

CITY OF SUMPTER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Linda Wise, Councilors Darold Smith, Marsha Demaris, Charlie Briscoe, Sherry Brandt

VISITORS

Matt Armstrong, Vern Hollopeter, Deborah Bliss, Richard Summerfield, Jon Patterson, Rebecca Patterson, Jennifer Lake, Lyell Olson, Kurt Clarke

APPROVED MINUTES

July 29, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes. **MSP:** To approve the July 29th City Council Minutes. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.**

August 07, 2025 Workshop Minutes. **MSP:** To approve the August 7th Workshop minutes. **Councilor Brandt/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.**

REPORTS

Fire Department/Kurt Clarke: (FD) There have been no emergency calls since the last council meeting. Training is proceeding well, crew cleaned out the draft points, checked over equipment and it is all ready to go in case of an emergency. Mayor Wise informed Kurt that the city had the fire hydrant on Gazley replaced and it is in working order now.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Gaslin Report: Mr. Gaslin provided and presented the council with July budget and bills to be paid for the month. **MSP:** To pay the bills as presented, except for payment for Eastern Oregon Rentals until full charges are verified. **Councilor Demaris/Councilor Briscoe. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.** Council discussed an evening meeting with Mr. Gaslin and the public. Meeting will be set later for the September 09th date, and flyers will be sent out to the public to inform them.

- b. Upper Tank Inspection: Previously tabled topic is now due for council to approve a company to inspect the upper tank before the weather changes. Council discussed the two quotes for review. **MSP**: To accept the quote from LiquiVision for the upper tank inspection based on the recommendation from Levi Tickner, pricing and availability. **Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Brandt. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.**
- c. Cemetery Expenses: Matt Armstrong presented information that was also discussed in the August 7th Workshop. Matt discussed the need for gravel, stakes, and tags to mark the plots. The city will research the purchase of the gravel, stakes/tags. Matt also plans to start the grass seeding in early fall once the weather cools down.
- d. Employment Advertisement: Council previously met during the August 7th Workshop about employee replacement for when Tim Jacobson retires in early 2026. Changes include adding benefits and certifications for advertisement for utility maintenance position. **MSP**: To move forward with advertising the position for a utility maintenance position. **Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Brandt. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.**
- e. Delinquent Water & Sewer Accounts: Council discussed the increase of delinquent accounts. The local title companies advised the city to inform them when there is a balance due on a property that is in escrow. Council discussed the need to send out notices 10-15 days after nonpayment after second month statement. Council spoke with Mr. Gaslin to correct the billing/invoicing date to match the ordinance to the 25th of the month.

OLD BUSINESS

Street Signs: The volunteer firefighters have completed about a fourth of the signs. Also volunteer hours need to be turned into the city to complete the needs of the report that will be due in the fall.

COUNCILOR COMMENT

Darold Smith: The knapweed is out of control around town. Now that it is blooming, please do not spray, but to cut it down/remove before it goes to seed. Previous county weed control person that was hired for weed control is no longer in the area.

Mayor Wise: City is closing out the water grant and are in preliminary stage for the wastewater project.

No comment from Councilor Demaris, Brandt, and Briscoe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kurt Clarke: Suggested holding city council meetings later in the day a few times a year so that more citizens could attend. Council took this under advisement and will review the schedule.


Matt Armstrong: August 11th was the kick-off of the Baker County Parks Board.

Vern Hollopeter: Congratulated and appreciates the amount of effort the city has placed on fixing the Event Grounds parking area. It is suggested that the chips that are piled up can be used in certain areas to keep improving the parking area.

AJOURNMENT: 4:51PM

MSP: To adjourn. **Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Demaris. Mayor Wise, Councilors, Brandt, Smith, Briscoe, and Demaris voted to approve.**

Approved by the City Council this 26th day of August, 2025.

Approved: 

Attested: 