

**CITY OF MORO
MINUTES OF April 7, 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 April 7, 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, Engineering Staff- Brad Baird and Josh Robertson with Anderson Perry. (* indicates remote attendance)

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 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT-

A motion was made to approve the March council minutes as presented. **(Alley/ Messenger) Vote: 4** in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried.** The financial report for March was reviewed, including check # 14043-14062, 15712 with bills totaling \$39,881.34 A motion was made to approve the bills as presented **(Messenger/ Alley) Vote: 4** in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (Agenda items ONLY)

None Heard.

VISITORS – CORRESPONDENCE –

Council reviewed a formal complaint submitted by Philip Wooderson regarding City staff mowing boulevards in residential areas. Council reviewed the report and determined no action was necessary. Staff was directed to continue boulevard maintenance as currently practiced.

OLD BUSINESS-

DPW staff report- Public Works Director English reported that five disconnect notices were delivered for past-due accounts, and one service had been disconnected. Inflow maintenance was completed at the sewer lagoons in preparation for irrigation. Work was performed at the recycling depot yard and burn pile. Sidewalks throughout town were cleaned, and park restrooms were painted and refreshed. The 2025 Cross Connection Report was completed and submitted. Assistant Maintenance Technician Aldrich performed weed abatement along sidewalks and maintenance work at the cemetery. Staff attended a meeting regarding drainage for the County Road Department's new lean-to structure. Routine vehicle maintenance was completed. A dye test conducted on 1st Street yielded favorable results for the City.

City Hall Staff Report- City Administrator Wood reported that she attended County Court regarding the trees on Hood Street, noting that Ordinance 246 identifies property owners as responsible for tree maintenance. She attended meetings with Oregon State Senator Todd Nash to discuss Moro's water system improvements and broader county matters. She also attended town halls hosted by U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, advocating for Moro's water system improvements and the City's submitted Congressionally Directed Spending request.

Significant time was spent preparing for the City's presentation to Business Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Board. Closeout documentation was received for the reservoir floor replacement project, and a repayment schedule was issued, with the first payment due December 2026.

A resident concern was noted regarding an increase in stray cats within the community. Additionally, the City will be formally soliciting a Request for Bids (RFB) for land use planning services to formalize a contract with Bell Design for continued planning services.

Engineering Staff Report- Brad Baird- Engineer Baird presented a project update packet and reviewed the following:

Dewey Street Housing Project: A conceptual layout was presented, pending final survey and lot line confirmation, which showed a similar layout to the current Dewey housing was attainable.

Water System Improvements Project: Baird recapped the IFA Board presentation he and CA Wood attended in Salem on April 3. The IFA funding package was presented as an opportunity to accept \$4,596,000 in funding. Consisting of 50% forgivable loan and 50% low-interest (1%) loan over 30 years. Estimated annual loan repayment was approximately \$89,000 if fully utilized. Engineer Baird noted that project scope could be adjusted to manage costs; however, he emphasized the importance of utilizing the grant portion of the funding.

Water Rates and Future Adjustments: A rate analysis spreadsheet previously presented by CA Wood was reviewed in further detail. The analysis outlined potential rate structures separating residential and commercial users for billing structure. No formal decision was made. Council President Anderson expressed his concern regarding affordability for residents.

Water System Improvements discussion- IFA decision on Water System Improvements- Engineer Baird presented the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Board's approval of the City's requested funding package. He provided an overview of the proposed project sequencing, noting that initial efforts would focus on land acquisition and well siting, followed by well drilling to confirm water yield prior to advancing additional system improvements.

Council discussion reflected general support for proceeding with the project, while acknowledging uncertainty related to well performance. Engineer Baird emphasized that the City currently relies on all three existing wells during peak summer demand and noted that the loss of a primary producing well would place the City in an immediate water shortage situation.

Councilor Messenger stated that the proposed improvements were well presented and expressed support for moving forward. Council President Anderson concurred with this position. Councilor Alley also expressed support, noting the City's need to secure a reliable water supply. Mayor Perisho stated for the record that, based on conversations with community members, there was a clear need for the project to move forward. Councilor Cranston expressed concern regarding the uncertainty associated with drilling a new well, noting that drilling a well is a wildcard. He stated, *"I hope we hit 500, 700, or 1,000 gallons per minute... I want to be cautious. It is a lot of money, and I want that on the record."* When asked for input, Public Works Director English responded, *"I have a lot of thoughts, but I just work here."*

A motion was heard to accept the IFA award package as presented (**Anderson/ Cranston**) Cranston asked for further discussion on the matter and asked what does the City do if the well is drilled and it is dry or under performing. Engineer Baird shared that the first step of construction is to drill the well and then determine. Councilor Alley supported Cranston and shared it is wise to move ahead cautiously. **Vote:** 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried.**

Review water rate increase necessary for loan repayment- Engineer Baird shared that the City has a year and a half to get the water rate increases in place, to ensure the proper revenue is collected for the first loan payment. Councilor Cranston suggested a roll out of CPI increases and a letter be sent to all residents about the upcoming increases and the reason for the schedule.

Review of Engineering agreement with Anderson Perry for Engineering services throughout Water System Improvements- Council was informed that a copy of the agreement was approved by Business Oregon to ensure it met the scope of the work for the funding offered. A motion was made to approve the engineering agreement with Anderson Perry for the engineering work to be performed during the improvements to the Water System. (**Alley/ Messenger**) **Vote:** 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). **The motion carried**

Project updates if needed- Huffman Development- A load of pipe was delivered in early April.
Rock Production- Anderson shared that the ¾ minus has been arriving on site and they are starting to chip rock.

Sewer Line Ordinance- No suggested Council edits were added. CA Wood will send the revised copy to Attorney Baum for legal review. A first reading for adoption was not performed.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Amendment 01 - Project S26005- CA Wood presented a request to amend the existing Business Oregon technical assistance grant, reallocating funds from a leak detection study to a water rate study. A motion was made to approve Amendment 01 for project S26005 to conduct a water rate study. **(Anderson/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried.** A motion was made to engage Anderson Perry to complete the water rate study. **(Anderson/ Messenger.) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried**

Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget work-

Nominate Budget Committee members- A motion was made to appoint Tammy Bartlett to a three-year term on the Budget Committee. **(Anderson/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried.**

CPI- water sewer rate increase- A motion was made to set water and sewer rate adjustments at \$66.00 Water, \$68.00 Sewer, totaling \$134.00 per standard EDU. **(Cranston/ Anderson) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried**

Capital improvements- Council directed additional funding toward the sewer crossing project (CEDS priority #2 FY 26/27.)

Employee Cola/ Merit Raises- It was shared that Sherman County elected to provide a 3.75% COLA raise to all county employees. Anderson suggested a 3% COLA for all employees, to reflect CPI of 2.9%. The consensus was the Council supported that decision. Cranston shared that the City has 3 good employees, and suggested a 4% COLA. Mayor Perisho suggested splitting the difference at 3.5%, reiterating that the City does have 3 very skilled employees. A motion was made to provide a 3.5% COLA increase to all City employees for FY 26/27 **(Cranston/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried.** DPW English and CA Wood did not request a MERIT raise. A wage adjustment consideration was requested on behalf of Assistant Technician Aldrich. Discussion was heard and a motion was made to award a \$1.50/ HR increase, then to apply the 3.5% COLA increase for Aldrich for FY 26/27 **(Cranston/ Messenger) Vote: 4 in favor (Cranston, Alley, Anderson, Messenger). The motion carried**

Public Works equipment and building maintenance request- Priority projects for FY 26/27 were identified as adding a heat source and insulation to the Public Works shop, partnering with the City of Wasco to purchase a locator, Generac Generator maintenance, and to order replacement flags for Main Street.

Sherman County Infrastructure Funding request and fund allocation- CA Wood advised that a reserve requirement would be necessary for the IFA water system loan. Council supported pursuing a \$250,000 infrastructure funding request from Sherman County, with allocations toward the water system loan reserve (CEDS Priority #1) and the Highway 97 sewer crossing project (CEDS Priority #2).

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA-

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER-

Mayor Perisho discussed the potential use of “working out of class” compensation for staff assigned to major projects. This has been done historically for other large items outside of the job description.

Councilor Alley commended council on the thoughtful consideration of the water system improvements.

ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 5th 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

 Date 5-5-2026
Bert Perisho, Mayor

ATTEST:  Date 5/5/2026
Brittany Wood, City Administrator