

1 City of Prairie City
2 Council Meeting
3 May 14, 2025

4
5 **Attendance:**

6 Mayor Ed Clark
7 Councilor Bradford
8 Councilor McClung
9 Councilor Davis
10 Councilor Patterson
11 Councilor Clark
12 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder
13 Marvin Rynearson, Fire Chief
14 Rob Gaslin, CPA
15 Ben Richardson, Museum Director

16 **Visitors:**

17 Larry Johnson
18 Eddy Negus
19 Dave Traylr
20 Richard Friese
21 Chael Skupa
22 Bob Van Voorhis
23 Juann Rubio
24 Frank Ordway
25 Pam Gangler
26 Mary Brown
27 Frances Preston
28 Sue Malaney

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30 Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:08pm, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and
31 the roll call was taken. Councilor Whale-Murphy was gone with an excused absence.

32 **Recognition of Visitors:** No one signed up for public comment.

33 **4th of July Celebration:** Mayor Clark called for volunteers as the event is quickly
34 approaching. Help Needed: Volunteers from council and public for parade, horseshoe pits,
35 judging, logistics, food, music, entertainment, and general organization.

36 Grand Marshal Selection:

37 List read aloud; suggestions included Blaine & Ann Huffman, Merritt & Marlene Woodley,
38 Lynn McDonald.

39 Decision: Approach Blaine & Ann first, then go down the list if they decline.

40 Theme Selection:

41 Multiple ideas discussed; "United We Stand" selected as event theme.
42 Specific help requested for event operations (e.g., horseshoe pits, parade, float sign-up,
43 porta potty arrangements, food/music coordination).
44 **Law Enforcement:** Law Enforcement Funding (House Bill 3328)
45 Background: Grant County now eligible to use forest reserve/timber sale road funds for
46 law enforcement expenses.
47 Current Status: County added to eligible list via House Bill 3328 (effective May 7).
48 Funds may cover sheriff's department/patrols, reducing city's direct financial obligation.
49 Next Steps:
50 Workshop scheduled for May 21 to gather community input and discuss implications for
51 city budget.
52 The city will maintain the budget line for law enforcement but may not need to spend it.
53 Copies of the bill and related ordinances were distributed for council review.
54 **Minutes:** The minutes of April 9, 2025, were considered. **MSP: To approve the minutes of**
55 **April 9, 2025, Councilor Patterson/McClung. All present voted in favor.**
56 **Resolution No 2025-04:** A resolution to adopt the First Amended and Restated Employee
57 Handbook of the City of Prairie City.
58 Overview: Adoption of amended and restated employee handbook, reviewed by city
59 attorney.
60 Discussion:
61 The effective date is edited to July 1, 2025. **MSP: To approve Resolution 2025-04 adopting**
62 **the First Amended and Restated Employee Handbook effective July 1, 2025. Councilor**
63 **Davis/Councilor McClung. All voted yes unanimously.**
64 **OPRD:** Recreation Plan & Committee
65 Background: Grant funds to develop a city recreation master plan.
66 Contractor Update: HECO (engineering firm) to be hired (Catalyst unavailable). Mayor
67 sought consensus.
68 Plan Purpose:
69 Identify and prioritize recreation improvements (e.g., splash pad, dog park, trails).
70 Required for future grant applications for recreation funding.
71 Committee Formation:
72 Seeking 3 council members + 3 community members (business owners or residents).
73 Volunteers solicited; public notice to be issued.
74 Action Items:
75 Appoint/confirm committee members.
76 Schedule town hall meetings for public input.
77 Engineer to work with committee and community.
78 **City Real Estate:** (Asset Liquidation)
79 Proposal: Sell public works building and recycling building (underutilized by City).
80 Rationale:
81 Generate city revenue, return property to tax rolls, potential for a member of the public to
82 start a new business use.
83 Public works director confirmed buildings not needed.

84 Considerations:
85 Check for deed restrictions on public works building donated by Peachy DeWitt.
86 Estimated Values:
87 Public Works: ~\$172,000 (commercial).
88 Recycling Building: \$48,000-\$60,000.
89 **MSP: To begin process to sell both properties. Councilor McClung/Davis. All voted yes**
90 **unanimously.**

91 **Law Enforcement:**
92 Deputy Sheriff Zack Mobley: The County received 229 calls for service (since the start of
93 year), possibly more due to reporting methods.
94 Reports distributed to council.

95 **Accounts Payable:** Gaslin read out loud the financial overview and went through the
96 appropriations review. The Council reviewed the check detail. **MSP: To pay the bills**
97 **Councilor Patterson/McClung. All members voted Yes.**

98 **Fire Department** (Fire Chief Marvin Ryneason)
99 Fire Season Outlook:

100 Extreme risk expected (drought, low soil moisture, increased escaped burns).
101 PPE upgrades underway.

102 **Legion:** American Legion Hall Water/Sewer Issue
103 Background: 2008 council motion exempted Legion from water/sewer charges.
104 Recent policy: end all free water; Legion was to billed.
105 Proposal:
106 Continue honoring exemption by having city (general fund) pay water/sewer bill on
107 Legion's behalf, via internal transfer (avoids "free" designation, maintains transparency)

108 Resolution:
109 Staff to draft resolution to formalize payment process and include legion as part of the
110 City's water bill. All Council agrees.

111 Water Rate Resolution Changes:
112 Status:
113 All changes effective June; will appear on July 1 bills.

114 **Adjourn: MSP: To adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:26pm Councilor Scott**
115 **Clark/McClung. All in favor.**

116 Approved by the City Council on this 14th day of May 2025, and signed by the Mayor.

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119 _____
120 Ed Clark, Mayor

121 Attested:
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123 _____
124 Shonalie Oakes, City Recorder

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