to the letter that the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), as a group, voted to support this and asked that the Council review it to see if they want to support it. This is a request for a dedicated funding stream to make safety improvements to Highway 97. Everyone was asked to bring this to their Council's to see if they would support.

Councilor Smith talked about having reservations about this at first, since we need improvements to Highway 126. Then he realized that our constituents use Highway 97 all the time, and we have our railroad junction off of Highway 97. We can also get other cities' support for a project we need in the future.

Discussions continued regarding safety improvements made on Highway 97 over the last 50 years, our safety needs, different pots of money, and the intent of asking for a dedicated funding stream without taking money from other pots of funding for transportation projects.

Councilor Smith talked about 25 projects submitted to COACT to review and recommend the top five projects that were selected to submit to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC). Number 5 was Highway 126 at Powell Butte Highway.

Councilor Smith then went to the second top five projects, with getting Third Street repaved and landscaped coming in at Number 7. His main focus was on safety for selecting projects.

Councilor Hutchison said that Highway 97 is so dangerous, and if some of those issues were solved with dedicated funding, then maybe some of the other projects could move up the list.

Staff Reports and Requests:

7. City Manager’s Report – Steve Forrester

Steve Forrester, City Manager, went through his report highlighting recent activity in each department.

Councilor Sumner asked about the DARE program, the age of the children, and whether the program was by choice or part of the curriculum.

Interim Chief Shane Wilson explained that Officer Coffman teaches the class for 10 weeks. Bullying has become a big thing too in the program, and it has been updated with a revamp for current issues.

There were no further questions.

Council Reports

There were no reports.

Ordinances:

8. Ordinance No. 1307 – Granting an Electric Utility Franchise and General Utility Easement to PacifiCorp (FIRST PRESENTATION) – Steve Forrester / Jered Reid

Mr. Reid referenced the workshop and noted that nothing has really changed since the workshop. Alisha Dunlap, PacifiCorp Regional Area Director, is available online if there are any questions.

There were no questions.

Ms. Dunlap said how great the city staff was to work with.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the first presentation of Ordinance No. 1307. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolutions:

9. **Resolution No. 1642 – Establishing the SW Empire Drive Reimbursement District – Randy Blakeny / Jered Reid**

Mr. Reid explained that this is just codifying the reimbursement district from the public hearing held at the last Council meeting.

There were no questions.

Councilor Hutchison made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1642. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances, and Requests:

No one came forward, and no one online raised a hand.

Adjourn

Councilor Brummer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion on the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Motions and Outcomes:

Motion:	Outcome	Beebe	Brummer	Howard	Hutchison	Smith	Sumner	Uffelman
Consent Agenda as Presented	PASSED	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion to approve the intent to award to Bateson Enterprises for \$71,354.00	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion to approve the funding request of \$2,000 to Heart of Oregon	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion to approve a \$2,500 fund contribution to the Rural Oregon Community Foundation	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Consideration of a Proclamation – May Foster Care Month	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Consideration of a Proclamation – Vietnamese-American Remembrance Day	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ordinance No. 1307 – Granting an Electric Utility Franchise and General Utility Easement to Pacificorp (FIRST PRESENTATION)	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Resolution No. 1642 – Establishing the SW Empire Drive Reimbursement District	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Adjourn Meeting	PASSED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Public Records Disclosure

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<https://www.cityofprineville.com/meetings>.