



City Council Meeting
April 20, 2026, 7:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
201 NW Douglas Blvd.
541.679.6739 info.

Minutes

Call to Order—*Christie Knutson, Mayor*

The meeting was called to order at 7 o'clock by Mayor Christie Knutson. Councilors Dorie White, Dave Cunningham, Allen Hobson, and Nick Wiggins were also present. Staff members in attendance were city manager Thomas McIntosh, public works superintendent Andy Howell, police chief Brandon Sarti, and city recorder Cindy Sarti. Add items VII(E), Resolution 26-1225 DEQ Loan Amount Amendment; and VII(F), Request for Fee Waiver at Community Center for Medicare Consulting.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Council Minutes

1. April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. April 20, 2026, Workshop

Motion to approve with one correction on the April 20th workshop minutes by Hobson; second by White. Unanimous. In the workshop minutes, the date to dedicate the Community Park Pavilion was amended to May 23rd.

Comments from the Audience

Kathi Wall-Meyer, 1026 Fir Avenue, Reedsport, is running for county commissioner.

Reports: Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Schools

Economic Development—*Dave Cunningham, Council Liaison*

The chamber is looking for ideas to get more involved in the community. Redbarn Dispensary is open for business. Sutherlin's dog park is a success and it would be a good idea for Winston to partner with Wildlife Safari. It was suggested that talking about Winston's growth and outlook for the future be published in the monthly newsletter.

Park Board—*Dorie White, Liaison*

Ellen Porter of Riverbend Live! asked for fee waivers for Riverbend Live! Youth Theater and for extra space to store carpet that was purchased for performance nights. A circus without animals was approved by the board. The park board tabled the discussion for extra space until more information could be gathered.

Friends of the Winston Library—*Paula Fetzer, Director*
Fetzer was not present at the meeting.

Department Reports

Wastewater—*Christopher Sherlock, Superintendent*
Written report submitted.

Police—*Brandon Sarti, Chief*

The agency hired to collect on court fines has been fired and a new Point-and-Pay system has been activated. \$1 million is owed to Winston in court fines. The City should see a return of \$100 thousand this fiscal year. It is anticipated that a 40% increase in court payments will occur due to the implementation of the new system. Turnout for the annual policemen's ball, sponsored by the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation, was a success. Shelving is going up in the evidence room and accreditation is moving forward. The chief discussed the need for a detective and the benefits of our agency participating in the DINT (Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team) program. Another patrol dog is in the works. Drug dogs are no longer feasible since warrants need to be requested for everything. There will be a tour of the evidence room upon completion.

Public Works—*Andy Howell, Superintendent*

Public works utilized the police department's drone to identify a mainline break. The team is aware of the pothole problems. A preconstruction meeting for the siphon project was held. There is not a start date yet, as the contractor is reviewing the agreement. The project was started roughly 5 ½ years ago. Howell discussed the park project form and procedure. The process works well and keeps everything well organized.

Administration—*Thomas McIntosh, City Manager*

McIntosh gave an update on Christmas lighting. He reached out to the metal shop at the high school to make the lights. Steven Johnson could create the templates. It was discovered during the streetlight upgrade to LED, that there were more than 50 streetlights the city has been paying for that are not even within the jurisdiction.

Old Business

Park Board Restructuring

Job descriptions and minutes from a previous meeting were distributed to the board. The city attorney was contacted regarding fundraising. While there is not a full prohibition on fundraising, there are restrictions. Councilor Hobson is okay with having staff on the new board, but not okay with cutting out the community members. He likes 4 community members (rather than 2), 2 staff members and a council liaison. The community members do not need to reside within the boundaries of the city. Councilor Wiggins asked Jack Holland for his opinion on the matter. Jack responded that the restructuring would be an improvement. Brett Bustrum, 184 Danielle Drive, suggested a park board and a volunteer sub-group to do the fundraising. It was consensus of the council to move forward with the restructuring of the board with the new board consisting of 4 community members, not required to live in the city limits, 2 members of staff and one council liaison.

New Business

New Business License

1. True North Restoration

Motion to approve by White; second by Cunningham. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 26-1223 Transportation Fee Increase

There was a lengthy discussion. No one likes to see fees increase. This fee has not increased since 2009 and will give public works roughly \$240 thousand to do street repairs. Motion to approve by Cunningham; second by Hobson. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 26-1224 Storm Drainage Fee Increase

Currently the City receives \$38 thousand/year in drainage fees. The increases would occur on July 1st. Emily McCurry, 671 T Street, asked if revenue from the dispensary was considered when calculating the increase.

Motion to approve by Hobson; second by Wiggins. Unanimous.

Ordinance No. 26-722 PacifiCorp Franchise Agreement

Motion to adopt by Cunningham; second by White. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 26-1225

Motion to approve by Hobson; second by Wiggins. Unanimous.

Fee Waiver Request—*Cinda Tyler, SHIBA Program*

Tyler asked for a waiver of fees to use space at the community center for Medicare consulting. Most work is done over the phone, and she has secured space in other cities. The discussion was tabled until further review and possibly using space at city hall.

Announcements

- First Budget Committee Meeting, May 4th at 6; City Hall
- City Council Meeting May 4th at 7; City Hall
- Second Budget Committee Meeting, May 11th at 4; Community Center

Break for executive session at 8:50.

Executive Session—*Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.*

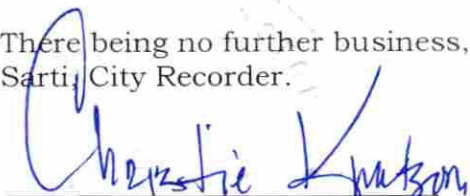
Reconvene after executive session at 9:28.

Resolution No. 26-1222 Winston Area Community Partnership (WACP) Teen Center Agreement

Motion to approve by Cunningham; second by White. Unanimous.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31. Respectfully submitted by Cindy Sarti, City Recorder.


Christie Knutson, Mayor

Attest:


Cindy Sarti, City Recorder