



CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE — MEETING MINUTES
 July 8, 2026

1. Meeting Information

Meeting	Winston Economic Development Committee — Regular Meeting
Date	July 8, 2026
Time	12:00 PM (Noon)
Location	Winston City Hall
Presiding Officer	Valynn Currie Committee Chair
Prepared By	Transcription Record
Status	Draft — Pending Approval at Next Regular Meeting

2. Attendance

Committee Members

Name / Title	Role	Note
Valynn Currie, Committee Chair	Presiding Officer	
Craig Wilson	Committee Member	Present
Mike Schneider	Committee Member	Present
Steve Johnson	Committee Member	Present

3. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 PM and conducted a roll call of members present (listed above).

4. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Discussion: A member noted that recent minutes (produced with AI assistance) had grown too long (approximately seven pages) and asked that future minutes be condensed to focus on attendance, motions, votes, and discussion items — target of roughly two pages.

Motion	Mover / Second	Vote	Result
Adopt minutes of the previous Economic Development Committee meeting	Mike Schneider / Craig Wilson	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

5. Committee & Liaison Reports

5.1 City Council Recap (Steve Johnson and Teri)

- The regular liaison (Thomas) was absent; Steve Johnson and audience member Teri Fink provided an informal recap of the July 6 City Council meeting.
- Police Chief presented on department budget programs being reduced or discontinued.
- Lieutenant Stiffler reported on July 4th events at Riverbend Park.
- Raeann Rutledge (Vice President of WAID) reported approximately 2,000 attendees, one issue requiring law-enforcement response, and a very well-received, one of the largest parades on record.
- Council passed several resolutions.

5.2 Wastewater Capacity / Development Discussion

- A member asked whether there is sufficient sewer capacity for a large facility reportedly proposed near the entrance to Safari.
- Discussion covered a planned river-crossing siphon/boring project (three new pipes) intended to increase capacity, funded in part by a reported \$4 million grant.
- Consensus was that the treatment plant is currently near capacity, and that a developer would likely need to pay fees and/or await capacity expansion.
- A related question was raised about the status of the Brockway roundabout project; no definitive update was given.

5.3 Community Development / Graffiti Cruise Event

- The upcoming “Summer Nite Cruise” event (Saturday, 5:00–10:00 PM) is being run by the festival committee, not the City.

5.4 Chamber of Commerce Report (Steve Johnson, Acting Chair)

- The Chamber lost its president (resigned); Steve Johnson, previously Vice President, is now Acting Chair.
- The Chamber has three new officers of four positions and is still without a treasurer; a bank account is maintained and new signature cards have been arranged so the Chamber can continue to write checks.

6. Old Business

- A previously mentioned development remains confidential/"under wraps"; no new details were available.
- A trench is being installed for a 23-unit subdivision on the other side of the ark (area referenced by members); the water district is separately installing pipe in the area.
- Continued discussion of the long-vacant former antique mall / old co-op building: members discussed possible uses (medical/professional office, grocery store) but noted plumbing and buildout limitations, uncertain ownership, and a leasing company that has changed hands multiple times without success in filling the space.
- General discussion of attracting retirees and new residents to Winston, including interest expressed by prospective residents from Texas; members noted the city needs more to offer newcomers.
- An idea to convert the old auto-wrecking yard (after required hazmat soil cleanup) into a public pool was discussed; members agreed the City is not positioned to purchase the property or fund such a facility, and that a public pool would likely require a nonprofit sponsor. Myrtle Creek's community pool was suggested as a model to research.

7. New Business

- A new full-service spa/nail salon has opened behind the JM Market.
- Only one new business was listed in the July newsletter; a citizen called asking why new-business newsletter listings don't include phone numbers or addresses. It was clarified that publishing such contact details would constitute advertising, which is not a City function; members suggested the Chamber could compile and publish a business directory, or that City Hall could keep a simple reference list available at the front desk.
- Storefront vacancies (including the former Loggers building) remain a concern; no update on plans for that property.

8. Good of the Order

- Swimming advisory: the South Umpqua River is not safe for swimming after approximately July 1st due to algae; the North Umpqua has clearer water. The YMCA and Myrtle Creek pool were mentioned as alternatives.
- A member noted that Zach Koehler spoke at the July 6 City Council meeting appealing the City's marijuana dispensary ordinance, which currently limits Winston to one dispensary. A public hearing on the appeal is forthcoming. Discussion touched on the state's population-based licensing threshold (one dispensary per 7,000 residents age 21+) and comparisons to Sutherlin's population.
- Extended discussion of potential industrial development along Dillard Garden Road / the Cow Creek area, which is largely agricultural-zoned, privately held, and outside current city limits. Members discussed the tradeoffs of expanding city limits to include the area (tax rates would rise from approximately \$11 to \$17 per thousand) versus the challenge of extending sewer service, since the area currently relies on septic and city sewer capacity is already limited.

9. Action Items & Follow-Up

Action Item	Responsible Party	Deadline / Notes
Reach out to owner of vacant former antique mall / co-op store building regarding possible medical-office or retail tenant and marketing needs	Committee Chair	
Follow up with contacts from Texas expressing interest in relocating to Winston	Steve Johnson	
Consider whether the City or Chamber should compile a directory/contact list of new businesses for the front desk and newsletter	Steve Johnson	
Continue monitoring wastewater capacity and siphon/boring project relevant to potential large development near Safari entrance	Committee (informational)	Ongoing — tied to City Council/Public Works project

10. Adjournment

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2026.

Motion	Mover / Second	Vote	Result
Adjourn the meeting	Steve Johnson / Craig Wilson	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

Certification

These minutes are a draft record of the Winston Economic Development Committee meeting held on July 8, 2026, reconstructed from an audio transcript, and are subject to review and approval at a subsequent regular meeting.

Valynn Currie
Chair, Presiding Officer

Thomas McIntosh
City Manager