

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

June 10, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Judge Joyce led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in person. Present in the meeting room was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Vale Fire Chief/Malheur County Fire Defense Chief Jess Tolman. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board, and emailed to the Argus Observer and those persons who have requested notice. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2026-2036

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 239

Present for the public hearing on Ordinance No. 239: An Ordinance Amending Malheur County Code Title 6, Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Section A, Chapter 4, Chapter 6 and Chapter 12; and Title 7, Chapter 1; and Declaring an Emergency were: County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Planning Director Kelsie Haueter; and Greg Winterowd and Morgan Snyder with Winterbrook Planning.

Judge Joyce opened the hearing.

Mr. Winterowd explained that the code amendment codifies State and administrative rule changes applicable to resource lands. Emphasis was given to things that happen more often in Malheur County, such as non-farm dwellings; the ordinance does not change how farmland is already regulated. A table is included in the ordinance that will be helpful for staff. The proposed amendments were also submitted to the State as required; minor comments were received and accommodated.

Ms. Williams noted no public comment was received at the Planning Commission hearing; and the Planning Commission recommended the County Court adopt Ordinance 239. The table in the ordinance focuses on what uses are permitted within the resource lands.

Judge Joyce asked for public comments. No comments were received.

The next hearing on Ordinance No. 239 is June 24, 2026.

BURN BAN

Fire Chief Jess Tolman met with the Court regarding implementing a burn ban. The County has already experienced wildland fires, and the lack of winter has resulted in record low fuel moisture. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-10-26: Order Prohibiting Outdoor Open Burning in Unincorporated Areas of Malheur County Located Outside of a Fire District, effective June 12, 2026. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2037

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of June 3, 2026 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Jacobs abstained as he was not present on June 3, 2026.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

STIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Mendiola moved to appoint Grace Herrera to the Malheur County Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: JM/RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.

WILDLIFE SERVICES WORK PLAN

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Wildlife Services Work and Financial Plan, Cooperative Agreement No. 26-7341-5124-RA. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The document defines the objectives, plan of action, resources and budget for the cooperative wildlife services program in Malheur County to be conducted July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; the County's financial contribution to the program is \$117,000. See instrument # 2026-2049

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

WILDLIFE SERVICES WORK PLAN (AERIAL)

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Work and Financial Plan, Cooperative Agreement No. 26-7341-5124-RA (Aerial). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The document defines the objectives, plan of action, resources and budget for the aerial cooperative wildlife services program in Malheur County to be conducted July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 using aerial management; the County's financial contribution to the program is \$10,000. See instrument # 2026-2050

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

SRS ELECTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to submit the election and allocation form for the SRS (Secure Rural School Act) payment to be made in April 2027. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The estimated payment for 2027 is \$830.78. See instrument # 2026-2038

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved

COOPERATING AGENCY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Cooperating Agency Participation Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for BLM's Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mendiola agreed to be the County's designated primary representative. A copy of the agreement will be returned for recording.

Vote: RJ/DJ/JM in favor. Approved.

AGREEMENT - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DOR)

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Intergovernmental Services Agreement, Contract #15000-00061686 with Department of Revenue for map maintenance and related cartographic activities to be performed by Department of Revenue for Malheur County for fiscal year 2026/2027. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2026-2337.

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to accept the resignation of Environmental Health Director Edward Magner V (Evan Magner). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public. No public comments were received.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: JM/RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.