

Town of Ulen Council Meeting – 5/26/26 APPROVED

Meeting Time and Location	Attendees (Council Members)		
Notification Posted: Y	P	N	V (Check present, not present, or virtual attendance)
Date and Time: Apr. 28, 2026 at 6:30	X		Mark Ransom
Location: Ulen Country Club	X		Jennifer Jones
Recorded minutes compiled by:	X		Sheryl Cassis
M. Herny	X		Mary Ann Herny
Attendees (Other)			
Helen Million (v)			John Garber (v)
Margi Walters			Susan Engledow
Rob Hermann (from Tech This, LLC)			Terry Engledow

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Virtual attendees were admitted to the meeting.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report

- Prior meeting minutes from April, 2026, were approved unanimously and signed.
- April reconciled financials were presented and acknowledged. Notable transactions included payment of a large invoice from SetCo (\$6,012.96) for various repairs to street lights. The total receipts and disbursements for April were as follows:

April Receipts
\$8,554.26
April Disbursements
\$8,907.17
April Ledger Balance
\$518,977.40

- Vouchers were approved for payment to Green Sign for the entryway sign construction and also for purchase of signposts and new *Children Playing* signs, circle repair, office supplies, new flags, and trash. Ms. Herny noted that spring cleanup fees were not included but should appear on next month's bill.
- Budgeting for 2027 is beginning, and Ms. Herny will be attending meetings with our local DLGF representative to plan for this.
- We were informed that a supplemental tax payment of almost \$22,000 is expected in June. This is in addition to the usual June settlement check.
- Ms. Herny noted that the state is encouraging counties to set up meetings that include representatives from each municipality about the upcoming changes to local income tax (LIT). This is a large part of Ulem's revenue, but since we have a population below 3,500 the counties will dictate the rate used and the amount we will receive. Counties are, however, expected to meet with towns to ensure they are aware of, and have a voice in, these decisions. We have many questions about this, and homework to do, to prepare for this meeting (which has not yet been set). Ms. Herny will gather and share whatever information she can.

IT Services Agreement

The Council was introduced to Mr. Rob Hermann from Tech This, LLC, a vendor who has provided an estimate for IT services for the town. After some initial consulting that was completed last month, Mr. Hermann has been working on recommendations that include purchases of a new town-owned computer, business-level software required for town business, separate cloud-based file storage, and ongoing support. Key benefits of this investment will be to better separate town activities and data from personal equipment by the various council members working from home offices, and to ensure easier handoff as elected officials change over time. He will also assist in interpreting IOT security and retention standards and what needs to be done to bring us into better compliance. The Town Council unanimously agreed to move ahead by approving additional budget of \$2,500 for the purchase of a new computer and software.

Entryway Signage Project

The new entry signage construction is nearly completed, except for lighting and landscaping. The Council expressed a preference to use SetCo for lighting, but we will complete the landscaping in first.

Additional Signage

Materials for the additional speed signs have been ordered and have arrived and are waiting for pickup and installation. Mr. Ransom will follow up on this to get the work completed. A question came up about the stop sign at the exit from the neighborhood. The positioning and relationship of the sidewalk crossing, stop signage, and painted "stop block" on the road surface was discussed. We believe any stop signage needs to be behind the crosswalk (which is actually not needed since there is no matching sidewalk on the north side of the intersection). It was agreed that Mr. Ransom talk with Mr. Messenger to see if the south-to-north crosswalk can be removed altogether (it is on our property but was installed by Lebanon) to resolve the difficulty of seeing southbound traffic as drivers pull out of the neighborhood.

Recent Circle Damage

Mr. Ransom has received security camera footage of the most recent damage to the south circle, and has identified the owner/driver of the truck. After calling, Mr. Ransom says the owner is not willing to pay for damage. Mr. Ransom will follow up with the sheriff and prosecutor to see if we can pursue this further.

Plan Commission and BZA Items

Ms. Jones suggested last month that Kent Frandsen may be in the best position to help us pare down the language to match the processes we are most likely to adopt for new construction permits. Ms. Herry forwarded the draft to him and asked for his review. In a follow-up call last week, Mr. Frandsen said he was reviewing, is collaborating with Bob Clutter, and will get back with us as soon as he can.

Mr. Ransom also agreed to follow up with the County to see what the status is of the interlocal agreement.

Election Information on our Website

Ms. HERNY confirmed that information about the election and how to run for office has been posted and is live on our website.

Status of Utility Mapping project

Mr. Ransom updated the Council about field work being completed, but with the caveat that there were still some items that needed to be confirmed.

Road Damage

Mr. Ransom has contacted our roadwork vendor for advice about how to fix the peeling sealant, but work has been delayed until weather is more appropriate.

Ms. Cassis mentioned that the orange paint near the north circle must have been dropped by workers who were painting fire hydrants. We will ask the roadwork vendor to touch this up when they come to the town for the road damage repairs.

2026 Common Area Landscaping

A revised quote for landscaping has been received from Green Acre. The Town voted unanimously to accept it, as it now includes all of the work requested. A question was asked about the remaining lump of concrete that was dug up when the new sign was erected. Ms. HERNY had contacted Gabe Smoot to see if the Country Club had equipment that could remove it, but they do not have anything large enough. It was suggested that one of the residents is demolishing a driveway and may have a contractor coming in to break it up and haul it away – we may be able to use the same resource. Mr. Ransom will contact them to see if this is possible.

E-Bike Ordinance

Mr. Ransom has sent another e-bike ordinance example from a smaller town. The Council agreed to reach out to Mr. Clutter to get something going, rather than waiting for Lebanon to finalize theirs.

New Business

Parking on Streets

Ms. Cassis mentioned that our ordinance prohibits parking on the street except for “temporary or emergency” situations. However, we have not very clearly defined “temporary.” The intent is to avoid overnight or repeat instances, especially with large vehicles, and to ensure no other driveways are blocked. We have had one resident who is not currently complying with the ordinance. Mr. Ransom will have a discussion with the resident, and if that does not resolve the situation, we need to pursue enforcement actions. This will also require an amendment to the ordinance.

Restraint of Pets

Another instance of an aggressive dog attacking a pedestrian and her leashed dog has occurred. The council will send a reminder communication about the importance of restraining pets and the ordinance in place. Mr. Ransom will also reach out to the residents involved.

Yard Maintenance

An attendee mentioned that one yard is not being adequately maintained and a letter may need to be sent, or the town may need to hire someone to take care of it and request reimbursement. Mr. Ransom will consider next steps.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for the 16th to accommodate a council member who will be unavailable on our usual schedule. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12pm.

Approvals:

Council Member Approvals:	
	Mark Ransom
	Shirley Cassis
Attested by Clerk Treasurer:	Mary Anthony
Date Approved:	