

BURNS CITY COUNCIL

July 22, 2026

The Burns City Council met in regular session on July 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Members present were as follows:

Mayor: Jen Hoke
Councilor President:
Councilors: Susan Lowe
Shane Brockmann
Bryan Garo
Chase Patterson
Andrew Roy
Tod Gahley

Also, in attendance were City Manager Brenda Engebretson, Public Works Director Ty Richardson, Police Chief Robby Tiller, Fire Chief Scott Williamson, and City Clerk Tiffany Leffler.

SUMMARY

The Burns City Council meeting on July 22nd began with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Public comments were made by Denny LeDoux (851 North Birch), who raised concerns about fire hazards, dangerous parking, and property maintenance issues in his neighborhood, and by Kim Rollins (831 Riverside Drive), who discussed procedural matters related to Robert's Rules of Order. The council approved the agenda with added items, including a road closure request for the Harney County Library's block party and a donation request from Burns High School. Department updates were provided, including progress on infrastructure projects like the Veterans Village, Kearney Street, and the Water Improvement Project. The council approved a resolution to declare a 1977 ladder truck as surplus property. Committee reports covered topics such as the busy airport, R3 fund usage, and ongoing issues with city property and vandalism. Councilors expressed thanks to department heads for their work and discussed the need for improved acoustics in the council chamber. The conversation ended with an invitation to an open house for the Veterans Village.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Rollins (831 Riverside Drive) discussed procedural matters related to Robert's Rules of Order. He said his first comments would be directed to Commissioner Garo's and his comment at the last meeting. Mr. Rollins had informed him that he would bring examples of minute deficiencies and specifics for ORS requirements, and he would do that, but not that evening. He informed them that he had the pleasure of speaking with Mayor Hoke and he enjoyed that they could have a serious conversation and a little banter and laughter with it, too. They discussed many items, but he wanted to mention a couple.

He presented a handout to the council on Robert's Rules Order, point of order (attached). He said at the last meeting, he had some concerns with some stuff that went on. There were several points of order called during the meeting, and he didn't think they weren't all appropriate. He said Councilor Lowe had called one and mentioned the point of order, which he thought was very appropriate. He said it went from there into some argument with other members of the board, and he thought that was inappropriate. Point of order should never interrupt the board with arguments, etc. When there's a point of order, the

chairman takes care of it and takes that point of order discussion, handles that point of order, and rules on it.

After the ruling, any counselor that wants to appeal it can do so with a second member appealing that. When and if a ruling is appealed, then there should be no argument, in his opinion. It depends on how the board handles the appeal by Robert's Rules of Order. The one he suggested was that once it's appealed, it then goes to the book. That settles it. There's no discussion, no arguments, no fights between counselors. That settles it.

He said there were times during that meeting when he had the floor, and he thought there was interruption that was justified. Councilor Gahley had brought up that he would like to discuss each of the four points and he thought that was fine, and he understood why that was. He was a little concerned that when he started on another point, R3, and he had come up with an outline, trying to keep his comments short and sweet, he was not allowed to spend time on that point. He said by being on the agenda without he should get to speak without interruption and he couldn't. He felt the interruption was considered unnecessary and rude. He said he had talked to Mayor Hoke about other people coming in on the agenda, and them being treated differently, and with no interruption during our presentation.

Mr. Rollins wanted to mention that at the last meeting Councilor Gailey, during his time to speak, had a point of order on Councilor Lowes point of order. He said there was no such thing as a point of order on a point of order. He then passed out another handout that was on some details pertaining to Councilor Lowe's point of order (attached).

Denny Ladoux (851 North Birch) addressed the City Council regarding ongoing property issues that he had reported a year earlier. He highlighted concerns about a fire hazard across from his home, including a camper parked on a road edge and a pile of old wood with weeds. He also raised questions about his rights regarding people parking vehicles in the easement behind his shop, expressing frustration about maintaining his property while having to deal with neighbors' mess including vehicles.

AGENDA APPROVAL AND ADDED ITEMS

Mayor Hoke added Harney County Library Block Party road closure to #1 under new business and Donation request for BHS Football to #2 under new business.

Councilor Gahley made a motion to approve the agenda with the added items. Councilor Garo seconded the motion. All Ayes. (7/0)

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2026 –

Councilor Roy wanted to make a change to a comment he had made and felt it was written in the wrong context. He said where it mentioned that Nick Green had no prior knowledge that he would be on for R3, and he had raised issue with that. After that it says, Nick Green was asked to come on to address council. He thought he meant that he had raised the issue that Nick Green was asked to come to council, not that he didn't have knowledge to come on. He also wanted to clarify another part, because someone had brought it up to him. The part where it speaks about a meeting with Jay Harland, he wanted to clarify that it wasn't a meeting with just city staff and two councilors and it was not a specific meeting set aside. They were asked if they wanted to sit in on it, and he just wanted to clear that up.

Mayor Hoke also mentioned a part in the minutes where it should have said she had explained responsibilities and it read reasonability.

City Clerk Tiffany Leffler said she would make those corrections.

Councilor Garo made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the changes. Councilor Roy seconded the motion. All Ayes. (7/0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Public Works Director Ty Richardson said that the department had been busy with the many projects going on this summer and that they have 3 infrastructure projects going on at the same time. He provided updates on three major infrastructure projects: Veterans Village, Kearney Street Improvement, and the Water Improvement Project.

He started with the Veterans Village. He said this project was in its completion phase this week. The public improvements to this project involve storm drainage, ditches, culverts, basins, and swells, water improvement with looping a 4-inch line to an 8-inch line and added additional fire hydrant. There were new streets, curbs, and sidewalks constructed, and the overall project looks great. He encouraged them to take a look, because it really looked great.

The next project, Kearney Street Improvement Project, is in construction, and the roadways have been pulverized and are currently ready for grading and proof rolling. Nine storm drain catch basins have been installed along with piping to Pierce Street Drainage Ditch. This will help the flooding intersections caused by any stormwater runoff and help save the newly installed asphalt. Paving for the new road will start next week, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Public Works Director then spoke about the Collection system improvement project. He said HECO engineers in the City of Burns have been working on documentation submission for a ledger. This ledger explains to DEQ the sewer pipe repairs in relation to what saves for the flow involving in the I&I, or infiltration. This was a main request from DEQ, and the main area of focus is Foley Drive. That repair would consist of cured-in-place piping. He said this still had to be designed and submitted to DEQ for approval. Once DEQ approves it, they can build out bid docs and prepare it to go out for bid. This will fulfill some of the outlined requirements in the MOA with DEQ.

He talked about the Water system improvement project stating it started in May. This project has been one of their main priorities. There have been many challenges to the project for the City of Burns and Steel Earthworks. They have come across many unknown water lines in the areas of construction. Water lines have been hit and fixed in a timely manner. He said their maps and documents from the past are what they rely on for any information on their system, and unfortunately water lines have been missing on many documentations in the past. He said he was talking about the 1940s and 1950s eras of piping, so it's been a long time.

He informed them that while they are on the job site, they always have city personnel, engineers, Inspectors and archaeologists. He said Still Earthworks and Keller Associates have been great to work with during this project. The communication between everyone has been great and he has daily briefings with the engineers, inspectors, and Still Earthworks, and a weekly team meeting with the personnel of the whole project. Still Earthworks has installed 13,200 linear feet of pipe, which is a little over 50% of the mainline installation for the project. None of the new mainlines are currently active yet. There are testing and treatment procedures that need to be completed before a new water pipe is active. This project is slated to go into the end of November and early December, so they still have a long time for this project to be done.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Road Closure Request – Harney County Library –

Cheryl Hancock with the Harney County Library informed the council that they are having their annual block party after their summer reading program. This year, it is going to be on Tuesday, August 4th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. She said they would like to close D Street in front of the library so it's safer for everybody, and so that they can also have their duck race out there. She said they were asking if they could close it between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., so they have time to get ready for the block party itself. She also informed the council that they were all invited.

1. Donation Request -Burns High School Football – Amie Scott –

No one was present at the meeting to represent the Burns High School. City Clerk Tiffany Leffler said she would reach out to Amie Scott and reschedule it for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. RESOLUTION NO. 26-828 -A resolution declaring certain equipment owned by the City of Burns to be surplus property and indicating the intent and method for the disposal of such surplus property.

Fire Chief Scott Williamson said it was a 1977 Sea Grace 100-foot ladder truck. He explained the ladder truck's current condition and potential recipients, including Grant County and the Oregon Fire Service Museum.

Councilor Garo just wanted to make sure that they don't get rid of this one before they have the other one running.

Councilor Patterson made a motion to read Resolution No. 26-828 by title only. Councilor Garo seconded the motion. All Ayes. (7/0)

Councilor Gahley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-828. Councilor Patterson seconded the motion. All Ayes. (7/0)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

City Manager Brenda Engebretson reported that Mr. Rollins had asked them to check into communication accommodations, and she had been in touch with Nancy Walker, the city's IT person. She informed the council that she would be there the next day to take a look at the city's system and see what might work best in this room. She said it was in process and was going to take some time, but that Nancy may even have some things already on hand, but they would not know until she came in the next day.

City Manager Brenda Engebretson informed the council she would bring the chamber agreement to the next council meeting. She had a rough draft of it, but the city attorney wanted to have a meeting with her on Tuesday to go over some details that might need to be in it.

City Manager Brenda Engebretson reported that Nick Green would be emailing her some dates for the URA and R3 meetings, and she would get those dates to them so that they can determine when to have another meeting or educational work session. They also talked about doing a work session for the city charter. After speaking with Mayor Hoke, she thought she could do a little bit of the background work for it. She said the League of Oregon City has an outline of a generic charter, and she could maybe take that charter and see the important things that maybe need to be in a current charter, and kind of map it out that way. She informed them that when she was done with that, she would get them the information. It may make the work session flow a little bit better and be a more beneficial use of their time, if they were okay with that.

Fire Chief Scott Williamson provided an update on the airport, noting increased activity due to fires and issues with the Jet A fuel system, particularly regarding credit card acceptance and pump limitations.

Councilor Gailey provided updates on R3 and URA projects, including approval of a \$17,000 down payment for prefabricated wall panels for three buildings at Miller Springs. He shared an email from Nick Green regarding the \$10 million grant, noting that while most funds have been expended, there is still approximately \$450,000 remaining, with ongoing quarterly reporting required until all funds are used. The response from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services confirmed that the current reporting and fund recycling practices are appropriate and in compliance with grant agreements.

The meeting focused minorly on parking and property issues in the area. Councilor Patterson raised concerns about vehicles parked on city easements and requested Police Chief Robby Tillers's attention to these problems.

Police Chief Robby Tiller explained current parking rules, including requirements for insurance and valid registration, and mentioned that citations had been issued for ordinance violations. The discussion also covered recent vandalism incidents, with the Chief requesting business owners to report damage costs for potential criminal mischief classification.

An announcement was made about the upcoming Veterans Village open house on August 7th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Councilor Gahley was asked by Mr. Rollins to speak about the research he had done on acoustics in the Council Chambers. He said anyone who has issues with hearing could agree that the acoustics were not good. He had looked at some of the things that it requires and a setup like this, where the room is long and going short, with two walls that bounce back and forth much closer than if it went the other way. He informed the council that one of the things that they recommend was that they should have 120 square feet of sound deadeners. That's about 15 of them on the side walls and about half that are behind the council. They also recommend considering the room that the meeting is in. The high ceilings are also a problem and cause problems with noise. They recommend what they call cloud tiles, which essentially are these things that only go on the ceiling. He said one of the things the city is doing correctly is their microphones because they are much better with the bleed-over and stuff. Some places put microphones in ceilings that will pick that up, but with the high ceilings, that really wouldn't work well here. He did some research on a thing that they call mix-minus routing, which he didn't think would work well for them because of the speakers that are above their heads.

Councilor Gahley said Mr. Rollins had mentioned an Assistive Listening System, which would essentially give people that are hard of hearing, a way to put something right in their ear that would pick directly up from the mic, essentially putting a speaker directly in your ear to hear. He

said as Mr. Rollins had said it was a legal requirement that they should have for public meetings. He informed the council and Mr. Rollins that was being looked into.

NEXT STEPS

1. City: Revise the road closure request form language to clarify that road closures for events should go to the police and fire departments for notification, not necessarily to the Council.
2. Public Works: Provide barricades for the Harney County Library's road closure on August 4th.
3. City Staff: Reach out to Amy regarding the Burns High School donation request to have her present at the next meeting.
4. City Manager: Bring the chamber agreement draft to the next council meeting after meeting with the city attorney on Tuesday.
5. City Manager: Receive dates from Nick Green for the next URA and R3 meetings and distribute them to the council.
6. City Manager: Conduct background work on the city charter using the League of Oregon Cities' generic charter outline and prepare information for a future work session.
7. Chief Williamson: Ensure the new ladder truck is operational before disposing of the old ladder truck.
9. Chief Tiller: Follow up with Denise LeDoux after the meeting to clarify the location of the property with the parking and nuisance issues.
10. City Council, Chief of Police Robby Tiller, and City Staff: Encourage business owners and the public to report vandalism and provide cost estimates for damage to law enforcement.

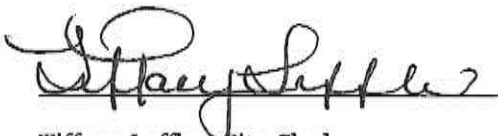
ADJOURN

Mayor Hoke adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

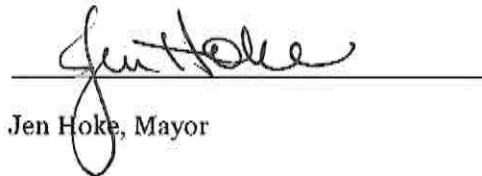
Recording for July 22, 2026, City Council meeting:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/XQnDbvigoS3ndhJt_dCQ5KdL2TelWwv4WBooyfDoCUQSK_rKoaPUjzjB6w2uZoHq.nmZYNrVp4KA5O5s5?startTime=1784768465000

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Tiffany Leffler, City Clerk



Jen Hoke, Mayor