

FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL		MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026
Mayor Bailey called the Falls City City Council into regular session on Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center located at 320 N. Main Street.		
Council Members Present: Council President Amy Houghtaling via Speaker Phone, 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	Mayor Bailey thanked everyone that helped with the annual clean up on May 30 including Jon Gilbert David & Jennen Drake and their kids, Jim Miner, Tracy Young, Guy Mack, Brian Burchfield and his 2 Boys, Will Cleek, and Joe Schmuker and his brother Robert. He noted the pickups the volunteers made, were with the use of their personal vehicles and gas. He thanked the July 4 th committee for their hard work so far.	
Public Comment	Mayor Bailey opened the public comments at 6:05 p.m. Jim Miner asked for an update on the trees on Mitchell. He noted the lot needed gravel by baseball field and the lawn needed mowing. Tracy Young stated the people that cut the trees down in the park left huge chunks of wood around the park with a pile of brush from the trees. Mr. Miner commented the horseshoe pits were awesome. Ms. Young noted the blackberries on Prospect had been removed and sprayed. She mentioned the maple tree limbs were so low they were hitting large trucks. Mr. Foscoli asked which trees. Ms. Young stated the trees were on Fair Oaks to Boundary. She asked about a possible brush cutter for the easements from the County. She asked if the upper ball field could get watered and mowed before the 4th event. Mr. Foscoli noted there was a certain portion of the field that could be irrigated.	

	Ms. Young stated the new recycling event for next year needed to be posted every other month in the newsletter. She noted this would probably be the last clean up in Falls City due to the franchise agreement with Falls City and the contract with Polk County. She advised that it may move to a pay per dump like the other cities. She noted 157 people came through. Mr. Foscoli mentioned the next town hall could be about the cleanup and discuss it. Ms. Young noted the Republic Services people where not allowed overtime and got Monday off to compromise. Mayor Bailey closed the public comments at 6:15 p.m.
Consent Agenda a) May 4, 2026 Minutes	It was moved by Councilor Backus to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Meier and CARRIED with a vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Meier, Scruton, D Sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.
Reports or Comments from Mayor and Council Members a) Mayor's Report b) Councilor Comments c) Public Works Committee Report	Mayor Bailey reported that Falls City was a city of volunteers and if you want something done join a committee of volunteers and if you don't join and just complain...be quiet. He noted if there were questions about 4th of July to go to the committee and volunteer for the parade, car show, just please volunteer. Councilor D Sickles mentioned that Facebook was used to throw stones and everyone should take it with a grain of salt. He noted the community response was very thankful for cleanup day and continuing to have Republic Services come was important. He stated the dump was considerably more than a small fee to dump here. Councilor Meier stated it would be nice to have a code enforcement report monthly.

Reports from City Manager & Staff

a) Falls City Fire Report

Mayor Bailey stated the trainings had been excellent and worked on wildland fires, Polk 1 training on rigs for possible fires in Falls City, and EMR training. He thanked Deputy Chief Sharon for the training.

Councilor D Sickles asked if the SW Polk levy failing would affect Falls City. Mayor Bailey noted SW Polk had certain areas to cover that Falls City can't. He noted Bridgeport station would no longer be manned.

b) City Manager's Report

Mr. Foscoli reported on the wastewater treatment plant, code enforcement working with Ellis street and took some stuff to the cleanup day, grant writing going well since the City paid \$6000 and would hopefully get \$120,000, town hall meeting July 20, and the July 4th event was coming along with planning.

c) Budget Approval

Public Hearings

This public hearing is an opportunity for any member of the public to comment on or make requests regarding how State Revenue Sharing Funds will be spent in the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026. State Revenue Sharing funds are a share of certain revenues of the State of Oregon that shall be apportioned among and distributed to the cities of this state for general purposes.

Mayor Bailey opened the public hearing at 6:31 pm.

Public Comments:

There were no comments.

Chair Houghtaling closed the public hearing at 6:32 pm

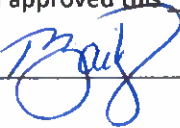
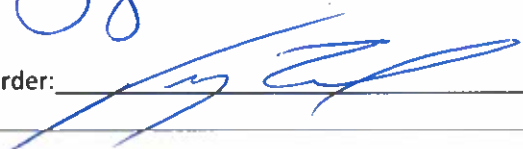
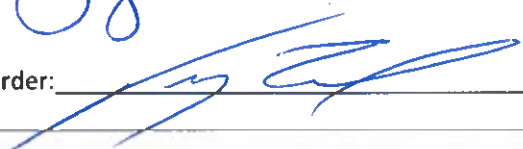
Mr. Foscoli gave a brief overview of the budget fund by fund for the audience.

Chris Martin asked if an additional public works employee could be hired. Mr. Foscoli noted that

	with the health benefits and PERS he was more inclined to institute a work experience for high school juniors and seniors possibly help out. He noted the City didn't have money for a full time, or a part time employee. Boyd Lamprecht asked if a new shop would be built. Mr. Foscoli stated that would be the plan depending on how quickly we can sell city hall. Tina Thompson asked about the waterline project phase 2. Mr. Foscoli noted Parry, Cameron, Fairview, Terrace, Mill, and 1st. Ms. Thompson asked if everyone would pay for water since only half paid for sewer. Mr. Foscoli stated not everyone has a sewer connection, so a smaller increase was needed with a much larger group. Chris Martin noted that new pipes would eliminate the leaking of 30% of our water. Mr. Foscoli stated this would go a long way to fix and prevent leaks. Don Schecker asked about the lagoon capacity and if there was enough capacity for the whole town in the future. Councilor Backus noted the south part of town would not be hooked to sewer in his lifetime. Mr. Foscoli advised the original funding with CDBG was to strictly replace the failing infrastructure. He noted there was some buffer built in, but not for 574 homes. He mentioned the cost right now would be \$27 million to get everyone connected to sewer. Mr. Foscoli noted there was a small library at City Hall and with plans to improve the bookshelves and connect with CCRLS for pickup and drop off. Mr. Lamprecht asked how much would be spent
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	from the library annually. Mr. Foscoli stated \$10,000 a year. Mr. Foscoli noted the school district had vacated and that allowed more room for tenants. He mentioned the rental revenue covered the utilities' costs. Tina Thompson suggested to make it a holistic health center. Mr. Foscoli noted there was room for community events or any small business. It was moved by Councilor D Sickles that the City Council of the City of Falls City approve property taxes for the 2026-2027 Fiscal year at the rate of \$2.9202 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the General Fund. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor LJ Sickles and CARRIED with a unanimous vote of 6-0. It was moved by Councilor D Sickles that the City Council of the City of Falls City approve the Fire Department equipment/operations levy of \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value if approved by the voters. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Meier and CARRIED with a unanimous vote of 6-0. It was moved by Councilor D Sickles that the City Council for the City of Falls City approve the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal year in the amount of \$3,616,575 The motion was duly seconded by Councilor LJ Sickles and CARRIED with a unanimous vote of 6-0.
Resolutions a) Resolution 05-2026 – Budget Approval	It was moved by Councilor D Sickles to approve the Resolution adopting the budget, making appropriations, levying taxes, and electing to receive state revenues for fiscal year 2026-2027. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor LJ Sickles and CARRIED with a ROLL CALL vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Meier, Scruton, D Sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.

b) Resolution 06-2026 – Water Rate Increase This public Hearing is an opportunity for any member of the public to comment on or make requests regarding the proposed resolution increasing user rates for water service. Chair Houghtaling opened the public hearing at pm. Public Comments: Chair Houghtaling closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm	Mr. Foscoli noted that Steve Donovan had done a water rate study last year and the city needed to payback a \$1 Million loan at 1% interest for the next 30 years. Tracy Young asked what the annual payment would be. Mr. Foscoli stated roughly \$45,000. Tina Thompson asked if the sewer would go up. Mr. Foscoli noted the sewer rates were raised the past 5 years. Mayor Bailey stated the sewer and water pipes were so outdated they could burst and these projects would alleviate the breaks and provide clean water. Mr. Foscoli reported the city had 6 water main breaks this year costing roughly \$12,000 to repair old pipes. Ms. Thompson the whole town wasn't done. Mr. Foscoli stated after the project was done the city would have almost all new pipes. Councilor D Sickles noted it was an ongoing process over the years and it cost money for progress. He mentioned fixing leaks was more time consuming than anything. It was moved by Councilor D Sickles to adopt Resolution 06-2026 a resolution adopting new monthly water and stormwater rates on July 1, 2026 through July 1 2030. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor LJ Sickles and CARRIED with a ROLL CALL vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Meier, Scruton, D Sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.
Good of the Order	Mr. Foscoli noted he had spoken about a potential resolution with renter down payments for water and found the city already had that on

	the books. He stated from now on the utility biller would be adding a 2-month fee to new water accounts for deposits. Mayor Bailey asked Councilor Scruton about movies in the park, Councilor Scruton noted there maybe 1 or 2. Council President Houghtaling asked about the supplemental budget resolution. Mr. Foscoli stated the city was waiting for payments from projects and would have a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 30.
Adjourn	There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.
Read and approved this <u>6</u> day of <u>July</u> 2026. Mayor: <u></u> ATTEST: <u></u> City Recorder: <u></u>	