

North Powder Council Meeting
Minutes
June 2, 2026
City Hall (340 E Street)
6PM

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Alan Brown called meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Don McClure, Don Clark, Becky Sturm, Midge Clause, Josh Guthrie, Lindsey Thompson and Alan Brown

Public Comment:

Mary Jones asked what the city's protocol was for the situation we just had when the power went out? She stated that small cities have a designated priorities call list for people and wanted to know if this happened.

Don stated that there was a lightning strike nearby. Kicked both breakers off that go to the pumps. The generator fired up but did not send power to pumps. After first complaint, went to check and the breakers were tripped. Fixed this. Currently waiting for the manufacturer to return call to get an automatic call list down there.

Mary asked if we have a water committee, it would be Public Works, Mayor and couple other council members priority list to call.

Would like to see citywide email and text emergency numbers that we can send out one text, one email that notifies everybody. DEQ requires us to notify all household members door to door flyers, take 3 places in town and get a primer right away.

Terri Brown: Talked about the Firewise meeting last month with the Firewise Coordinator and Chris Paul, wildfire specialist with Oregon Fire. It was very good information on how to keep homes safe, how to harden homes and the dangers.

Amend/Accept Agenda: Lindsey Thompson motioned to accept agenda, Don Clark 2nd, passed unanimously

Amend/Accept Minutes: Lindsey Thompson motioned to table minutes for revisions, Don McClure 2nd passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable: Alan Brown asked for question/discussion on Accounts payable list. Midge made motion to pay the bills, Don M 2nd the motion, vote passed unanimously.

Library Report:

Received an email from Union County Library Foundation and are donating \$1700.00 for books for kids and adults. Summer Reading Program starts June 5 from 11-12. Each Friday will be a different theme/books. Started a "what's happening North Powder" board. Started a notebook with jobs listed.

Public Works Report:

The water tested good after the outage on Friday. Been taking cattails out of the lagoon. The black stuff in the water is a chemical reaction with chlorine and manganese. It is harmless, should be fixed in about 2 weeks. Josh stated that if the hydrants are flushed it may work. Don is working with Dave Johnson, and it is not a 1-man job.

Recorder Report:

The new billing system is getting there, still have some things to transfer over. Hoping to get it done by the end of the week to print the billing out.

Update on the tire violation. DEQ has issued a civil penalty of \$22,552 for operating a waste tire storage without a permit. They issued him a warning letter, and they didn't correct it back in December.

Three applications have been received for the public works part time position. I would like to get these scheduled for next week.

Mayor's Report: Mayor stated that he helped Don post notices on all the doors Friday. We are trying to work our way through modernizing reverse 911 so everyone knows something is up. The FFA flowers from the High School are up. We will put the rest up after the lamp posts are put back. Bruch pile looks awesome. Thank you Don for doing it repeatedly. Library looks awesome, Midge. Water/sewer is fine.

Are there any questions for me on water.

Josh asked if there was a way to notify everyone that the water is good? Alan stated that with 222 services we could not go door to door again. We posted on Facebook and the radio announced it. In the future maybe simply a barricade sign that we can put "The water is clear" or "Don't drink the water". We can put barricades at all the main intersections. Email and the text would be the next logical step to take.

Karry MacDiarimid: Question about the \$22,000 fine, who will end up being responsible for it? Who pays for it? Who is accountable for it?

The owner of the property will be responsible for it. It is for all those tires being around and he is out of compliance with DEQ. That money will not come out of the city. It will be the owner's responsibility.

One more thing on the water, we are all flushing it out with groundwater. It has been recommended that we run water to flush it out. How are we getting the billing done and seeing if there's overage? There shouldn't be any overages. Will keep an eye on the billing and go from there.

Dave Hoene mentioned that maybe we could put up a city bulletin board somewhere either by the sign, the city sign at the café or down here. There was discussion on an actual bulletin board and one at City Hall in a locked case.

I have finished 6-month review for Becky and 90-day review for Don. For Becky, her review was exemplary. I am recommending an 8.7% increase in her pay to get her over the top of where Beth was. It is about a dime more than Beth at \$23.00- per hour. Lindsey stated that there is a 5% allowed in the budget for a cost-of-living increase. There wasn't regular discussion with Jason about where she was in the position or where Don was in the organization. That 5% increase is in the budget for both her and Don. How much was her increase on her 90-day? We gave her \$1 hour increase. Midge made motion to approve the 8.7% raise, Don McClure 2nd, 3rd – Midge, Don Clark Don McClure and 2nd Lindsey Thompson and Josh Guthrie.

I went to Don about a 5% raise at his 90-day review. Don decided he wanted 18.5%, which would be about \$3.75 an hour over what he is making now putting him at \$24.00 hour. His current wage is \$20.39. He is working on his Water and Sewer certifications and has taken 2 certification classes on heavy equipment and backhoe. I am doing everything that I possibly can to keep his hours at 40 but his workload is enormous. If nobody helps on the weekends, he will have that as overtime. The testing must be done. Midge motioned to give Don \$24-hour, Don C 2nd, 2nd – 2nd Lindsey Thompson and Josh Guthrie. Mayor broke tie to give Don \$24 per hour.

New Business:

Letters of Intent for Council members. The first one is Dave Hoene: Participated in these meetings for about six years, almost seven. Stayed on top of things, trying to follow everything that's going on. Has concerns about our water, our tax base. We need to build this town out. Lots of empty lots that are sitting in this town right now that need to be built on, by doing that we will raise our tax base without raising our personal taxes. Would like to see more multi-unit buildings going in. Another thing is improving our water system and finding a way to get this done.

Kery MacDiarmid: I have lived here 9 years. I have spent time in the city council meetings and tried to keep up with what was going on. Retiring in the next few years and looking at trying to be able to invest my time in a place where I know I would like to see this become a nice, safe, and affordable community. I jump in without knowing anything at all. I learn very fast and I am very persistent, hardworking person. I like what Dave's ideas were here. I see a lot of open potential here to be able to do things. I don't want to see the small revenue. People that are still here living in this place being taxed to death. I do not want to see this town crumble upon itself. This is a beautiful place to live and I think that if we were to find a way to be able to make it so that one of the things that I do see often here is that there isn't an awful lot of support for local business. There should be more local business here. Thank you.

Midge made motion, Don Clark 2nd, 3 yes, 2 nays

David Hoene was sworn in by Becky Sturm, City Recorder.

Resolution 2026-R1: This is a resolution to proceed with the application for asbestos abate and demolition of the old library/city hall building. The debt control doesn't affect the budget. Quick update, there was money that we needed to have upfront to the tune of almost exactly \$4,000 to write the grant. In order to get an extension on the grant to June 18, I had dropped the amount to six figures. It cannot be over \$100,000. Of that \$100,000, 20% must be in kind match and that can be local labor or volunteer. Somebody has an excavator. Don can contribute time to pull the slab. I don't know if the entire building is sitting on a slab or part of the building, but the slab must come up. We have to have a new slab for our restroom. Got some quotes from the garbage company to help us with the dumpsters. To the best of my knowledge at this point, that for a hundred plus the in-kind match and the \$4,000 that we need up front to write the grant.

Midge and I met with Paul Andres, Union County Commissioner. I took him on a little mini tour. He stated, "I can put stuff in the works to get you \$2,500 right up front to help you towards that amount." Plus, potential additional monies to go with that. This is the reason I am presenting this resolution to council. My request is that we cut loose up to \$1,000 depending on what we get from the county and from a transient tax grant to make that \$4,000 and keep the ball rolling. June 18 is close and we will write it once.

Josh: Talk to risk management. I know they were going to cover \$100,000 if they paid for it.

Don M. Only if it falls. The only time they will come in is if it collapses. We cannot ask them in advance for money.

Alan: I want to be perfectly clear to everybody; I told Paul the same thing. This is not about a park. This is not about a restaurant. This is about dangerous buildings. That's the number one thing, and that's what I presented to everybody, including Paul when he came out and went "wow, this thing's lean and heavy". I let him know that I have always been concerned about snow load and the way that thing's put together.

Josh: What are they going to do with the two wells that are there?

Alan: The entire back half will be left alone, undisturbed. This is just for the wooden structure and then at the end, this is just a dream right now, at the end of that wellhead building where the cement and the cinder blocks are is where I want to put a new slab and tuck the restroom.

Midge: The Commissioners are going to cover the \$4,000 for the grant writing, which is very kind.

Alan: What I am asking for is, if in his research and the actual writing of checks, we come up a little short, making that \$4,000, I would like your approval to make sure that going forward, we can do that. I want to secure the grant first because June 18 is right around the corner. If we lose June 18, it's gone. I just want us to go forward. Linsey made motion to accept Resolution 2026-R1, Don McClure 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Letter of support is the one of the things that helps us push it over the top. Just simply put your name at the top. I have given these to people in town that have children and to the school. I would appreciate it if you guys would sign one as well. This is for the rehabilitation grant for North Powder Park, because that's what it is officially called.

Water Tower Graffiti: attempts to cover up were not satisfactory. It was mentioned that it could be cleaned up when the star is put up and removed. The star will stay permanently up. We do not have the proper safety equipment for anyone to go up and clean/paint over the graffiti. It was mentioned that maybe the Fire Department would have the proper equipment. Will have to find out what certifications and requirements we would have to get to go up there. Don McClure stated that as a person who lives in this community, he will write a \$500 check to go towards this park in any way the city can use it.

Alan: anything else? Let's call it a day. Thanks everyone.

Council Comments: None.

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 pm