

City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM
COLUMBIA CITY, CITY HALL – 1840 SECOND STREET
MEETING MOVED TO 1850 SECOND STREET DUE TO HIGH ATTENDANCE, SIGN WAS PLACED AT 1840
CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

CONVENED:

Mayor Alex Reed called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Alex Reed
Council President Connie Quick
Councilor Gordon Thistle
Councilor Lyle Bluhm

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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 PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

AGENDA ITEM 3 CITIZEN INPUT:

3.1 Paulette Lichatowich – Bundy Park/Fire Station

Paulette Lichatowich of 36343 Miloris Way read a statement and provided the Council with information regarding Bundy Park and the fire station. Both have been entered into the record. Mayor Reed asked Paulette if she supported a fire station in Columbia City and she said she did not know.

3.2 Tyra Schroder

Tyra Schroder of 3225 6th Street asked if it was legal and encouraged to cover water meters in Columbia City. Kim replied it is not encouraged to cover water meters or septic tank lids in Columbia City, but it does happen and she would have to check on the legality of it. When asked by the Councilors as to why someone would want to or if she was missing a lid, Tyra replied she was curious.

3.3 Citizen input on Bundy Park/Fire Station

- Mike Raszewski of 3235 6th Street spoke on his time living in Columbia City, city parks, and concerns of donating park land for building a fire station.

- Amanda Howie of 3235 6th Street spoke about the parks being one of her favorite parts of the community and she would be devastated if a fire station were placed in Bundy Park. She is unsure on whether or not a fire station is needed in Columbia City, but knows she does not want it in Bundy Park.
- Judy Valpiani of 805 K Street said she is a firm believer of parks in the community. She spoke of her experience with the fire departments different response times with locations in St. Helens and Columbia City and one of her concerns is the amount of time that is actually going to be saved, another is the Deer Island station not being fully staffed.
- Jackie Ziegler of 400 E Street spoke on how vital Bundy Park is to Columbia City. It is a buffer from highway noise, she sees other people walking through and enjoying the park. Jackie showed a picture her young daughter, who was not able to attend, drew showing them walking through the Park. The picture also had a bunch of hearts to show she loved Bundy Park and said save Bundy Park.
- Chip Dryden of 400 D St stated we do not need another fire station. He also provided a letter to Council, and it has been entered into the record.
- Logan Gilbert-Renner of 2450 5th Street asked the audience to raise their hands regarding various questions he asked about the fire station. He thinks more work needs to be done by the fire department, showing that a fire station is needed and that it is needed in Columbia City.
- Robert Campbell of 2105 The Strand spoke on Bundy Park being a fantastic park and being opposed to a fire station being there. His concern is with the funding for the operations of the fire station once it is built.
- Celeste Smith of 410 D Street stated she wanted it on record that she did not misrepresent information when she went around and collected signatures for Save Bundy Park. She read a statement and presented the petition with 288 signatures which have been entered into the record.
- Garrett Greig of 405 C Street stated he would also like to see the data that shows Columbia County needs another fire station. He and his family utilize the park, and he sees other people utilizing the park all the time.
- Rebecca Pickering of 1800 7th Street talked about her time living in Columbia City and that her kid's playground was the woods where people are living now. She spoke about her involvement with the City and all the different committees she volunteers on. She talked about the struggle to pay for the maintenance of the parks because of the lean budget. She feels it is important to look at the fire station to be added as the fire department needs to modernize and we may need to open our doors and include them. She also feels the facts are very important.
- Rick Taylor of 2535 5th Street stated that he and his wife spent a lot of time three years ago and currently collecting signatures in opposition to the fire station. He talked about the various locations of current fire stations in Columbia County. He stated he and his wife have used the park since they have lived here, and they love it. Mayor Reed asked Rick where the Fern Hill location was and he stated it is in Rainier.
- Raymond Scott of 420 C Street spoke about how Bundy Park is a great addition to the City and the cost it would be to lose it. It would be tough to lose it since it could not be replaced. He uses it and states it is a widely used park. He supports EMS, police, schools but he thinks the cost of the facility in that spot is going to cost the City more than it is worth and we need to find a different way.
- Stuart Katz of 3315 6th Street talked about since he has lived here the fire department has had a lot of expenditures and his concern is the facilities that are not being used so they should be refurbishing those facilities. He wondered why we have to have it when it seems most people are against it.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COUNCIL REPORTS:

4.1 Audit Committee: No report.

3 Regular City Council Meeting
July 16, 2026

4.2 Hazard Committee: Councilor Quick reported they have been working on 'Getting to Know Your Neighbor' and how to best share information amongst each other. She wrote an article about her neighborhood's fourth annual block party for the newsletter. It will have information on a contact to reach out to for guidance on how to start one in other neighborhoods in Columbia City for people who are interested.

4.3 Parks Committee: Chair Bluhm reported the next meeting will be in September.

4.4 Streets Committee: Kim reported we should get word this month on whether the City received a Small City Allotment grant.

4.5 Water & Sewer Committee: Kim reported it is time for the City to go out for a request for proposal on septic tank pumping.

AGENDA ITEM 5

CONSENT AGENDA:

5.1 Bills paid with check numbers 36078 through 36120 during the month of June 2026.

5.2 Expense vs Budget Report for the month ending June 30, 2026.

5.3 Minutes of the June 18, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.

5.4 Activity Report from the City Administrator for the month of June 2026.

5.5 Activity Report from the Public Works Superintendent for the month of June 2026.

5.6 Activity Report from the Chief of Police for the month of June 2026.

5.7 Minutes of the May 19, 2026, Hazard Committee Meeting.

5.8 Revenue Analysis Report for the quarter ending June 30, 2026.

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

AGENDA ITEM 6

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

AGENDA ITEM 7

NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Review applications and interview candidates for filling the open council position.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (BLUHM), TO DEFER THE INTERVIEWS UNTIL THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

A resident asked about the due date of the permanent positions. Kim explained the position for Mayor and two Councilors will be on the November ballot, and the positions start in January. The City is currently accepting paperwork for those positions, and it is due in August, there are different dates for incumbents.

MOTION: MOVED (QUICK), SECONDED (THISTLE), TO REOPEN ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE OPEN COUNCIL POSITION UNTIL AUGUST 1ST.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.2 Request from Chief Bartolomucci for a street closure for the annual Columbia City Celebration on August 8, 2026.

MOTION: MOVED (QUICK), SECONDED (THISTLE), TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A STREET CLOSURE FOR THE COLUMBIA CITY CELEBRATION.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.3 Amendment Number Eight to Intergovernmental Agreement between Columbia County, Oregon and City of Columbia City, Oregon.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (BLUHM), TO ACCEPT AMENDMENT NUMBER EIGHT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN COLUMBIA COUNTY AND COLUMBIA CITY.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.4 Fire Station discussion

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), TO DELAY DISCUSSION ON THE FIRE STATION.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.5 Council Bill 26-1030: A Resolution Calling for an Election in the City of Columbia City to Submit to City Voters the Enactment of a Local Option Levy to Provide Continued Revenue for Police Protection Services.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (BLUHM), TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL 26-1030.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

A resident asked why the proposed levy is being increased from \$.90 to \$ 1.95. Kim explained the \$1.95 will be to cover the full operating costs of the police. Currently the permanent levy is subsidizing the police operations, and it is unsustainable.

AGENDA ITEM 8

OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 Glass Drop Box

Kim asked for guidance on whether Council would like her to do further research on getting a drop box for recycling glass in Columbia City. The consensus was for Kim to research further.

8.2 League of Oregon Cities (LOC)

Kim explained the LOC sends out a list of legislative priorities every other year for Cities to vote on their top five choices to guide the LOC on what they should focus on. Kim will email the priorities out to Councilors to have time to review and then to vote on in a future meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT:

- 9.1** There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

APPROVED:

Alexander Reed
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Karber
City Administrator/Recorder