



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION

1. CONVENE MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Mayor McGriff convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

PRESENT: 5 - Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Mike Mitchell, Commissioner Rocky Smith, Commissioner Scott Wilson, Mayor Denyse McGriff

STAFFERS: 9 - City Manager Tony Konkol, Assistant City Manager Alex Rains, Assistant City Recorder Evan Lee, Police Chief Shaun Davis, Public Works Director Dayna Webb, Community Development Director Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, Economic Development Manager James Graham, Community Engagement Specialist Hannah Schmidt; Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Tom Kissinger

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. CEREMONIES AND PROCLAMATIONS

a. Oath of Office for New Oregon City Police Officer

Shaun Davis, Police Chief, introduced new Police Officer Robert Brown. Mayor McGriff administered the Oath of Office to Officer Brown.

b. Oath of Office for New Oregon City K9 Officer Coco

Chief Davis introduced new K9 Officer Coco. Mayor McGriff administered the oath of office to Officer Coco.

c. Retirement of Oregon City K9 Officer Slate

Chief Davis recognized K9 Officer Slate who was retiring after seven years of service. He also recognized Officer Shockley, who had served for 21 years as a canine handler.

d. K-9 Grendel Remembrance

Chief Davis said K9 Officer Grendel had recently passed away. He shared information about the dog and presented his handler with a plaque.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Claire Met, resident of Oregon City, supported the request for a canine retirement health fund and had collected 30-plus signatures on a petition requesting \$15,000 be set aside for this purpose.

Judy Scheafer, resident of Oregon City, also supported setting aside funds for canine officer retirement.

Sherry Atanasoff, resident of Oregon City, agreed that funds should be allocated to canine retirement,

especially with all of the retirees needing care.

Linda Baysinger, resident of Oregon City, said the CIC voted unanimously for a letter of support to fund canine retirement. It was a nominal amount for the service the dogs had provided.

Sue Spijini, Oregon City School District, spoke about a canine demonstration at her home. Her grandchildren read letters they wrote about Grendel.

William Gifford, resident of Oregon City, thanked staff for cleaning broken glass off the sidewalk on Molalla Avenue and improvements to the sound system in the Council Chambers.

Bob La Salle, resident of Oregon City, advocated for a retirement fund for canine officers. Even though other jurisdictions did not offer this, he thought Oregon City should show they cared.

Jackie Hammond-Williams, resident of Oregon City, encouraged the Commission to discuss a canine retirement fund at a Work Session. She had found a jurisdiction in Arizona who provided this funding.

Shawn Debler, Police Officer in Gresham and trainer of record for the Oregon City police canines, spoke about how he had trained canine officers for years and the burden of retired dogs on the families that adopted them. If Oregon City was the first to create retirement funding, other jurisdictions would follow.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. End of the Oregon Trail - Executive Director Presentation

Corinne Lowenthal, Executive Director of Clackamas Heritage Partners, gave a presentation on the work they had been doing at the End of the Oregon Trail. They would be celebrating 30 years this summer and were focused on healing within the land, infrastructure, and community. The infrastructure was only meant to last for 30 years, and many exhibits were depreciating. They planned to upgrade in two phases, and she explained plans for how it would be financed. There had always been an intentionally planned second phase which could be done on the current land that they owned. She described the number of visitors they had served after the pandemic, including international visitors and schoolchildren. This was a place where people gathered, and they wanted to tell the stories of all the communities that had used the place. They would need funding for upgrades to the siding and HVAC systems and design, engineering, and drafting, and she requested that the City invest in the next budget cycle.

John George, Tribal Council Secretary for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, gave cultural information on Abernethy Green, the grounds where the End of the Oregon Trail resided.

b. 2024 Community Survey Results

Jason Morado, Director of Community Research for ETC Institute, gave a presentation on the survey. He provided a background on ETC Institute, purpose of the survey, methodology, location of survey respondents, what they learned, survey questions and responses, how residents had a positive perception of the City, satisfaction with City services was higher in Oregon City than other cities, satisfaction ratings were similar to 2023, top overall priorities, and summary of findings.

There was discussion regarding the facilities people wanted to prioritize which included both the Pool and End of the Oregon Trail, response rate being representative of the City, good staff leadership and customer service, and how there was not much support for additional funding sources for parks.

6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the consent agenda. The

motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Smith, Mayor McGriff, Commissioner Marl, Commissioner Mitchell, and Commissioner Wilson

NO: None

The Commission took a break from 8:34 P.M. to 8:49 P.M.

- a. Resolution No. 24-27, Initiating Vacation of Public Rights-of-Way Proceedings for "Clackamas Heights," Owned by Clackamas County Housing, Legally Addressed as 13900 Gain Street, and Establishing a Public Hearing Date of February 5, 2025
- b. Intergovernmental Agreement with Clackamas Co-permittee Group and Water Environmental Services for Watershed Based Mercury Monitoring
- c. Purchase of Public Works Sewer and Storm Division Vehicle: 2025 Ford F-550 3-Yard Dump Truck
- d. Purchase of Public Works Sewer and Storm Division Replacement Vehicle: 2025 Ford F-250 Traffic Control Truck
- e. Contract for e-Review support in the Building Division
- f. Purchase of one Ford F-150 with upfitting for Parks staff use
- g. Parks and Cemetery Division Mower Replacement
- h. Construction Contract with Mid-America Pool Renovation, Inc. for the Oregon City Swimming Pool Resurfacing and Retiling Project

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

None

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. McLoughlin Promenade Update

Alexandra Rains, Assistant City Manager, said the Commission had asked staff to reach out to property owners who were encroaching on the McLoughlin Promenade to resolve the issue in order to designate the Promenade as a Charter Park. Staff had drafted an encroachment license agreement and had received mixed opinions on the willingness to sign the agreement. Some had signed and some refused to sign and some wanted amendments to the terms.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, gave a background on the effort to make all City parks Charter Parks and the protections that were placed on the parks with the designation. He then explained the encroachment issues at the Promenade.

Bill Kabeiseman, City Attorney, discussed how they could not make the encroachments permanent and explained the indemnity clause in the agreement.

Vicki Yates, resident of Oregon City, said her historic house encroached on the Promenade by seven inches. She thought a revokable encroachment agreement was acceptable for landscaping, planters, or irrigation systems, but the encroachment of her house was different. She did not want to sign an agreement that said she had no right to the encroachment of her house. She thought they had an equitable right to encroach where the house had been for 111 years. A non-revokable agreement could

cloud the title and make it difficult to sell the property or get financing. She thought an easement or vacating that portion of the Promenade should be considered instead. She offered to pay for the preparation of any needed documents as well as the recording fees.

Greg Rose, resident of Oregon City, said his garage was one foot, eight inches into the designated park and another portion was in the right-of-way on Second Street. The garage was 105 years old and his home was historically significant, which included the garage. The agreement was revokable, offering no protection in the future. He had invested in keeping up his property and the Promenade. The correspondence from the City had felt accusatory and punitive. He had bought the home with the existing structures and had not done anything to change it. The City needed to be more community-minded in their communications on this issue.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, said his house had been remodeled in the 90s by a different owner and had been raised so stairs in the front were required. Those stairs encroached onto the Promenade; however, at the time of the remodel, the City never enforced the encroachment. He did not think 30 years later he had to indemnify the City or remove the staircase. He had also invested in the upkeep of the Promenade.

David Demers, resident of Oregon City, asked questions about the encroachments. The Promenade had been put on the National Register in 2014, and he thought that meant the encroachments that were there at that time were allowed. He thought designating it a Charter Park was unnecessary as well as the encroachment agreements. He discussed insurance liability to homeowners with the agreements and how it was unacceptable.

Damon Mabee, resident of Oregon City, was speaking for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He said that whatever the lot lines were when the Promenade was designated on the National Register should be the lot lines of the park. The VFW was built in 1949 from a tax lot that was donated to the VFW by the City out of the park property. Their front door was 7 feet inside the park and the city had built stairs from the top of the bluff through the VFW property to the lower part of the park. He suggested an 8 foot lot line adjustment to the west and to sign an easement for the stairs and property north of the stairs.

John Rand, resident of Oregon City, said his encroachment was three feet into the Promenade. His house was built in 1881 and had not moved since that time. He did not agree with Mr. Kabeiseman's interpretation of the indemnity clause. He felt the clause would make him liable if someone were injured on his property. He thought the City should vacate the encroachments that had been identified. He was an enthusiastic supporter of designation as a historic house and had done a lot of restoration to the house and adjacent gardens. He could not sign the agreement due to the indemnification and legal fees.

Josh Adams, resident of Oregon City, used the identified encroachment for parking behind his property. When he purchased the property in 2016, the parking area was there already. He had done significant improvements to the house. He was also concerned with the indemnity clause. He did not want to sign the agreement if someone came onto his property and was injured, which he thought would open him up to being sued.

There was discussion regarding considering vacating the encroachment areas, how the goal was to protect the park and work with each property owner on their specific situation, how putting the Promenade on the National Register did not grant the adjacent property owners any rights, clarification of the indemnity clause, how they would need to vacate property because they could not create easements or lot line adjustments, how they would not get the property back if it was vacated, and how they considered these structures differently than rock walls, driveways, landscaping, etc.

There was consensus to discuss this topic at a Work Session and give staff direction for what they would be willing to vacate and what they would not.

There was consensus to continue the meeting past 10 p.m.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager

- a. Pre-application to Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program for Park Improvements at End of the Oregon Trail

Tom Kissinger, Deputy Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the grant program for exterior improvements at the End of the Oregon Trail. If they were successful in the pre-application phase, they would bring back a grant application to the Commission for review and approval in April.

Motion by Commissioner Marl, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to approve the pre-application to Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Smith, Mayor McGriff, Commissioner Marl, Commissioner Mitchell, and Commissioner Wilson

NO: None

Commissioners –

Commissioner Marl noted the projects that had been discussed tonight needed funding and there were limited funds for all these requests.

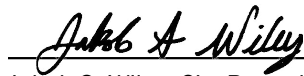
Mayor –

Mayor McGriff thanked staff for the work on the Promenade agreements. She updated the City Committee/Board assignments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGriff adjourned the meeting at 10:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder

Date Approved: October 15, 2025