

FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL		MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025	
Mayor Bailey called the Falls City City Council into regular session on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:03 p.m. in the Community Center located at 320 N. Main Street.			
Council Members Present: Council President Amy Houghtaling, Councilor Nick Backus, Councilor Tony Meier, Councilor Tia Scruton, Councilor Dennis Sickles, and Councilor Lori Jean Sickles.			
Staff Present: City Manager AJ Foscoli and City Recorder Jeremy Teal			
AGENDA		ACTION	
Announcements, Appointments, Appreciations & Proclamations		There were no comments.	
Public Comment		Mayor Bailey noted he had seen the best and the worst of Falls City in the last few weeks. He mentioned each person had their own belief systems and he honored that, but communicating face to face would be the only way to resolve issues. He stated regardless of the activity in town, we may not agree but we should respect it. He advised that 2 Pride flags were vandalized in the 3 days they were up. He noted the poles were used for every event and when someone vandalized them it takes money from other budgets to replace them. He advised that it was awesome all the projects around town and he understood the concerns about projects, but they don't happen overnight. He reported the original design for Safe Routes to School was from 2013 and the pedestrian island was exactly the same and in 2019 the school, the council, the committee were gung ho to create the safest route for kids to get to school. He advised that topography, the weather and unstable ground were all factors in moving the project to 5th and Prospect in 2023. He noted the 2 things that remain are the pedestrian island and adding 5 ft of pavement to 5th and Prospect after the open house in 2023 with the community feedback. He mentioned that there was thought and effort in everything the City and Council do for the community. He noted there was concern about the power of the City Manager, but the Council was the ultimate authority. He mentioned the upper park bathrooms were completed in the winter of 2024	

	with new floors, new stalls, new doors, new toilet paper holders, new hand air dryers that had to be wired in, new water heater which also had to be wired in, hot water pipes ran to each bathroom for the sinks, and recently painted. He encouraged everyone to go up and take a look as they look great. He noted the Valsetz picnic group praised them. He reported the Skate Park was a huge undertaking, but the design was all paid for through donations from local residents. He noted moving forward all aspects of the project would be done in phases to allow for some work to happen and show progress. He noted he would apply for every grant he could to help with the costs. He noted for anyone who doesn't understand grants, the City has to use every cent for those grants or they get penalized and have to return the money. There are no administrative costs allowed in any grants, so no kickbacks for staff. He noted all the records were at City Hall. He asked everyone to remember that we were all here for the exact same thing, to make our town the best it can be. He noted everyone has different ideas, but coming together for a common goal was what made Falls City great. He advised the Council was chosen by you and represented you and if you didn't like it come to Council and let us know. He stated we were all in it together for the right stuff. He thanked every person that helped and attended the event over the weekend. He noted the out of towners felt safe and happy to be here. Mayor Bailey opened the public comments at 6:21 p.m. Laura Britton apologized about her Facebook post and wanted to publicly apologize to the community, the Council and Mr. Foscoli. She noted the project had changed and it was all for the safety of the kids. She advised the project
--	---

was not removing anything but adding 5 ft of pavement to the edge of the street. She apologized for stirring up a ruckus and riling up the community on Facebook. She mentioned that she loved Mr. Lauder's tree, but it needed to come down for the project. She stated she loved the community and should have thought through it and gone to City Hall before posting.

Tracy Young reported there was a level 3 sex offender around town. She noted pictures were up at the school.

Jim Miner asked if the sewer was on schedule or behind. Mr. Foscoli noted they were behind schedule.

Mr. Miner asked about the drainage on Prospect Street. Mayor Bailey stated the plan was to hopefully create a bevel to help with drainage.

David Drake stated he was concerned there were no flaggers on Mitchell and 5th off of Pine and people could swing down there.

Mr. Foscoli noted that North Santiam Paving did that work and probably thought they needed minimal amount of flaggers. He stated he would make sure there were more flaggers next time.

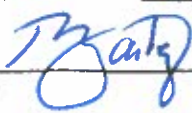
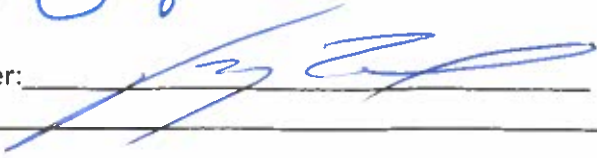
Mr. Drake asked about the lack of law enforcement and asked if Deputy Silverman was gone. Mr. Foscoli Deputy Silverman had training, but other deputies should cover. He reiterated Deputy Silverman was only 10 hours a week.

Mr. Drake stated there was a kid riding on a mini bike downtown during Pride and he was not old enough and the bike was not street legal. Council President Houghtaling noted she had addressed the kid, but Deputy Silverman beat her to it and he addressed the kid and he left. Mayor Bailey stated he had a root beer together and discussed hitting people was not good.

Mr. Drake stated that Mr. Foscoli can't turn commenting off on Facebook. Mayor Bailey stated that if the post was informational, he could turn off comments.

	Mr. Foscoli stated he sends messages directly to people that do comment. He noted it was not a requirement to keep comments on. He told everyone to email him. Niki McKee gathered questions from the Facebook post that the community was asking regarding the Safe Routes to School project. Mayor Bailey asked for the list of questions so he could research them and get her all the answers. Tina Thompson asked if 5 ft was added for the project then where would cars park. Mayor Bailey stated the 5 ft was connected to the street and would give more room for people to park. Ms. Thompson stated that if the project was saving \$100,000 could the City clean up Ellis Street. Mayor Bailey noted that if the City could use that money for that we will do it. Mayor Bailey closed the public comments at 6:58 p.m.
Consent Agenda a) July 7, 2025 Minutes	It was moved by Councilor Meier to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor D Sickles and CARRIED with a vote of 5-0 with Councilors Meier, Scruton, D Sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES with Councilor with Councilor Backus abstaining as he was absent.
Reports or Comments from Mayor and Council Members a) Mayor's Report b) Councilor Comments	Mayor Bailey reported that line paint had come in and he would be painting the crosswalks before school started. He asked for volunteers to help clean up stairs before school started as well. Mr. Drake noted he had an effective spray for blackberries if that was allowed. Councilor LJ Sickles thanked everyone for their hard work making Pride successful. Council President Houghtaling assured the residents that the City was not hiring relatives or unqualified people. She noted the bid process was done publicly with 6 bids and North Santiam

	Paving being the lowest bid. She mentioned North Santiam Paving was out of Stayton and had 50 years in the field and were licensed and bonded with no affiliation with the City or Westech. She announced that the Back-to-School bash would be Sunday, August 24. Councilor D Sickles noted that projects the City does were vetted thoroughly before ground was ever broken. He stated that surveys, studies, public comments, public hearings, and positive input from open house were completed before any bid went out. He noted it was important to come to meetings and voice your opinion especially regarding projects that effect our City. The Council does listen to the residents and did scale back the safe routes project to accommodate someone's property. He noted our community was stronger when we worked together. He mentioned that posting stuff on Facebook would never work and it just fires up people that don't have all the full information and it pulls the community apart. Councilor Scruton mentioned the last outdoor movie night was on August 15th, and bingo was on August 23. Jeremy Gordon stated he moved here 10 years ago and was excited to see the City focusing on infrastructure with a road project, sewer project and a water project. He noted Falls City had the trust of the funding agencies and the community was engaged and looking for the future. Councilor LJ Sickles stated the committee recapped the summer celebration and upcoming Pride. Mayor Bailey thanked everyone for the summer celebration. Councilor Meier stated the committee thought 25 mph was good for whole city except for the school zone set at 20 mph. Mayor Bailey stated South Main would like it to be 20 mph. He noted that adults and kids need to take responsibility when driving in town. He
c) Parks Committee Repot	
d) Public Works Committee	

	mentioned the Sheriff was aware of the speeding on South Main Street.
Reports from City Manager & Staff a) Falls City Fire Report b) City Manager's Report c) UrbanForm	Mayor Bailey advised to be responsible with fire. Mr. Foscoli reported on the wastewater treatment plant, code enforcement, total resource center numbers went up 178, less than 10% from out of town, trash burning ban fee schedule, water conservation using 450,000 gallons a day, upper park trees, town hall meeting October 20, and the summer project timeline. Waterline project starting under budget at 2.4 million and construction would start August 18. Mr. Foscoli reported UrbanForm was through a statewide grant and digitize for Yamhill cities and they have moved to Polk County zoning information. He noted there was no city money involved. He stated you could click on any property and it would give all the information.
Good of the Order	Council President Houghtaling advised there would be a power outage at the school tomorrow. She asked that Mr. Foscoli change the date of town hall to the second Monday. Mr. Foscoli thanked Ms. Britton for apologizing. He noted we all make mistakes and need to own up to them. He stated the public apology was greatly appreciated.
Adjourn	There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.
Read and approved this <u>8</u> day of <u>September</u> 2025. Mayor: <u></u> ATTEST: City Recorder: <u></u>	