

CITY OF MORO
MINUTES OF June 3, 2025
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Written minutes may not contain a verbatim record of meeting events. If clarification or additional specific information is desired, please reference any available audio recording.

The Moro City Council met for a regular council meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Perisho (remote), Council President Andy Anderson, Councilors James Alley, and Travis West (remote). Absent: Bryan Cranston. City Staff: John English, Director of Public Works; Brittany Wood, City Administrator; Dan Meader and Jamie Crawford; Tenneson Engineering. Others in Attendance: Roberta Aldrich, and Dan Bubb, Blue Mountain Networks (remote).

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Anderson chaired the meeting due to Mayor Perisho's remote attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, following the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT-

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May Council meeting as presented (**Alley/West**) Councilor West seconded the motion. **the motion carried.** Councilor Alley amended the motion to approve all submitted minutes, including the April 28 Evidentiary Public Hearing, May Council Meeting, May 7 Budget Committee Meeting, and May 28 Budget Committee Meeting. Councilor West seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

The Check report for May was reviewed, including checks # 13799-13813, 15161, with bills totaling \$244,899.75. A motion was made to approve the check report (**Alley/ West**) **the motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (Agenda items ONLY)

None heard.

VISITORS – CORRESPONDENCE –

No correspondence had been received. Council President Anderson inquired whether Henry and Joan Jaeger had contacted City Hall regarding the survey on the Huffman property, which resulted in survey markers being placed in the middle of their barnyard pasture. CA Wood confirmed that the City was aware of the concern and had requested a copy of the survey from Norman Pratt, who is overseeing the development. Staff committed to continuing to investigate the Jaegers' concerns.

OLD BUSINESS-

Project updates/ DPW staff report- Director English reported that water and sewer services had been installed at the new residence on 4th Street, and development work had begun on the new Sherman County Bus Barn. Repairs had been completed on the irrigation mainline and at the Senior Center. Cemetery maintenance was conducted in preparation for Memorial Day, and flower pots were planted along the Main Street corridor. Quotes were obtained and purchases were made for a new lawnmower and a sewer camera through the CIS Sewer Grant. Annual water samples were collected, and brush clearing was completed at Barnum Creek.

City Hall Staff Report- CA Wood reported that the proposed infrastructure funding program had been successfully funded in the amount of \$100,000 per city in Sherman County for FY 2025–2026.

Additional administrative work included audit preparation with Accuity and receipt of the \$5,000 reimbursement from CIS for the sewer camera purchase. As of the meeting date, only 11 households remained to complete the income survey by phone. Two budget meetings had been held in preparation for the FY 2025–2026 budget, and the formal budget hearing was scheduled for a special meeting on June 17, 2025. CA Wood also reported that the City had been awarded a \$92,000 Housing Infrastructure Grant for Dewey Street.

Sewer backup insurance claim- Director English stated that the insurance claim had been initiated on May 10, with a verbal report submitted to Ian at CIS. The City was currently awaiting a response from the other insurance company regarding items not covered under the claim and their reasoning.

Blue Mountain Network Franchise payment and agreement- Dan Bubb- Dan Bubb, CEO of Blue Mountain Networks (BMN), attended remotely to provide background on his previous involvement with Gorge Networks and his return to BMN in 2024. Mr. Bubb stated that BMN acquired GN, but that GN, the Original party named in the Franchise agreement, is still in operation. Bubb acknowledged that a franchise agreement existed with the City but disagreed on certain obligations outlined in the agreement. He advised that if the City Council chose to pursue the full franchise payment of \$36,303.50, the company would seek to recover those costs from its Moro customers, as the franchise fees were never collected from the reported customer base. Mr. Bubb indicated he intended to speak with the Sherman County Court regarding the franchise agreement and ways to remedy this.

The City Council elected to delay a decision on franchise fee collection until after the scheduled County Court session.

.New Business

Review of past due water/sewer accounts- A list of 2 past-due accounts was reviewed.

Tower Alliance- offer to purchase Cell tower lease- Discussion of the cell tower lease offer was tabled until the next Council meeting.

Cemetery Annuity- CA Wood explained that the City maintains two annuities, one held at Bank of Eastern Oregon and one with Nationwide. The Nationwide CD required updated signatories before account information could be released. Resolution 2025-08 was prepared for adoption at the June 17 Budget Hearing/ special meeting. At that time, the Council can consider whether transferring the annuity funds to the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) will increase interest earnings, while retaining the funds' dedication to cemetery use.

Sewer Line Ordinance- City staff reviewed multiple sewer ordinances from surrounding small cities and noted their similarities. The Council directed staff to prepare a draft Sewer Ordinance for review and subsequent legal evaluation by the Council and City Attorney.

Adoption of Ordinance No. 278- City of Moro Zoning Ordinance- A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 278- City of Moro Zoning Ordinance by title only **(Alley/ West) the motion carried. (Cranston absent)**

Adoption of Ordinance No. 279- A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 279- An Ordinance amending the City of Moro's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and repealing the City's 1978 Comprehensive Plan as amended by Ordinance No. 255, and all subsequent amendments to that Ordinance, and Declaring an Emergency, by title only **(Alley/ West) the motion carried. (Cranston absent)**

Adoption Ordinance No. 280- A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 280- An Ordinance amending the City of Moro's Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Map dated March 2007, as amended by Ordinance No. 255 and all subsequent amendments to that Ordinance and adopting the City of Moro's Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Map Dated April 2025, and Declaring an Emergency, by title only **(Alley/ Anderson) the motion carried. (Cranston absent)**

(Councilor West logged out of the meeting remotely)

Authorize approval of contract documents for Dewey Housing Infrastructure Grant- BIZ OR (\$92,000)-
CA Wood reported that the \$92,000 grant was applied for by Michelle Colby of MCEDD and engineer Brad Baird. The Council reviewed the contract documents, including an agreement with Anderson Perry. A motion was made to authorize approval of the grant contract documents(**Anderson/ Alley**) **The motion carried with Councilor West participating by phone call to complete the quorum.**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA-

Resident Roberta Aldrich thanked Brittany and Azure for the weed cleanup near the northwest edge of town, citing its importance in reducing fire risk for neighbors.

GOOD OF THE ORDER-

Mayor Perisho thanked CA Wood for her leadership in budget preparation and securing funding from Sherman County. He also expressed appreciation to Director English for his oversight of the public works crew.

Director English extended thanks to CA Wood for her successful coordination with the County and to Fire Chief Joe Belshe for his assistance in controlled burning along the creek.

Councilor Anderson expressed appreciation to CA Wood for her efforts in securing the County infrastructure grant.

Mayor Perisho and Councilor Anderson agreed to develop a proposal for the next round of street resurfacing, to be presented at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.



Date 07-01-2025

Bert Perisho, Mayor

ATTEST: Brittany Wood Date 07-01-2025
Brittany Wood, City Administrator