Minutes of the Blythe City Council Meeting
October 13, 2026

The October 13, 2026, meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor DeConinck. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Council Members Halby and Spraggins. Council Member Burton was excused from the meeting. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Attorney Roberto, Finance Director and City Treasurer Elms, Chief Building Official Brown, Acting Police Chief Walnoha and Fire Chief Hasler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck.

The Invocation was led by Mayor DeConinck.

PRESENTATION:

Presentation on Progress of the Enterprise Resource Planning Project. Tammi Warren with BerryDunn provided Council with an update on the City's ERP Project.

Council Member Halby asked who the top three vendors were that you would like the City to consider. It was reported depending on the market, size and scale the team will outreach to the different vendors. I can't guarantee they will all respond. I would expect Tyler Technologies and maybe an Oracle NetSuite and some of those right sized vendors for this City. It really depends on timing and market interest. We have worked to keep engagement with those vendors and will continue that outreach to expand that market. But we want to make sure it's the right size and fit for the City.

Councilman Halby would like a list emailed to the City Manager of the top 10 vendors so that I can start doing my homework and we will match up later.

No public comment. The presentation was received.

Electric Bicycle (E-Bike) Presentation. Officer Duran with the Blythe Police Department gave a presentation on the rules and regulations for owning/riding E-Bikes and electric scooters.

No public comment. The presentation was received.

CONSENT CALENDAR: *Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Council. If any item requires individual consideration, it will be removed from the consent calendar and acted upon separately.*

3. Posting of the Agenda.

The agenda was posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber and on the City's website on Friday, October 9, 2026.

4. Approval of the Warrant Register.

Recommendation: Approve **10/13/26,** warrants numbered 11638 through 11685 and 81470 through 81525 in the amount of $663,592.43; **10/13/26,** warrants numbered 11686 through 11688

and 81543 through 81590 in the amount of $344,583.93, and **10/13/26,** Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 81526 through 81542 in the amount of $2,406.88.

5. **Approval of the Payroll Register.**
   Recommendation: Approve **10/13/2026,** warrants numbered 55971 through 55972 in the amount of $4,628.23; **10/13/2026,** warrants numbered 55973 through 55985 and direct deposit warrants numbered 66435 through 66507 in the amount of $229,297.70; **10/13/2026,** warrant numbered 55986 and Direct Deposit warrant numbered 66508 in the amount of $299.34; **10/13/2026,** warrants numbered 55987 through 55988 in the amount of $369.19; **10/13/2026,** warrants numbered 55989 through 55990 in the amount of $99.79; **10/13/2026,** warrants numbered 55991 through 56004 and direct deposit warrants numbered 66509 through 66580 in the amount of $295,111.48, **10/13/2026**, warrant numbered 56005 and direct deposit warrants 66581 through 66590 in the amount of $16,533.90, and **10/13/2026**, warrants numbered 56006 through 56018 and direct deposit warrants 66591 through 66683 in the amount of $104,543.92.
6. **Minutes of the September 8, 2026 Blythe City Council Meeting.**
   Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2026 Council Meeting.
7. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in the Month of September 2026.**
   Recommendation: Receive the monthly report.
8. **City of Blythe Fire Department Activity Report for September 2026.**
   Recommendation: Receive the monthly report.
9. **City of Blythe Police Department Incident and Activity Report for September 2026.**
   Recommendation: Receive the monthly report.
10. **Investment Report for First Quarter Fiscal Year 2026-2027.**
    Recommendation: Accept the Quarterly Investment Report.
11. **Request to Waive Temporary Use Permit (TUP) Fees for the Desert Sound Event on October 17, 2026.**
    Recommendation: Waive the TUP fee of $262.00 for the Desert Sound Event.
12. **Request to Waive Temporary Use Permit (TUP) Fees for Calvary Chapel's Trunk-or-Treat Event on October 31, 2026.**
    Recommendation: Waive the TUP fee of $262.00 for Calvary Chapel's Trunk-or-Treat.
13. **Amendment Number Two to Fire Chief Employment Agreement.**
    Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute Amendment Number Two to the City of Blythe Volunteer Fire Chief Agreement Ronnie Hasler for the position of Fire Chief.
14. **Acceptance of Work – N. Lovekin Sinkhole Repair Project.**
    Recommendation: Accept work performed by Robert Yates dba Cholla Construction for the North Lovekin Sinkhole, Sewer Main and Storm Drain Repairs, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and file the Notice of Completion for the project and authorize the Interim City Manager to release retention payments and project bonds once appropriate.
15. **Resolution Authorizing the Application for and Acceptance of Palo Verde Valley Community Improvement Fund (CIF) Grant Funding for Marine Enforcement Unit Patrol Vessel Equipment.**
    Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-032 authorizing the application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Palo Verde Valley Community Improvement Fund (CIF) in the amount of $13,892.76 to purchase signaling, navigation, and communication equipment for the Police Department's new Marine Enforcement Unit patrol vessel and authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all grant related documents and accept and administer the grant if awarded.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE PALO VERDE VALLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER OR HER DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACCEPT AND ADMINISTER THE GRANT.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated Government Code Section 54953(d)(3) requires the City Council to orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of local agency executives, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. The Fire Chief is a "local agency executive" for whom an oral report is required. Item #13 on tonight's Consent Calendar is an amendment to the Volunteer Fire Chief Agreement. The amendment increases the Fire Chief's monthly stipend to $2,625 and provides for annual cost of living increases of 5%.

Council Member Halby noted a conflict of interest with item No. 11 as the event will be held at his place of business. He abstained from voting on Item No. 11.

No Public Comment. Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Council Member Spraggins with a unanimous aye vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Palo Verde Hospital Ad Hoc Committee Update. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated I think most of you are aware that the County's Strike team, the MSA the County has with the Healthcare District, is coming to an end in November. Last week the City's Ad Hoc Committee met with the District's transition committee. The City tired wholeheartedly, with the Mayor and Vice Mayor putting pressure on the County to keep them here longer. It doesn't look like that is going to be the case. They have said they will continue to help the District navigate the transition but that will not be at a boot on the ground type of way. This Friday members of the City's Ad Hoc Committee is meeting with the Healthcare District's Committee to see how we can further assist with the transition. It's worrisome to all of us with the County stepping away as to who is going to come in and keep the hospital open and operational in a fiscally responsible manner.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated we are still working to find operators and potential buyers for the hospital and have strong leads in that respect. Ultimately, it will be up to the District as to who they will accept. The last RFP was non-responsive, but I understand they will be issuing a condensed RFP to see if that generates any more interest in finding an operator for that hospital.

Mayor DeConinck stated Johnny and I are not giving up. I will be in Riverside again tomorrow. I would like to see RUHS stay on board during the transition and help as the new Board comes on. It's going to be a big gap. November 21st is around the corner.

No public comment. The item was received.

Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment to the Loan Agreement between City and the Palo Verde Healthcare District. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated as you know, in January of this year you approved a loan in the amount of $330,000 to the Palo Verde Healthcare District (PVHD) to provide gap funding for the operation of Palo Verde Hospital. If paid in full by July 1, 2026, no interest would accrue on the loan. If not fully repaid by July 1st, PVHD would make quarterly loan payments beginning October 1, 2026, with a 3% interest per annum. The loan has a maturity date of July 1, 2028. Last week members of the

City's Hospital Ad Hoc Committee met with RUHS staff to discuss the near end of the County's services at Palo Verde Hospital. During the meeting, RUHS staff requested a delay in the first two loan payments to April 1, 2027. Under the current schedule, payments in the amount of $42,654.32 are due October 1st and January 1st. The reason for the request was that delaying payments to April is necessary to manage the hospital's cash flow. Payments would be restructured to have a starting repayment date of April 1, 2027. The maturity date of July 1, 2028, will not change. Staff recommends Council authorize the Interim City Manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Loan Agreement with PVHD to revise the payment schedule, once the agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

Councilman Halby asked about the revised payment schedule.

Mayor DeConinck would love to forgive the loan if there was a guarantee that that hospital would stay open.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Spraggins with a unanimous aye vote.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ORAL REPORTS:
Interim City Manager Crecelius reported on upcoming events including the Rec Center's Halloween Party, Community Clean-up Day and Tire Collection Event and former Mayor Dale Reynolds' Celebration of Life.

MEMBER COMMENT:
Vice Mayor Rodriguez reported on the Bazaar and Farm Olympics.

Council Member Halby stated it's an action-packed weekend with a comedy show at the Fairgrounds and free concert behind my shop with vendor village and trunk or treat.

Council Member Spraggins stated there are also races this Saturday.

Mayor DeConinck reported on the Rec Center's Pancake Breakfast along with the 95th annual Bazaar and Farm Olympics. I was very involved in the beginning. I used to hold the record for potato stacking. I appreciate all the people that brought their trucks out to put on a show.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Interim City Manager Crecelius relayed a comment from Chris Peters, thanking Council for the lock boxes in the park restrooms allowing the coaches to access the restrooms.

Mayor DeConinck asked about the Appleby Restroom and what needs to be done to have it secured and re-opened. He reported on Public Works and PVID who were out after the last storms.

Marilee Harkinson with the Palo Verde Museum and Historical Society stated since the Sign Ordinance was adopted in January 2024, businesses, non-profits, churches and maybe even the

schools have received letters to remove banners. I don't think many small businesses can afford permanent signs. I hope the Council's intent was not to put an undue burden on small businesses. The Museum received a letter related to our banners on our front fence. Those banners help identify the building as a museum. The banners celebrate our local history and are securely fastened. When they are old, they are replaced. Permanent signs are expensive. We are planning to order lettering for the building but that is expensive. My suggestion is to concentrate on city services and reconsider the ban on banners. She thanked Public Works for filling in potholes on 8th street.

Richard Phillps of 730 Seville Ln. stated he oversees the banners at the Museum. This is going to affect the schools, Little League, the museum and churches. There are some banners that need to be taken down or fixed. But we maintain our banners. They are going to fine us if we don't take them down. There are other things we need to think about in this community such as our streets. We need to fix our town up. Go after the bad ones but leave the good ones alone.

Mayor DeConinck asked if certain ones can be exempt until we can look at this to help organizations like the museum?

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated we can bring an item to the November Agenda in which you can direct staff to not enforce these provisions until the Sign Ordinance is addressed. As this item is not on the Agenda no action can be taken this evening.

Richard Phipps said there are two people that work hard. The first is Public Works Employee David Itterly. He is a hardworking machine and has a good attitude. The other is a guy named Gabe. He cleans up around town. That man deserves some recognition.

Maria Gonzalez with the Blythe Chamber of Commerce invited the community to the Candidate Meet and Greet. This is a non-partisan event to give community members a chance to learn about the candidates. She reminded everyone about the clean up event.

Council Member Spraggins announced a visit by Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez.

ADJOURN: The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk