

CITY OF MORO
MINUTES OF March 3, 2026
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 council meeting on March 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Bert Perisho, Council President Andy Anderson, Councilors Bryan Cranston, James Alley and David Messenger. City Staff: John English- Public Works Director, Brittany Wood- City Administrator. Visitors: Ray Mabe, 541-XXX-XX30.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Perisho called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT-

A motion was made to approve the February council minutes as presented. **(Cranston/ Alley) Vote: 4** in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried.** The notes from the work session were presented to the Council.

The financial report for February was reviewed, including check # 14024-14042 with bills totaling \$44,933.86. A motion was made to approve the bills as presented **(Anderson/ Cranston) Vote: 4** in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried.** A profit and loss statement by class was also reviewed.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (Agenda items ONLY)

Ray Mabe asked the City Council about the possible locations for the new municipal well currently under discussion. Clarification was also requested regarding the rock being ordered and the naming of Pinkerton Drive as a street for which material was being procured. Council responded that the City did not intend to pave Pinkerton Drive at this time; however, if a developer wished to pave it and the City had bulk material available, the City may be able to sell the material.

VISITORS – CORRESPONDENCE –

None were heard.

OLD BUSINESS-

DPW staff report- Public Works Director English reported that three locates were performed (ODOT, Lumen, and the Road Department). The park restroom door lock was replaced. Barnum Creek was burned for seasonal maintenance. The OHA capacity assessment report was completed. General upkeep and maintenance were performed at the Cemetery and City Park. Coordination occurred with the power company regarding a power pole replacement located at Azure and Van Guilder. One FOIA request regarding a fire hydrant inventory was completed. Utility line maintenance included repair of one broken water pipe and response to two wastewater backups.

City Hall Staff Report- City Administrator Wood reported that she attended County Court for the CEDS prioritization meeting. The City of Moro received a #2 ranking for water system improvements and a #6 priority ranking for sewer upgrades. A service call was initiated with Lumen for a low line along 4th Street. Testimony in favor of SB 1585 was submitted. A funding request for \$2M in support of the water system upgrade projects was submitted ahead of the deadline for Congressionally Directed Funding (also referenced as CIP – Community Investment Programming funds). On February 25 and February 26, CA Wood attended

a virtual CIS conference. It was also shared that City Hall would be closed on March 11.

Review Engineering agreement with Anderson Perry for engineering services for proposed Water System Improvements and Water rate increase discussion for DSWRLF Loan Repayment- CA Wood presented information prepared by Engineer Baird; included were two separate ProForma spreadsheets for the Council packets and a spreadsheet of water utility accounts.

The first spreadsheet, presented as submitted to Business Oregon for project consideration, demonstrated a 1.1 Debt Service Coverage Ratio and indicated water rates would need to be targeted at \$102 per connection to successfully generate the revenue required to repay the SDWRLF loan.

The second spreadsheet in the packet indicated a 1.0 Debt Service Coverage Ratio, which Engineer Baird stated was a better representation of the City's financial obligation to collect revenue for loan repayment. The rate per connection was noted to be \$98.00 per water connection to generate loan repayment.

A spreadsheet of all system hookups by address was then reviewed. This spreadsheet indicated the customer type (residential or commercial). Baird demonstrated that a standard residential hookup would only need to increase approximately \$20.00 per water unit to meet the loan repayment value if heavier rate increases were applied to commercial hookups.

The Council reviewed the data and discussion was held on the material presented. Councilors shared that the amount of the debt was concerning, another acknowledged that with the loan package the City would receive \$2.3M in grant funds that would not require repayment, and that the cost of this type of project would likely increase in the future. Councilor Alley shared that the debt per connection equated to less than \$13,000 per connection.

Questions were asked regarding the historical growth of Moro and whether trends in new construction would continue to match the predicted rates.

Engineer Baird also provided an updated contract with edits required by Business Oregon for this level of project. The edits were highlighted. No motion was made to accept the agreement.

The existing debt of the City was also discussed. CA Wood provided a loan amortization schedule for the 2013 Sewer Lagoon project and informed the Council that the project would be paid in full in 2039.

Council provided general guidance that the City would still like Business Oregon to prepare a staff recommendation for the IFA Board to consider at their April meeting. The Council indicated that once that funding package is prepared, they would determine which route the City would pursue.

Council indicated they would work with local resources to help identify potential well locations.

Project updates if needed- Huffman, Rock Production, Recycling Depot fencing- Council President Anderson shared that he had requested an initial test sample of crushed aggregate to verify quality assurance on size. Additionally, the fencing at the Recycling Depot had been completed by Mobley Fencing and CA Wood was authorized to issue payment for the work.

Sewer Line Ordinance review from Attorney Baum- CA Wood shared that the Ordinance had been reviewed from the City's attorney and minor changes were suggested and made to the document. There was not ample time to review the Ordinance before the council meeting. Council will review the document and will share any concerns with City Staff. Councilor Messenger specifically asked DPW English if there were any areas of the Ordinance that he would provide feedback on, they would be welcomed. The Ordinance will be prepared for a first reading for adoption at the April Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of past due water/sewer accounts- A list of six delinquent water and sewer accounts was reviewed.

Removal of Trees on Hood Street- CA Wood presented a quote, requested by Sherman County, from Tarzan Tree Works, for the removal of four trees located in the row of trees behind the courthouse. Some of the trees pose a hazard to traffic and pedestrians due to significant leaning and low clearance. Council determined that trees located within the City street right-of-way are the responsibility of the abutting property owners to maintain and manage.

Harvest Fest 2026- Dewey Street Closure and sanitation support- A written request from the Frontier

Chamber of Commerce was received requesting the closure of Dewey Street on June 20, 2026, along with additional support from the City for porta potties and sanitation services for the Harvest Fest event. A motion was made to allow the closure of Dewey Street and to provide sanitation support. **(Cranston/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried.**

Railroad Ave rock/ development- Council President Anderson provided a recap of concerns raised by resident Ray Mabe at the previous council meeting and clarified that it is the responsibility of the property developer to pave and develop a street. The City was not planning to develop Railroad Avenue.

Sewer Bond update- This item was tabled.

Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget Calendar approval- The proposed budget calendar was approved by motion **(Alley/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried.** DPW English requested funding allocation for heat in the shop for FY 26/27 Budget.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA-

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER-

Councilor Cranston asked about the deadline for candidates to file for council positions and noted he would not be seeking re-election for his council seat.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 7th, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

 Date 4/7/2026
Bert Perisho, Mayor

ATTEST:  Date April 7, 2026
Brittany Wood, City Administrator