

CITY OF SUMPTER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2026
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 PM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris and Charlie Briscoe. Councilor Sherry Brandt was not present due to travel.

VISITORS:

Matt Armstrong, Richard Summerfield, John Young, Kurt Clarke, Rob Gaslin

APPROVED MINUTES

- a. October 22, 2025 Executive Session Minutes: **MSP:** To approve the October 22nd Executive Session Minutes. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- b. December 09, 2025 Executive Session Minutes: **MSP:** To approve the December 9th Executive Session Minutes. **Councilor Smith/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, and Marsha Demaris voted to approve. Councilor Charlie Briscoe abstained due to absence from meeting.**
- c. December 09, 2025 Workshop Minutes: **MSP:** To approve the December 9th Workshop Minutes. **Councilor Smith/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, and Marsha Demaris voted to approve. Councilor Charlie Briscoe abstained due to absence from meeting.**
- d. December 09, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes: **MSP:** To approve the December 9th City Council Meeting Minutes. **Councilor Smith/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, and Marsha Demaris voted to approve. Councilor Charlie Briscoe abstained due to absence from meeting.**
- e. December 17, 2025 Executive Session Minutes: **MSP:** To approve the December 17th Executive Session Minutes. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, and Marsha Demaris voted to approve. Councilor Charlie Briscoe abstained due to absence from meeting.**

- f. December 17th, 2025 Special Session Minutes: MSP: To approve the December 17th Special Session Meeting Minutes. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, and Marsha Demaris voted to approve. Councilor Charlie Briscoe abstained due to absence from meeting.**

REPORTS

SVFD: Kurt Clarke (FD): Kurt thanked all his volunteers for their work. The fire department responded to one medical call. John Young is reviewing the required training hours to make sure that the requirements are met. Mr. Young is moving forward on some grant work as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Gaslin Report: Mr. Gaslin provided and presented the council with the December budget and bills to be paid for the month. Also advised the council that we need to start thinking ahead for the annual budget coming up in April/May. **MSP:** To approve and pay the bills as presented. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- b. CIS Annual Conference in February: There will be a virtual training conference. Mayor Wise asked if any councilors would like to sit in on these training courses to update their skills. Mayor Wise and Councilor Demaris will participate. There is a \$75 fee for this conference. **MSP:** To sign up for the annual CIS conference. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Briscoe. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- c. Employee Hire: Topic moved from Special Session. The applicants' background and records have all been cleared. **MSP:** To hire Alex Tallman as the new Assistant Utility and Maintenance employee. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve. MSP:** To start the process of removing Tim Jacobson (retiring employee) from all City accounts and access codes and replace them with Alex Tallman as the new employee. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- d. Council Meeting Schedule for January 27th: Council discussed the need to hold the second monthly council meeting. The council decided to keep the second meeting on the schedule. Mayor Wise and the council scheduled a Workshop on January 19th to discuss the upcoming Flea Market, Cemetery Project, and a new w/s line inquiry on Bellview. A second Workshop is scheduled to review the water and sewer ordinances on January 27th.

- e. Pumper Truck: The City of Joseph has a pumper truck in excess that they would like to donate to the City of Sumpter. Council discussed what classes might be needed and what the process would be to get rid of the pumped waste. Council chose to move the topic to a workshop for further discussion.
- f. Zoning: 890 Cracker Creek (Shed): The property meets all the setbacks and city requirements. **MSP**: To approve the shed at 890 Cracker Creek. **Councilor Smith/Councilor Briscoe. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- g. New Address Assignments for Bourne Rd, Bonanza & Cracker St.
 - a. **MSP**: To assign address 580 Bourne Rd to Lot 1700 and 600 Bourne Rd to Lot 1600. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
 - b. **MSP**: To assign address 296 Granite to Lot 3000. **Councilor Smith/Councilor Demaris. . Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
 - c. Council discussed the address presented. There were questions on if it should be a Cracker St or Sumpter Valley Hiway. The topic was tabled until it can be researched further.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Move/upgrade Thermostat at City Hall: The thermostat in the fire station garage needs to be moved to the front entrance of City Hall. **MSP**: To call the electrician to replace and move the thermostat in City Hall. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.**
- b. Cemetery Update: Matt Armstrong presented an update about the budget and upcoming grants. Matt would like to schedule a workshop with the council to discuss a fee schedule and other relevant topics.
- c. Volunteer Park Update: Matt Armstrong advised the council that the committee will be put off until Spring when work can start being planned. The Hometown grant has been submitted and will be announced in February. The city has one year to use the funds.
- d. Dark Sky Update: The Parks Board is moving forward on getting the tailings certified as a Dark Sky Sanctuary.

COUNCILOR COMMENT

Darold Smith: No comment

Marsha Demaris: Please contact the city if you have a broken pipe so we can turn the water off. We do not charge a turn on fee for an emergency. Advised the citizens that there are bills we have to pay to Oregon Ethics and other entities.

Charlie Briscoe: No comment

Linda Wise: Mayor Wise had a meeting with HECO and Ducate in regard to the sewer project. The project area has never had a cultural study and is being requested. Mayor Wise also advised the council about a letter to DEQ to update them on the city's plan being broken down into stages. The city is moving forward with the water meter project and has increased the amount of inventory ordered to accommodate the increased number of new residents and businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kurt Clarke: The FD still has money left in the Wildfire Grant and would like to look into the possibility of getting a fence around the burn pile. Council will look into the topic further.

John Young: Finished the State Fire Marshal Report and the SVFD had 40 calls, 32 medical, 7 fires and 1 mutual aid.

AJOURNMENT: 4:58PM

MSP: To adjourn. Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, and Charlie Briscoe voted to approve.

Approved by the City Council this 10th day of February, 2026.

Approved: 

Attested: 