City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 – 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 Alex Reed called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 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, Police Chief

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 Patricia Valpiani – Alleyway weeds
Patricia Valpiani stated she appreciated Mayor Reed coming over to her house after the last Council meeting. She also expressed her frustration with not knowing what she is allowed to do in the alleyway and what can be done about the weeds in the alleyway. She is trying to find a chemical that is not harmful to pets or people and that will kill the weeds.

AGENDA ITEM 4 **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

4.1 Audit Committee: No Report.

4.2 Hazard Committee: Chief Bartolomucci reported they did a recap of the Prepare Fair. They also talked more about the 'Know Your Neighbor' and want to move forward with that. They are going to reach out to the residents that started the group around 7th Street to get some more information.

4.3 Parks Committee: Chair Bluhm reported the grant for the play equipment in Harvard Park has been resubmitted and we should hear something by the end of November on whether we received it. The committee also discussed a bench donation, the Pixie Park pilings being resecured and the rot issues that are being addressed, and signs for the different parks. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13th.

4.4 Streets Committee: Mayor Reed reported the members are very knowledgeable and the street committee is in good hands. They discussed finishing the street crack seal work, looking at pricing costs for paving the gravel section of 3rd Street to see if it could be included when the repaving work is being done, and what to do with the issue of people cutting the corner at 7th St & 'I' St.

4.5 Water & Sewer Committee: No Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5 CONSENT AGENDA:

5.1 Bills paid with check numbers 36170 through 36207 during the month of August 2026.
5.2 Expense vs Budget Report for the month ending August 31, 2026.
5.3 Activity Report from the City Administrator for the month of August 2026.
5.4 Activity Report from the Public Works Superintendent for the month of August 2026.
5.5 Activity Report from the Chief of Police for the month of August 2026.
5.6 Combined Balance Sheet for the month ending August 31, 2026.
5.7 Minutes of the August 20, 2026, City Council Meeting.
5.8 Minutes of the July 28, 2026, Hazard Committee Meeting.
5.9 Minutes of the August 26, 2026, Streets Committee Meeting.
5.10 Minutes of the August 28, 2026, Water & Sewer Committee Meeting.
5.11 Combined Balance sheet for the month ending June 30, 2026.
5.12 General Ledger Budget vs Fund Balance Report.
5.13 Minutes of the September 8, 2026, Parks Committee Meeting.

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 of Waste Management's scheduled rate increase of 2.595% on drop box collection services effective October 1, 2026.

MOTION: MOVED (QUICK), SECONDED (THISTLE), TO APPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT'S SCHEDULED RATE INCREASE OF 2.595% ON DROP BOX COLLECTION SERVICES.
MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.2 Discuss recommendation from Water and Sewer Committee to enter into a contract between the City of Columbia City and Blue Heron Septic and Drain Service, Inc for Septic Tank Maintenance Services.

MOTION: MOVED (BLUHM), SECONDED (THISTLE), TO APPROVED THE CONTRACT BETWEEN COLUMBIA CITY AND BLUE HERON SEPTIC AND DRAIN SERVICE INC FOR SEPTIC SERVICES.
MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.3 Fire Station.

Mayor Reed moved this agenda item as the first meeting item to be discussed. Councilor Bluhm commented that in the future it would be nice to have all the right information at the right time for decision making. Mayor Reed agreed that was a good point and Councilor Quick said more prework should be done before being brought to Council. Chief Bartolomucci added some history and stated that this was brought up by the Fire

Department and brought to previous Councils. The information brought was vague/sparse when originally presented, which may have led to it being tabled in the past. He thinks the Fire Department should be doing further research regarding access and other key details before doing a presentation to Council so that all pertinent information is provided to make an adequate decision.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES PURSUING A FIRE STATION IN BUNDY PARK.
MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.4 Consideration of OLCC Special Event License Application from Wigwam Tavern.

MOTION: MOVED (QUICK), SECONDED (BLUHM), TO APPROVE THE OLCC SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION FROM WIGWAM TAVERN.
MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

ITEM 8 OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 Curbside Glass Recycling Drop
Kim reported that Kanale from Hudson Garbage would like to know how much interest there would be for a curbside glass recycling program in Columbia City. Kim asked the Council about doing a survey in the newsletter to gauge interest. Council consensus was to move forward with the survey after getting more details on how the program would work.

8.3 Patricia Valpiani – Alleyway weeds
Mayor Reed circled back to Patricia and clarified with her that the concern was getting rid of the weeds in the alleyway. She confirmed. Mayor Reed then said he would talk with Micah and stop by her house to follow up with her. Patricia then mentioned a concern with people cutting the corner on 'K' St going to 1st St and their speed and that there are no stop or yield signs. Mayor Reed said he would also look at that.

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADJOURNMENT:

9.1 There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

APPROVED:

_____
Alexander Reed
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kim Karber
City Administrator/Recorder