

# City Council Meeting Minutes

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 – 6:00 PM  
COLUMBIA CITY, CITY HALL – 1840 SECOND STREET  
CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

#### CONVENED:

Mayor Katrina Claridge called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Gordon Thistle  
Councilor Connie Quick

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Council President Rob Forman  
Councilor Jeff Reinan

#### ALSO PRESENT:

Kim Karber, City Administrator/Recorder  
Jerry Bartolomucci, Chief of Police

#### ATTORNEY PRESENT:

None

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### CITIZEN INPUT:

#### 2.1 Kit Gardes, representing the Library, gave a City Celebration update.

Kit reported that the City Celebration was the best one since Covid. She thanked everyone with the City for all of the work they did – Strawberry Pancake Breakfast, Car Show, Prepare Fair, City Booth, etc. They netted \$6,203.

## AGENDA ITEM 3

### COUNCIL REPORTS:

3.1 Audit Committee: Next meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

3.2 Hazard Committee: Chief Bartolomucci reported they went over the Prepare Fair. They try and get as many groups to participate as possible, but it depends on their staffing levels and what is going on, so they must wait until the event gets closer. Next meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

3.3 Parks Committee: Mayor Claridge reported the next meeting is October 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee will be reviewing Datis and Carolyn King Park. Kim gave an update that the D.A.R. is still working on the deed for donating Pixie Park to the City. Kim also mentioned that a grant for \$40,000 for a park's masterplan has been granted, we just need to wait for an executed copy before starting to spend any money.

3.4 Streets Committee: No report.

3.5 Water & Sewer Committee: No report.

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### CONSENT AGENDA:

4.1 Bills paid with check numbers 35077 through 35123 during the month of August 2024.

4.2 Expense vs Budget Report for the month ending August 2024.

4.3 Combined balance sheet for the month ending June 2024.

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- 4.4 **Combined balance sheet for the month ending August 2024.**
- 4.5 **Minutes of the August 15, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.**
- 4.6 **Activity Report from the Chief of Police for the month of August 2024.**
- 4.7 **Activity Report from the Public Works Superintendent for the month of August 2024.**
- 4.8 **Activity Report from the City Administrator for the month of August 2024.**
- 4.9 **Minutes of the August 2024, Parks Committee Meeting.**
- 4.10 **Minutes of the August 2024, Hazard Mitigation Planning Group Meeting.**

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**      **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**      **NEW BUSINESS:**

**6.1**      **Review general ledger report for Budget vs Fund Balance.**

Kim explained a new report that will be produced by the City Administrator and presented to Mayor and Council once a year (around September) after the budget process is complete. It shows what was budgeted compared to the fund balance. Fund balance should always be higher.

**6.2**      **Discuss Jeff Reinan's resignation from Council and filling the open position.**

After some discussion and there being no opponents for any of the open council positions, it was decided to have the vacant position filled by Lyle Blum, who is on the ballot for a council seat.

MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LYLE BLUM TO FILL THE OPEN COUNCIL POSITION.

**6.3**      **Review of Waste Management's scheduled rate increase of 1.909% on drop box collection services effective October 1, 2024.**

MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT'S RATE INCREASE OF 1.909%.

**6.4**      **Review the League of Oregon Cities legislative priorities and select our top five choices to submit.**

Kim will look into getting something setting up so we can get the votes in by due date of September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM 7**      **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**7.1**      **Consider League of Oregon Cities request for a donation.**

No action taken.

**7.2**      **Live Streaming.**

Wendy Wells, resident, inquired about live streaming the Council meetings. We will gauge residents' interest by doing a survey in the next newsletter.

**7.3**      **Job Posting for the Accounting/Court Clerk position.**

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The interviews are completed. Reference calls need to be made and hopefully a decision will be made by next week on who to hire.

**7.4 Oregon Government Ethics Commission required training.**

It is now required for us to take a training class on public meeting law once per term.

**7.5 Lignetics Community Meeting.**

Mike Sale, VP of Operations, from Lignetics reported that they will be moving forward with all the items they said they would be working on to try and make the pollution issue better with the expectation for it to be done by June 1, 2025. He also talked about a new hammermill (they already have it on site) that they want to install but the current transformer is not large enough to run it, but they do have a possibility of getting their hands on one, so they are working on that. Once the improvements are made, they are going to go back to working 24/7 producing wood pellets and adding wood chips for smoking.

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**8.1** There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

APPROVED:

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Katrina Claridge  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kim Karber  
City Administrator/Recorder