

# Pearblossom Rural Town Council General Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS NOT PRESENT
Chris Minsal - President Robert Corrick - Vice President Kyle Lockhart - Treasurer Devin Lockhart – Recording Secretary Jose Centeno – Correspondence Secretary	Beth Kieffer - Council Member

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS	FOLLOW-UP
1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chris M.		
2. Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Meeting Minutes for the 11/19/2025 presented for approval - Devin L.</li> <li>• Treasurer's Report for 11/2025 – Kyle L.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/19/2025 Devin L. Motion to approve, Robert C. seconded, all in favor, approved as written.</li> <li>• Treasurer's Report:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 11/2025 Beginning Balance \$7370.65, interest of \$.04, ending balance \$7370.69</li> <li>○ 12/2025 Beginning Balance \$7370.69, interest of \$.04, ending balance \$7370.73</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>New Business</b>			
3. Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Back</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris M. welcomed everyone back after the break and wished everyone a Happy New Year.</li> </ul>	
4. Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pearblossom Rural Town Council Election Committee – David Prue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four (4) available seats, with four (4) applications received (Chris M., Kyle L. Jose C. and Scott Lezak) – all applicants seated/reseated for a two (2) year term.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris M. thanked David P. for all his assistance and welcomed Scott L. back to the PRTC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
5. Guest Speakers – if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department</li> <li>• California Highway Patrol</li> <li>• Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation</li> <li>• Los Angeles County Public Works</li> <li>• Charles Bostwick - added</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Godoy indicated the crime stats were better in 2025 than 2024. 2024 vs. 2025 for East County: 3 homicides both years, 5 to 1 rapes, 99 to 63 aggravated assaults, 13 to 15 robberies, 33 to 50 burglaries (residential homes), 66 to 33 burglaries to structures (shipping containers, sheds, etc), thefts (bikes, equipment from backyards) 83 to 81, 186 to 105 vehicle thefts, and 14 to 11 arsons but overall the crime decreased by 31%.</li> <li>• Community member in attendance indicated the hopes of starting a Neighborhood Watch.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deputy Godoy: individual areas can form a Neighborhood Watch, or it can also be formed with people in the surrounding areas.</li> <li>○ Chris M. offered Community Center and The Grange as areas to meet. He agreed Pearblossom, Littlerock, Lake LA, Juniper Hills,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>and Llano should be invited and set a meeting date to talk about how this could be done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mary will be added as a standing Guest Speaker for future agendas.</li><li>● California Highway Patrol<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Not present</li></ul></li><li>● Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Not present</li></ul></li><li>● Los Angeles County Public Works<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Josephine Gutierrez – road crews are busy trying to restore access on the roads that were closed due to the storm. Clearing mud and debris, evaluating roads to determine safety. About 25 roads still closed. No timeline on Mt. Emma as water still flowing, crack in the center line and haven't been able to assess the damage. . Ave T from Longview to # 165<sup>th</sup> reopened last week but had to close it again due to continued debris flow. Please adhere to the road closures to stay safe and to ensure safety for the road crews.</li><li>● Traffic Safety Improvement project: 96<sup>th</sup> Street East, 106<sup>th</sup> Street East, and 116<sup>th</sup> Street East approaching 138 still targeting by end of March, 2026 doesn't include the flashers as the process to acquire them but usually takes around six (6) months. Will have the "stop ahead" signs and continue with striping and rumble strips.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chris M. on the flooding closures community members brought up – with all the new residents from other areas that don't know the desert, it seems many do not know not to cross the water flow. If you want to go on Mt Emma there are gates that close the road. Could we start a discussion on installing gates like that in these areas to avoid hazardous issues for the high risk sections of road?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Josephine G. will talk to the road crews and maintenance staff to see if that is a possibility but it would impact funding and would have to place them strategically where the best places could be.</li></ul></li><li>○ Chris M. additional idea was using flashers for alternate routes to divert to safer routes. Would like to open the conversation with Public Works with surrounding communities to come up with ideas/plans.</li></ul></li><li>● Chuck Bostwick spoke on homelessness and illegal dumping</li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal dumping: Public Works cleaned up about 15 locations with multiple truckloads of dumping, including an area on 165<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue T. Hoping that has stopped as there was an arrest in Kern County where he was dumping. Mulch disposal that has been a huge issue they are hoping there is finally a handle on the issue. Started to use satellite images to get those that haven't been reported. West side has been cleaned up.</li> <li>Homelessness: the homeless count is going on now. Code enforcement officers don't go around looking for violations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris M. had a conversation with the Lead Code Enforcement as he wanted to report 300 properties and was asked to report only 10 a week but the answer by Chris M. was no. It is time to have a conversation with Code Enforcement, local leadership, and community members to come up with a more proactive approach and hoping the community can help shape this approach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
6. Local Happenings	Pending Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tabled until times and days can be confirmed.</li> </ul>	
7. Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cal Trans – Highway 138: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drain Project</li> <li>Shoulder Widening</li> <li>Traffic Signal</li> </ul> </li> <li>501c3 Status – Kyle L.</li> <li>Association of Rural Town Councils (ARTC) – Jose C.</li> <li>New Developments (DRP Report)</li> <li>Homeless Count - Chris M.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cal Trans – Highway 138: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drain Project and Shoulder Widening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid-year start date for drain and shoulder project – funded already. Rip out the v-ditch and cover it up.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Traffic Signal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still having trouble getting confirmation on when the signal is coming. Indicating they are waiting on SCE. Once confirmed it will be shared on the Neighborhood Watch page.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>501c3 Status – Kyle L. – Chris M. and Kyle L. last week we started the official process moving from 501c4 to a 501c3 –we are not a lobby group or government but we can speak up against health and safety issues. We are here to make connections with County, State, and the community. Moving from a 501c4 to a 501c3 will assist us to do more charitable actions for the community and assist in raising money to do so.</li> <li>Association of Rural Town Councils (ARTC) – Jose C. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did not meet in November or December.</li> </ul> </li> <li>New Developments (DRP Report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any application that goes to Regional Planning we receive a listing. For Pearblossom we have a new Subway opening soon.</li> <li>There is an application for a coffee shop at the old Trading Post on the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<p>North side of Highway 138 across the street from the Shell station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family Dollar in Littlerock is going to become an O'Reilly Auto Parts.</li><li>• In Littlerock there was an application to add a new trailer park on the corner of Avenue T and 116<sup>th</sup> Southwest side.</li><li>• Homeless Count – Chris M. – been doing the count since it started out here about eight (8) years. Yesterday went out with Brian from AV News to get accurate information on what it is like. Covered from Barrel Springs to County line, 250 square miles – six (6) hours to cover the Llano starting on 165<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue S to the forest line and the County line. 1050 motor homes or makeshift shelters and knows not all were counted. One thing different from this year to last year there were only about 500 but they are now moving closer to the main roads from deep in the desert. About 10 active grows, 15 major dumpsites, but small dumpers are doing way more damaging to our desert than the large dumpers and it continued for miles.</li></ul>	
8. Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome to Pearblossom Packet</li><li>• Operation Save Our Desert – Chris M.</li><li>• Day of the Dead Festival – 11/01/2026 – 11/02/2026 – Celebration of Remembrance</li><li>• List of Federal, State, County, Local Contacts</li><li>• Bylaw Review – Set Date</li><li>• Saturday Swap</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome to Pearblossom Packet – not discussed.</li><li>• Operation Save Our Desert – Chris M. – would like the Council to work with all invested community leaders to create a level of awareness to all – need to have larger penalties.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Illegal Dumping – we are the dumping grounds for LA. We need a proactive approach for homeless sites and dumping. There was well over 150 old mobile homes dumped.</li><li>◦ Homeless – there were two (2) homeless back when Chris M. started – 1050 now and there is an encampment of over 100 at County line.</li><li>◦ Health and Safety – it is all about health and safety. We have an ecological disaster here. The water table is getting affected by all the trash. When illegal grows are raided, the sheriffs do their part but there was no plan to clean it up.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need to get everyone together to take it to the next level – everyone needs go to the Supervisor's meetings. Thank Kathryn Barger and help educate the other council members on the issues happening out here. We all need to be more organized and vocal. It is going to take all of us, not just a letter, but meetings too and get organized. With the next two (2) meetings we need to get more people at the meetings here and in Littlerock and find people who are willing to come and help the fight in LA at the supervisor's meeting.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Day of the Dead Festival – 11/01/2026 – 11/02/2026 – Celebration of</li></ul>	

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		<p>Remembrance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chamber of Commerce is becoming active again and if they want to keep the Duck Races they can</li><li>○ We don't have a Day of the Dead festival on the Eastside. Want to have a large sculpture &lt;get information&gt;</li><li>○ By the next meeting hopefully will have some committee dates.</li><li>● List of Federal, State, County, Local Contacts<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Chris M. asked Jose C. to assist in creating a master list for councils and one for the community. Chuck will send his list over and update the website.</li></ul></li><li>● Bylaw Review 03/11/2026 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for the Bylaw review.</li><li>● Saturday Swap<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Been approached by several community members to have a once a month Saturday swap meet/yard sale at the Community Center. We had one last year and it was great. Chris M. has a meeting 02/09/2026 at 10:00 a.m. to talk about starting this with the community members to create the Committee and anyone interested in joining to work out the details.</li><li>○ Also a great way for everyone in the community to stay connected and a place to have information regarding things that are happening like the Save Our Desert, etc.</li></ul></li></ul>	
9. Community Input	Isla Garcia from Juan Carrillo's office on legislative update: Their Capitol Team is still working on finalizing the Legislative Package for the year but they wanted to provide an update to let everyone know they are closely working with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office on proposed legislation to address the illegal dumping issues.		
10. NEXT MEETING	02/18/2026		
11. Adjournment	8:50 p.m.		

Minutes Prepared By: <Signature on File>  
Devin Lockhart

Date: January 28, 2026

Approved By: <Signature on File>  
Christopher Minsal

Date: TBD