

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Date: July 01, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm
Meeting called to order by: Mayor Anderson at 6:00 pm pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Council: Mayor Witt Anderson, Noah Estes, Lydia Koerner, Ron Wright, Gary Lindemyer, Brenna Campbell

Absent: Charlie Cannon

Staff: City Manager Andrea Rogers, City Recorder Amy Szilagyi, Special Projects Coordinator Colleen Coleman,

AGENDA CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: Mayor Anderson announced two additions to the agenda: consideration of the annual temporary fireworks ban, and discussion of additional information submitted by Jane Elkin regarding a proposed fire risk sign at the Plateau Trail. By consensus, Council approved adding both items to the end of the business agenda. Chris McCaleb was unable to attend the meeting but provided his quarterly reports for Council review. No other agenda corrections or additions were made.

SUMMARY: The Mosier City Council discussed several key matters, including water system concerns, stormwater management planning, and development of an artificial intelligence (AI) use policy. Mark Paine reported ongoing issues with the Blanchard Boulevard water tank, including multiple water losses since March 2025; staff reported that potential solutions have been identified through clay valve adjustments and SCADA system repairs. Ethan Brown of Willamette Partnership presented proposed low impact development (LID) code amendments based on the City's stormwater management plan, including construction permit triggers, enforcement considerations, and exceptions. Council discussed concerns regarding potential financial impacts of residential LID requirements on lower-income residents and considered making residential LID practices optional while retaining requirements for commercial and industrial development. Council also reviewed a draft AI policy for administrative use, with discussion focused on data security, third-party technology systems, and public records retention requirements; additional policy development was requested prior to adoption. Council approved a temporary fireworks ban effective July 1 through December 31, 2026, and discussed installation of a fire risk notification sign at the Plateau Trail entrance.

APPROVAL OF 06.03.2026 MINUTES: No corrections

MOTION: Councilor Campbell moved to approve minutes as written. Councilor Lindemyer seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.

Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell

Nays: None | **Abstentions:** None

OPEN MEETING

Public Comment

- Mark Paine: Reported ongoing water service interruptions affecting properties served by the Blanchard Boulevard water tank, noting multiple outages since March 2025. He thanked staff for their responsiveness and asked whether the tank supplies fire hydrants and residential sprinkler systems.
 - Mayor Anderson: Reported that staff have identified issues with the SCADA/telemetry system and clay valves, with repairs underway and the system recently returned to automatic operation.
 - City Manager Rogers: Noted the issue is being actively addressed and expressed confidence that the identified solutions will resolve the problem. Staff confirmed the reservoir system supplies both fire hydrants and residential sprinkler systems.

- Brent Bybee: Of Basecamp Planning and Consulting Services expressed interest in assisting the City with planning services, highlighting his experience with Wasco County, comprehensive planning, and code updates. He also endorsed Lisa Smith, noting her planning expertise and experience, and offered potential collaboration between applicants if beneficial to the City.

1. **Water/Wastewater Reports:** Council reviewed the water and wastewater report provided by Chris McCalib of TEC, who was unable to attend. City Manager Rogers reported that the wastewater system is operating well but noted concerns regarding potential illegal dumping and plans to mark sewer manholes during upcoming maintenance activities. Staff also discussed reducing administrative costs by managing certain routine contracts directly and the need for closer water system response support during emergencies. Chris is expected to provide a detailed update at a future meeting. No action was taken.
2. **Stormwater Master Plan Presentation:** Ethan Brown of Willamette Partnership presented proposed stormwater code amendments implementing the City's Stormwater Master Plan and Low Impact Development (LID) standards. Council discussed development thresholds, applicability to residential versus commercial and industrial properties, affordability concerns, and consistency with the adopted plan. Council expressed general support for applying LID requirements to commercial and industrial development while requesting additional review of residential requirements. Project Coordinator Coleman, Councilor Koerner and Councilor Wright volunteered to review the redlined draft with staff before it returns to Council for further consideration. No action was taken.
3. **City Engineering & Planning RFP Updates:** City Manager Rogers presented the results of the City Planner RFP process, noting that seven proposals were received and reviewed by a committee consisting of Finance Director Morris, Project Coordinator Coleman, and City Recorder Szilagyi. Based on evaluation criteria including experience, qualifications, local knowledge, availability, and cost, Lisa Smith was recommended for the contract due to her planning experience, familiarity with Mosier, and affordability. Council discussed the potential for additional support from other planners as needed and approved moving forward with contract negotiations with Lisa Smith. Staff reported that two Engineering proposals had been received, with the submission deadline extended to the following week. Additional information and recommendations are expected to come before Council at a future meeting.
MOTION: Made by Councilor Estes to approve City Manager Rogers to enter into a contract to hire a new City Planner. Councilor Koerner seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.
Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell
Nays: None | Abstentions: None
4. **Formal City Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:** City Recorder Szilagyi presented a proposed AI Use Policy developed following municipal clerk training and CIS guidance. Council discussed the use of AI for administrative tasks, with Councilors Koerner, Estes, and Campbell raising concerns regarding data protection, cybersecurity, public record retention requirements and implementation of the policy prior to selecting a new IT provider. Councilor Wright requested information on measuring productivity impacts, and City Recorder Szilagyi described significant time savings in several administrative areas with the use of AI. City Manager Rogers clarified that the discussion was focused on two separate issues: secure information storage and the continued use of AI tools by staff to streamline workflows. The group agreed to continue limited AI use by staff while refining the policy and working toward selecting a new IT provider to replace RadComp. No action was taken.
5. **Resolution Declaring Emergency Temporary Fireworks Ban:** Council discussed the annual temporary fireworks ban and directed staff to proceed with a resolution prohibiting fireworks in Mosier through December 31, 2026. City Manager Rogers noted the resolution would mirror the previous year's action and that public outreach would be

provided due to current high-fire danger conditions. Council also discussed future consideration of a permanent fireworks ordinance. Council approved moving forward with the temporary ban.

MOTION: Made by Councilor Koerner to ban the use of fireworks from July 01, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Councilor Estes seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.

Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell

Nays: None | Abstentions: None

6. **Plateau Trail Fire Risk Sign:** Council discussed a request from Jane Elkin regarding installation of a wildfire awareness sign near the Plateau Trail. Discussion included potential sign location, right-of-way considerations, and coordination with ODOT and Friends of the Gorge. Staff will continue evaluating the proposal. No action was taken.

7. **City Activities Updates/Reports:**

- City Manager Rogers noted potential upcoming August agenda items, including an update from Chris McCaleb, introduction of the new City Planner, initiation of the DLCD project, continued AI policy discussion, a parking study update, and further review of the Stormwater Management Plan and related ordinance revisions. The parking study is currently underway, with interviews being conducted and a report to be prepared for public presentation. Staff will also return with updates and revised stormwater ordinance language for Council review.
- Special Projects Coordinator Coleman reported that evaluation scores for engineering service proposals are expected by the next meeting. The well project is nearing completion, with initial water samples testing clean, final testing and Oregon Health Authority review pending, and substantial completion and punch list items to follow. Generator design and pricing are also underway, with a permanent generator planned for Well 4/Well 5 through USDA funding. Council discussed additional backup power options for water infrastructure, including use of existing portable generators and potential coordination with Hood River County for interim needs.
- Councilor Estes announced an upcoming Prescribed Burn Association meeting hosted by Kathy Slevin and Connor McKibben at the Mosier Grange and encouraged Council participation. He also shared information regarding a potential Oregon Restoration Grant opportunity supporting projects such as stream restoration and fuels reduction and will provide additional details to staff.
- Council Availability: Mayor Anderson announced he will be unavailable beginning July 14 for approximately three weeks but expects to return for the August meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:14 pm

ACTION ITEMS:

City Manager Rogers:

- Work with staff to explore alternative IT providers
- Coordinate with Friends of the Gorge and the fire department regarding the placement of a fire risk sign at the base of the Plateau Trail.
- Finalize contract negotiations with Lisa Smith for planning services.
- Ensure the portable generator is tested and operational and explore options for additional permanent generators at critical water system sites.

Special Projects Coordinator Coleman:

- Continue the process for the engineering RFP and present scores at the August meeting.
- Coordinate with Councilors Koerner and Wright to review the redline version of the proposed stormwater ordinance for the August meeting.

City Recorder Szilagyi:

- Collect comments and suggested wording adjustments on the proposed AI policy and bring an updated version back to Council for the August Meeting

Councilor Lindemyer:

- Follow up with City Manager Rogers regarding trees for the skate park and discuss options for city support in maintaining them.

Councilor Estes:

- Send information about the Oregon Restoration Grant opportunity to City Manager Rogers and Project Coordinator Coleman.
- Attend the Prescribed Burn Association meeting at the Mosier Grange and report back to Council.

Witt Anderson

Witt Anderson (Aug 20, 2026 07:20:32 PDT)

Witt Anderson, Mayor

Amy Szilagyi

Amy Szilagyi, City Recorder

Approved by City Council on August 19, 2026

07.01.26 Minutes Approved

Final Audit Report

2026-08-20

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