

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Date: January 07, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm
Meeting called to order by: Mayor Anderson at 6:01 pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Council: Mayor Witt Anderson, Noah Estes, Lydia Koerner, Charlie Cannon, Ron Wright, Gary Lindemyer, Brenna Campbell

Staff: City Manager Andrea Rogers, City Recorder Amy Szilagyi, Finance Director Monica Morris, Special Projects Coordinator Colleen Coleman

AGENDA CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: None

SUMMARY: The city council meeting covered several key operational and infrastructure matters, including discussions about train horn noise concerns, skate park funding, and the closure of a trust fund with a negative balance. The council reviewed various administrative updates including staff hiring, process improvements, and short-term rental permitting progress, while also approving a new bulk water service fee schedule for both residential and commercial customers. The conversation ended with updates on ongoing projects including the Union Pacific Railroad easement, Joint Use Facility development, and transient lodging tax revenue collection.

APPROVAL OF 12.10.2025 MINUTES: As corrected

MOTION: Councilor Lindemyer moved to approve minutes as corrected. Councilor Wright seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.

Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Cannon, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

OPEN MEETING

Public Comment

- Scott Hege: Nothing to report, attending just to observe
- Jayne Elken: Raised concerns about train horn noise and potential impacts of Union Pacific construction on the skate park project.
 - City Manager Rogers: Explained that while Union Pacific is being asked to limit horn blowing, certain safety requirements necessitate honking. Mayor Anderson: Instructed Jayne to report any significant increases to City Hall, who will work with Aaron Hunt from UPRR on finding a solution.

1. **Resolution: Close the Community Celebration Trust Fund:** Finance Director Monica Morris reported on the Community Celebration Trust Fund, noting it was established by a 2013 resolution and remains open. She requested council approval to close the fund, which currently has a negative balance of \$567 that will be absorbed by the general fund, explaining that closing it will simplify accounting and ensure a clean audit.

MOTION: Made by Councilor Wright to approve Resolution 2026-01 Authorizing the Closure and Cancellation of the Community Celebration Trust Fund. Councilor Estes seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.

Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Cannon, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

2. **Year in Review:** City Manager Andrea Rogers presented a year-in-review, highlighting completed projects, ongoing initiatives, and goals for the next fiscal year. She noted the City's milestone of hiring full-time staff, including Amy Szilagyi, who has improved office operations, streamlined short-term rental permitting, and enhanced responsiveness. City Manager Rogers recognized Colleen Coleman as project manager and Monica Morris for finance and administrative support, noting their management of seven major projects, including grant-funded efforts such as the upcoming parking study. She emphasized maintaining focus on current projects, strengthening record retention and compliance, and updating the employee handbook. Mayor Anderson and Council members asked clarifying questions on staff roles, project management, and timelines, with Rogers detailing team structure, project allocation, and compliance priorities. Anderson commended her leadership and team-building.
3. **Bulk Water Rates:** The Council reviewed proposed bulk water sales rates. City Manager Rogers explained a \$250 daily access fee and per-load charges of \$10–\$75 for commercial deliveries, noting that water is no longer potable once it leaves the City system. The Council agreed to update the intergovernmental agreement with the Fire Department to provide oversight during water filling. Councilors discussed fee structure, impacts on the water table, and water availability during peak use. Mayor Anderson suggested consulting GSI hydrogeologists, and Rogers confirmed commercial rates would be higher than residential, consistent with other communities.

MOTION: Made by Councilor Campbell to adopt Resolution 2026-02, as proposed by staff, amending the Consolidated Fee Schedule to establish bulk water fees, and authorizing the City Administrator to implement the process. Councilor Lindemyer seconded. The motion carried with the following votes.

Ayes: Anderson, Estes, Koerner, Cannon, Wright, Lindemyer, Campbell

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

- **Short-Term Rental (STR) Permitting Update:** City Recorder Amy Szilagyi thanked the STR Committee, with special acknowledgment to Elizabeth Payne, and provided an update on STR compliance. As of December 31, nine permits were complete, with 8–9 applications pending additional information, and 10–15 potential STRs identified for review. Councilors asked about map accuracy, revenue figures, and enforcement options. Amy noted the map is current; \$190,000 reflects total TLT collections since the City gained access, and additional compliance could increase revenue. City Manager Rogers added that most compliant STRs are in the commercial zone; some neighborhoods have exceeded the 10% cap, voluntary registrants are tracked, and legislative efforts are underway to adjust TLT allocation for more flexible use.
4. **City Activities Updates/Reports:**
 - City Manager Rogers: Continuing to work with City Attorney Laura Westmeyer on finalizing a temporary easement contract around the staging area, including a lease payment as a revenue source. Expected to be sent to Union Pacific by the end of the week.
 - Mayor Anderson: Gave update on the Joint Use Facility / Mosier Center: committee met in December, discussed options, next step is to request funding in the short legislative session (Feb). Noted meeting with Senator Drazen to discuss project importance; no commitments yet.

- Councilor Lindemyer: First meeting of the Skate Park Rules Committee held last month developed a set of rules which will be presented to Council. Next meeting is scheduled to finalize signage and policy suggestions; process is moving productively.
- Councilor Estes: Columbia Gorge Food Bank president, Breen Goodwin, will be available for a meeting tomorrow to discuss collaboration on food security.
- Special Projects Coordinator Colleen Coleman: Confirmed scheduling of well water staff for a future council meeting to address questions about the water system.

Meeting Adjourned 6:53 pm

ACTION ITEMS:

City Manager Rogers:

- Follow up with Aaron Hunt at Union Pacific regarding train horn noise concerns, especially if issues persist, and coordinate with Jane and other residents as needed.
- Finalize and send the temporary easement contract to the Union Pacific representative by the end of the week.

City Recorder Szilagyi:

- Continue outreach and follow-up with STR operators, and investigate additional properties not currently identified by Host Compliance.
- Research Oregon Department of Revenue enforcement options for TLT compliance and report back to Council.
- Contact Councilor Lindemyer regarding addresses of known STR's not currently on the compliance map.

Special Projects Coordinator Coleman:

- Arrange for GSI (hydrogeologist) and/or Schneider (driller) to present a report to Council on the city's well project, water yield, and aquifer status, to address questions about water table sustainability.
- Schedule GSI and/or well project representatives to attend a future Council meeting to provide a water system update.

Witt Anderson, Mayor

Amy Szilagyi, City Recorder

Approved by City Council on _____