

North Powder Council Meeting
Minutes
July 7, 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:

Lisa Hill commented that she is here because she wrote a letter to the Mayor, City Council members and the City Manager and it went to the City Recorder. She did call Becky and acknowledged receipt of the letter. The letter is to address your meeting requirements by the State of Oregon and possible conflict of interest regarding members. I am providing this because I have concerns that not everyone received a copy of my letter. I have copies and what to drop them over here so everybody can read the letter and pass it around. Thank you very much for your time.

Linda Dison: We own the property up on 2nd St where my son lives. I took some pictures because today I pulled down the driveway and just about got sideswiped. There are some trailers and vehicles blocking the whole line of sight there. There's someone living there that's been there for a couple of months now. There's junk on both walls. It's junk on both sides of the sidewalk so if you're riding a bike or walking your dog, it's not real convenient. The main thing is pulling out of that driveway, you cannot see. Is there anything the city can do about it?

Mayor stated that the city can do something and this issue has been in a roundtable discussion for as long as I've been on the council. The State police have been informed and said it was a city issue. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Bonnie Findley: Here on behalf of the Huckleberry Festival Committee. Wanted to make a call for volunteers. Clean up day for the festival is scheduled for July 26 at 6pm, will meet at the Grange. We can use all the help we can get, pushing brooms and taking down weeds. I would like to make a formal request to utilize the city office parking lot for the car show. We will, of course, work with the library and the church to make sure that everyone has all the space that they need and that we are not blocking anyone or disrupting any attendees. I will be submitting a map of where we will have our bathroom placement.

Mayor: asked for opinions from the council.

Midge stated that would be fine.

Mayor asked council if this was, ok? Council agreed

Myron Miles: Stated that he has had issues with the sewer lagoons ever since we bought the ranch 40+ years ago. A year and a half ago, the city had to dredge the sludge out of the sewer pond. Against a lot of advice, I agreed to let them spread the sludge on our fields. The sludge pumpers didn't get it all and had to do it over last March. There was some damage to our field. The main reason I am here is the city was to reopen the pipeline, the freshwater pipeline that goes out across us to the lagoon. They cut the pipe because they thought the usage was too high. He was told that the city has no money to pay for a right-of-way, and I stated that if I could have two outlets on the water line, you can put the pipeline in. We were also supposed to be allowed to add water to the city sprinklers. My question tonight is when is this going to happen?

Mayor: You have been at the top of the list.

Don McClure: could you meet on Friday?

Mayor: Myron will need to contact Don McClure or myself, and we can set up an appointment in the future because this has been at the top of the list. There are other questions about was there a meter on the line before? Do we need to have a meter on it afterwards? I want to be in the loop.

Myron: Agreed to meet and work things out.

Mike Wisdom: Stated he is on the agenda tonight for an Ordinance. He asked if he could add employee handbook matters under that for him to discuss. Don McClure motioned to postpone until next meeting, Midge 2nd, pass unanimously.

Amend/Accept Agenda: Don McClure made motion to accept the agenda, Midge 2nd passed unanimously/

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Amend/Accept Minutes: May 12, 2026, minutes – motion, Midge, 2nd Don McClure passed with 6 votes, Josh Guthrie abstained from vote.

May 20, 2026, Motion Lindsey Thompson, 2nd Don Clark, passed unanimously

May 27, 2026, Budget Committee must vote on this.

June 2, 2026, Budget Hearing meeting, Motion, Lindsey Thompson, 2nd Midge, 5 yes Josh Guthrie abstained from vote.

June 24, 2026, Budget Hearing meeting. Motion, Midge, 2nd, Dave Hoene, passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable: Lindsey Thompson asked about Don McClures' reimbursement for fuel. It was explained that the card readers at the gas station were out at this time. Motion to pay the bills, Dave Hoene, 2nd, Midge Clause passed unanimously.

Library Report: Midge stated that the summer reading program was fun. Library had several kids that attended and we had a lot of fun. On June 26 we hosted a story telling time with Maurizio Valerio with the Ford Family Foundation. We had approximately 22 people who attended. Lunch and water were provided afterwards. We would like to start a storytelling session and encourage people to tell their stories. I will be hosting a session from time to time in the library. The kids who attended the summer reading program painted rocks and then hid them throughout the city. If you find one, please bring it into the library for a prize. We've had a lot of attendance and participation.

We will be selling books and audio books at the Huckleberry Festival. We have new books that we are going to be purchasing. I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help me get ready for the festival. So, if you have some spare time, please come in and we'll talk about when you can volunteer to help.

I am asking people not to drop off books when the library is closed. Right now I can't accept any more books until after the Huckleberry Festival.

Public Works Report: I got the hydrants flushed and then everyone was upset. Water District from CHD came and tested the water, all checked out good. We got a letter from DEQ with a fine of \$10,900 from 2003-205 that has now been waived.

I would like to recommend an applicant for the public works position. Would a member of the committee like to address this as I was not a part of that.

Don Clark: We interviewed several people, everybody was outstanding I thought, but we had the one that really stood out that we want to recommend.

Alan Brown: Mr. Clark, are you in the room tonight? Thanks for coming.

Don Clark motioned to hire Matthew Clark, Midge 2nd, vote was 5. Don McClure abstained from voting.

Alan Brown: The vac truck, I would like the council's permission to junk it and get rid of it for scrap.

Don McClure: we made a motion a year ago to do that. It didn't get done.

Alan Brown: and it is a sitting piece of iron with a blown motor.

Don McClure: B & K will haul it off for scrap and I will get an estimate asap.

Josh Guthrie: Can we follow through with what was already voted on and list it for sell?

Alan Brown: Who would like to? If we are going to follow through because we haven't had anybody step forward. I do not want to add anything else to Becky's plate. We need to have someone with the experience to make time investment to find out what it's worth, and with a blown engine if it is worth anything. Submit if we want to move forward with that. That's great, but no one has done that at this point.

If we are going to do this, let's have a team of a couple people get together and move forward and take this on. If you do want to list it and do want to scrap it, because talking about it doesn't fix it. We would need to get a certified mechanic here to look at it and give us an assessment of what's wrong.

Josh Guthrie: That's money, but we agreed previously that we were just going to advertise it and put it out to bid for sale without doing an inspection.

Alan Brown: I don't remember us talking about not doing an inspection, but I certainly do remember us talking about trying to sell it for 4 years. The dump truck is a whole other issue. We can bring that up at another meeting.

Josh Guthrie: Take both at the same time, just put them both on there first thing in the morning.

Don McClure: We couldn't not just the vac truck separately. I would like to see a committee of three put together if we're going to move forward with this to get those numbers together before we list it.

Alan Brown: Are we in agreement with the need to list before we do that? Is it the general agreement.

Josh Guthrie: Another thing is we have an asset inventory list. We need to ensure if it's on there or not.

Becky: It is on there. I brought a list to council.

Alan Brown: If it is on there, all we have to do is make a phone call and cancel the insurance. It's that simple.

Do we have a motion either to move forward to get a committee together, pay the money to have somebody come out and go through it and give us an estimate on what it's going to cost, or do we want to scrap it? Make a motion to scrap it or tow it away.

Lisa Hill: (from the audience) take pictures of it, do a write up of what is wrong with it and post it on Craigslist.

Don McClure: We have done that and nothing.

Lisa Hill: You might want to try it one more time and just see. If you cannot sell it on Craigslist, then it is not in your budget to repair it. Suggest that you do it for scrap metal.

Alan Brown: Motion to go forward with one or the other.

Dave Hoene: Equipment will get to a point where it's not worth putting the money back into it. It's just not worth putting money into.

Dave Hoene made motion to scrap the Vac-Truck, 2nd Midge, 4 yes, 1 no – Josh, 1-abstained – Don McClure.

Recorder Report: Almost have the new billing system up and ready. Just a few more reads in there and then I will be printing statements. I apologize that they are late but had to hand key both current and previous reads into the system.

There is an audit report from Solutions and a financial statement for you guys. There's a plan of action here that will need you guys to read and approve.

Linda Dixon: Asked the councilors if they get their packet early to go through and read them. stated that they shouldn't have to watch them read their packet during the meeting.

Becky: The councilor's packets are usually ready on the Thursday before the meeting. I send them an email letting them know when they are ready.

There was some discussion about the council being prepared for each meeting, so it is not dragging on. It was mentioned that each councilor is responsible for getting their packet and arriving prepared for each meeting.

Alan Brown: Motion to accept the plan of action moving forward. Motion made by Lindsey Thompson, 2nd Don Clark passed unanimously.

Code Of Ethics agreement was given to each councilor. Please review. I would like to have each committee member and councilor read and sign this to protect them from any false accusations they may surface regarding ethics. This will be postponed until the next meeting. We will move forward with it then.

Dave Hoen: We got news that Mike Wisdom had set up a written agreement with the County previously. We were going to have our own court, but we didn't know that Mike Wisdom set up an agreement with the county to let the county do court work. We have that in operation. Now what we've got to do is find out how they're going to want paperwork, how the Ordinances will be handled. It is probably going to be easier in the long run if we use the county. Currently looking to see if we will be making citations to be presented to Union County Courts.

Alan Brown: At a previous meeting you had mentioned you would volunteer to be the ordinance officer, are you still interested in that? The original papers that were given to us had that were previously approved by council. It was back in 2019-2020, right in the middle of COVID. I have made some changes and some amendments to that to shorten it from a 4-step program to a 3-step program. I submitted that to be typed up but we were unable to get that done for this meeting. I will present that at the next meeting. Step 1 was to have personal contact. I am very concerned about that; I do not want there to be door knocking or any kind of personal contact. I will present that to you guys at our next meeting.

Dave Hoene: With the intergovernmental agreement that we have. Al has touched base with Paul Andreas and he has assured us that we will have somebody to help enforce our ordinances for us. Motion to postpone Don McClure, 2nd Midge Clause passed unanimously.

Becky: After our situation with the boil water notice. I have been investigating a mass communications system to alert our residents. The company is called CivicPlus. They set it up to personalize it. Whether you prefer email, text

or voice call this system can do it. You make your templates, up to 15 of them. There is some information and a quote in your packet for your review. The cost is \$3,000 per year. We were ordered to notify all the residents with the last boil water notice. We had to put a notice on every single door in town. That took a lot of time. We must get water samples to the lab in Prineville as soon as possible. Don McClure's wife was nice to take it halfway for us. That is what drove the hunt for an alert system.

Terri Brown: We went to Fire wise meeting last week, they talked about, at length, the different kinds of systems that are out there and what would be working in one community as compared to another community. We have a very diverse communicating system. I wanted to clarify that this system will let you use a landline, text message, email, flip phone, phone call – the people can access emergency information.

Alan Brown: In a small community, we could get everybody notified of the fires in 5 minutes. This is about any emergency situation that you can think of. Fire, water, snowstorm, train derailment or a chemical spill on I-84.

Would you like to look over the information, write any questions down and we will decide the next meeting? This is the most advanced high-tech thing I've ever seen. We can even choose templates in advance, like twelve different templates to cover every single situation. Simply put a date on it and click. There is a prerecorded message for people that have landlines and flip phones. We can customize those as well. Please take a look at it.

Mayor's Report: Last month was tough on a lot of us. I have a commitment from the gentleman on the end, Don McClure, that has sample bottles in his truck. If anyone has a water sample that they would like to have taken, indoors or outdoors, he's available. On a good note, everything is alive. All the plants at the library have taken root, flowers are up again. Someone has spent his own money and put a bunch of beautiful flags up on 2nd Street and built brackets for them. Thanks, and thanks to my team of people that have been diligently helping me water the flowers. We are preparing for the Huckleberry Festival. As Bonnie has mentioned, if anyone has time, they want to spend it helping on the cleanup for the Huckleberry Festival or doing anything else, anything else that anyone has time to help with- watering flowers, watering plants, mowing city property-any of that kind of stuff. Employee review and wage increase. That is for our librarian. It was in the budget for a 5% increase, we retro paid backwards to her 60-day review and it amounted to \$23 and some change, a small amount of money to get her bac to her 60-day point. She is caught up and has had a review. Lindsey made motion to approve the raise, 2nd Don Clark, vote 5 yes, Josh left the chambers.

Dave Hoene: Everybody knows that we had a fire here a couple of weeks ago. I was talking to John Friebose, and he stated that the fire department's response time was 11 minutes. Incredible response time for a fire department that is volunteer and the fire happened in the early hours of the morning. Our fire department here is famous and I am thankful for that.

Myron Miles: I'm a volunteer at the fire department here and among the large number of volunteers and cadets we have, we are prepared. Those guys are amazing. I want to thank you very much.

New Business: Mike Wisdom: I was glad to see that you guys found the agreement with the judicial court. I called them not knowing if you had got hold or not, and they've been sitting there for 6 years waiting for business. My first concern was whether we had turned out, for lack of business, and she said, "No, not at all." Of there is going to be a change between one partner or the other, they have a 30 – 60-day window when we put it together. They are still on board and ready to do that.

Couple of things I want to highlight in the agreement: when there is a fine or forfeited bail, for example, half of that goes to the city here; the other half to the court for their time and effort. That has been sitting there along with the 4 steps that we put together. I'd be curious to see what you would come up with. At the time, this was put together, there was no negative impact as far as between who was going to knock on the door and say "hey, we've got a complaint. We want to make sure this isn't a Hatfield and McCoy situation. "Do you mind if we take a look". More times than not it would be resolved with that first step. If they don't have a violation, great. If they do, they will get a certain number of days to rectify it. You can go back to check.

RV Ordinance is we have people living in camper shells with a green garden hose hooked into it for water. I am on the other end of town, and I am not going to name names, but I can tell you that we have people or at least a person living, however temporarily, in an RV parked on 2nd Street. This Ordinance addresses that specifically: how long you can stay, is it family, is it theft of services.

Alan Brown: I think we now have the ability to start moving forward on some of this stuff. But I would like to go on the record and let everybody know my number one concern is safety. I do not want anyone knocking on someone's door and getting greeted with a firearm or an axe handle or anything else. I can tell you, personally, that there are

some loose cannons. That is why I wanted to remove and will continue to want to remove any personal contact where someone is going onto someone's property and knocking on their door and having a confrontation with them. It is up to all of us to notice these violations in town, write a short letter of complaint, and get it to City Hall. Everything you see, I can't see everything in town. Take care of the grass over the bank that needs to be mowed. Please let us know. If somebody's stealing water from us, let us know. If their water was disconnected but they have a garden hose temporarily connected – there still using our sewer, they're still using our services without paying for it. Start working with our office staff rather than continuing to allowing it to go on. If there living on a lot, it will have an assigned tax number, assigned to that tax number will be the owner of the property. We get the notification to the person that owns the property and let them know that there is an issue, regardless of what the issue is.

Council Comments:

Lindsey Thompson: Asked when we will start to open on Fridays again?

Becky: The only reason I close on Friday is so I can catch up from the week. John agreed to this.

Alan Brown: She has been in touch with me almost every opportunity. She must lock the door in order to get other stuff done. There are too many random conversations where somebody just wants to come in and just rap for a half an hour with her and she can't do it.

Josh Guthrie: Asked if there was a reason I shut down during the 11:00 hour, 10:00 hour and 12:00 hour?

Becky: I go to the post office when I have a chance to get to the post office and it's quiet during that time. Usually I'm not gone for more than 10 minutes.

Alan Brown: any other comments?

Meeting adjourned: 7:29 p.m.