



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING - REVISED MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION

1. CONVENE MEETING AND ROLL CALL

Mayor McGriff convened the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

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

STAFFERS: 10 - City Manager Tony Konkol, Assistant City Manager Alex Rains, City Recorder Jakob Wiley, Police Chief Shaun Davis, Public Works Director Dayna Webb, Community Development Director Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, Planning Manager Pete Walter, Economic Development Manager James Graham, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Tom Kissinger, Community Engagement Specialist Hannah Schmidt

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. CEREMONIES AND PROCLAMATIONS

a. March for Meals Month

Mayor McGriff read the proclamation declaring March 2025 as March for Meals Month.

Alexandra Kocher, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, thanked the Commission for raising awareness of this important program.

Tom Shaw, resident of Oregon City, was a driver for Meals on Wheels. He described the clients he served.

Frank Washburn, resident of Oregon City, shared stories about what it meant to deliver meals to clients.

Mayor McGriff shared her own story of volunteering with Meals on Wheels.

b. Women's History Month

Mayor McGriff read the proclamation declaring March 2025 as Women's History Month.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Community Choice Grant Program

Christine Lewis, Metro Councilor, gave a history on the pilot program Nature in Neighborhoods Community Choice Grants. Crista Gardiner, Nature and Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program Manager, explained the 2022 Program Design Committee, 2025 Review Committee, the participatory process, grant timeline

and program elements, idea collection and vetting, project development, final community vote, and awarding of the grants in 2026.

b. Natural Resources Committee Annual Report

Samantha Wolf, Natural Resources Committee Chair, and Brian Kvisler, Natural Resources Committee Vice Chair, presented the annual report including membership, accomplishments, discussions, and recommendations.

c. Citizen Involvement Committee Annual Report

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist, introduced Citizen Involvement Committee Chair Linda Baysinger, who presented the annual report. She discussed their accomplishments and activities in 2024.

d. 2024 Police Department Annual Report

Shaun Davis, Police Chief, presented the Police Department Annual Report. He discussed the department, calls for service, stop data, police reports and records, citations and arrests, summary of use of force incidents and types of force used, detective division year in review, crime scene processing and forensics, special investigations team, Behavioral Health Unit, training division, traffic team, traffic grant statistics, School Resource Officer, K-9 team, homeless liaison officer, unauthorized camp cleanups, Code Enforcement and code daily operations, Keeping Oregon City Clean project, community outreach and events, and future challenges.

6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Marl asked to discuss item 7.d.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Mayor McGriff, to approve the consent agenda except for item 7d. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None

- a. OLCC: Liquor License Application – New Winery License Application, Manufacturing/Production license; Brickwall Cider Co.
- b. OLCC: Liquor License Application – New Full On-Premises, Commercial Application; Blue Ox Axe Throwing Oregon, LLC
- c. Grant Agreement with the State of Oregon for Main Street: 10th Street to 15th Street Project (CI 25-002)
- d. Personal Services Agreement with Pitman Restaurant Equipment for the Pioneer Community Center's Kitchen Remodel Project

Commissioner Marl noted that Oregon City's Meals on Wheels program also covers the West Linn area. West Linn reimburses the city for meal services delivered to West Linn. He asked if capital expenses like this project were factored into the agreement with West Linn.

Tom Kissinger, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, said it was not. He added that the project was funded by the donation account, not the city's general fund.

Motion by Commissioner Marl, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to approve item 7d. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-1003 - Flood Management Overlay District Code Amendments (GLUA-24-030/LEG-24-04)

Mayor McGriff opened the public hearing.

Ken Baysinger, resident of Oregon City, was opposed to this ordinance. He illustrated how using the principle of zero net loss negatively impacted his neighbor. His neighbor had five yards of rock introduced into the floodplain area and had to pay \$68,000 for environmental and engineering studies. He thought the City should hold Union Pacific to this principle, as they were dropping rock in the floodplain.

Mayor McGriff closed the public hearing.

There was discussion regarding FEMA pulling back from these regulations. Tony Konkol, City Manager, explained this was not an administrative requirement from FEMA. Instead, it was born out of a settlement agreement from litigation.

Motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to approve the second reading and final adoption of Ordinance No. 25-1003 - Flood Management Overlay District Code Amendments (GLUA-24-030/LEG-24-04). The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Thimble Creek Market Assessment and Development Scenarios – Discussion

Aquila Hurd-Ravich, Community Development Director, said the city had received a grant to do an industrial site readiness study. The consultants presented their findings at the last meeting and staff requested two Commissioners to volunteer to work with staff to refine the alternatives.

James Graham, Economic Development Manager, explained that the volunteer Commissioners would be speaking with property owners, drafting policy options, and providing recommendations to the Commission for further action.

Mayor McGriff and Commissioner Mitchell volunteered.

The Mayor swapped the positions of items 7.b. and 7.c. on the agenda.

- b. 335 Warner Milne Sidewalk/Street Tree Removal Project (TREE-24-00065 / NROD-25-00001)

Ms. Hurd-Ravich discussed the existing tree removal process. The tree in question did not meet the criteria to require Commission review. However, staff felt that this case involved conflicting priorities and wanted the Commission's input.

Dayna Webb, Public Works Director, gave a presentation on Warner Milne Road sidewalk options as part of the 2025 Pavement Maintenance Utility project. She explained the existing conditions on Warner Milne and summarized an assessment of the tree by a certified arborist. The tree was too close to the street for

a curb-tight sidewalk. Because of the slope and ADA regulations, trying to meander the sidewalk around the tree would impact the property owner. Even so, a meandering sidewalk would still be within the drip line of the tree.

Mrs. Webb discussed staff's coordination with the property owner. Staff shared two options. The first was a 6 foot curb-tight sidewalk with tree removal. The second was a meandering sidewalk that might preserve the tree, depending on the root structure. The property owner preferred the first option.

Mrs. Webb offered three options to the Commission, the two above and a third option to not install the sidewalk.

There was discussion regarding the significance of white oaks, an option to have the sidewalk come up to the drip line and around the tree, how a cedar tree was not a replacement for an oak tree, and how the ADA limited the slope of new sidewalk construction.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, discussed another option, to not build a sidewalk on the north side, but instead to put in a high-quality crosswalk on Danielson Drive. Working with PGE, this would address desired connectivity in the area.

Betsy Jordan Edhome, resident of Oregon City, thought the tree should be preserved and a curved sidewalk should be installed around the tree. She thought the tree code should be modified to save the tree.

Wendy Marshall, resident of Oregon City, did not see a lot of discussion with the property owner about the importance of the tree or compensation for an easement. She asked if the property owner only chose to remove the tree because it was the easy option. She gave a few ideas, such as reducing the travel lane width and mitigating the tree removal by planting new trees on the same property or strip of road.

Dorothy Dahlsrud, resident of Oregon City, discussed reasons to preserve the tree and to work with the property owner to explain the significance of the tree and find a way to save it. She thought if native white oaks were cut down, they needed to be replaced with native white oaks.

Jackie Hammond-Williams, resident of Oregon City, thought the tree needed to be preserved as it was part of the City's history and had immense value.

Rae Gordon, resident of Oregon City, thought they needed to set an example and respect their elders, and she felt this tree was an elder. She discussed how trees were part of tourism marketing.

Steve Partlow, member of the congregation of the church that owned the property, said the City had come to the church and proposed to put in a sidewalk and improve their driveway. They were given two options and did not know the history of the tree. He mentioned that the tree is brittle and drops a lot of branches. The church does not let the children play near it. He said that the church did not need a sidewalk in front of their building, and the tree could be preserved.

The Commission took a break from 9:08 to 9:12 P.M.

The Commission discussed preserving the tree and leaving it as is, the need to revisit the tree code, and planting mitigation trees on-site where possible.

Motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Marl, to deny removal of the tree. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None

c. Funding City-Sponsored Public Event Program

Mr. Graham said there was about \$4,600 remaining in this fund and he was asking for \$50,000 in additional funds for summer events. He listed the options for consideration.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, said that the alignment of the grant cycle and budget cycle made this necessary. The funds would be disbursed in both this and next fiscal year, but the funds needed to be made available for the city to offer the grant program. He added that the funds would be included in the budget for the next fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve \$50,000 from the Transient Lodging Tax fund to support City-sponsored public events and to advertise the program immediately. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None

10. COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager –

None

Commissioners –

Commissioner Marl gave an update on HB 2138 regarding middle housing development.

Commissioner Wilson said he and Commissioner Marl were at the last CIC meeting where the Police Department gave a presentation on Neighborhood Watch.

Mayor –

Mayor McGriff appointed William Foster and reappointed Emily Lisborg to the Natural Resources Committee. She also appointed Judy Schaffer to the Enhancement Grant Program Committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGriff adjourned the meeting at 9:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder

Date Approved: November 19, 2025