



CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2026

1. Meeting Information

Meeting	Winston City Council Regular Meeting
Date	July 20, 2026
Location	Winston City Hall
Presiding Officer	Mayor Knutson
Prepared By	Transcription Record
Status	Draft — Pending Approval at Next Regular Meeting

2. Attendance

Roll call was taken at the start of the meeting:

Name / Title	Role	Present
Christie Knutson	Mayor / Presiding Officer	Present
Nick Wiggins	Council Member	Present
Allen Hobson	Council Member	Present
Dorie White	Council Member	Present
Dave Cunningham	Council Member	Present

Staff Attendance:

- Thomas McIntosh — City Manager
- Andy Howell — Public Works Superintendent
- Megan Hamilton — Public Works Foreman

3. Call to Order

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call (see Attendance above). No agenda adjustments were noted.

4. Public Hearing — Appeal of Ordinance 26-723 (Marijuana Business Moratorium)

The Council opened a public hearing on a timely-filed appeal of Ordinance 26-723, which places a permanent moratorium on new recreational marijuana business licenses in Winston. Motion to open the hearing by Hobson; seconded by Wiggins, passed.

Staff Report

- The city confirmed the appeal was filed on the 30th day and is timely.
- Staff clarified the ordinance's authority comes from the Winston Municipal Code, not from House Bill 4121 (which separately restricts new OLCC licenses based on population thresholds and was not the basis cited for the moratorium).
- Three reasons given for the original ordinance: (1) the city's own authority to regulate independent of HB 4121; (2) a desire to avoid market saturation seen elsewhere in the state/region; (3) concern about "culture shock" given Winston's significant senior population and the contentious public hearing process when the original ordinance was adopted.
- Staff recommended affirming the ordinance.

Appellant and Public Testimony

- Zach Koehler (appellant, multi-store operator; stated residence in Redmond, Oregon during this hearing) argued the moratorium exceeds the city's authority, operates as a permanent monopoly for the single existing licensee, and is not supported by case law; he noted Winston has received only one application to date and disputed that the market is saturated.
- Felicia Matthews (Tenmile, not a Winston resident) spoke in opposition, citing the community's older demographic and the presence of one store as sufficient.
- Crystal Balser (Roseburg), an employee of a marijuana retailer, spoke in favor of allowing additional licensed operators.
- In council discussion, members noted the moratorium reflected a promise made to the community after a contentious original approval process, budget pressure that partly motivated allowing the first dispensary, and a preference to evaluate the existing operation longer before considering additional licenses.

Motions and Votes

Motion	Vote	Result
To close the public hearing by Cunningham; second by White	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED
To affirm and keep the existing ordinance (Ordinance 26-723) in place, denying the appeal by Cunningham; second by Wiggins	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

5. Consent Agenda

Motion	Vote	Result
To approve Council minutes of July 6, 2026 by Cunningham; second by White	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED
To accept Economic Development Committee minutes (June 10, 2026) and Park Board minutes (June 9, 2026) as presented by Hobson; second by Cunningham	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

6. Public Comment

Felicia Matthews (Tenmile) raised three items:

- Asked why there is no park attendant at the reservoir; staff clarified the reservoir is outside city limits and is a Douglas County matter.
- Asked why speed enforcement is not more visible on Highway 42; staff noted police have updated their enforcement approach with an intent to increase speed monitoring, and will follow up with the Police Chief on strategy.

- Raised ongoing reports of missing mail/packages affecting elderly residents; noted she has contacted a state senator's office and a member of Congress, both of whom are pursuing inquiries with the U.S. Postal Service, and that the City Manager has separately been in contact with the state on the issue.

7. Board & Committee Reports

7.1 Economic Development Committee (July 8)

Report included in the packet; no additional comments.

7.2 Traffic & Public Safety Committee

- The committee has a vacancy and is seeking a new member.
- Pothole concerns were raised with city maintenance; funding is limited.
- Radar monitoring results: locations near Civil Bend/Midway and Gregory/Edwards were at the speed limit; Wil Way near Ryan's Road was under the speed limit. Consistent speeding was reported on Abraham.
- A missing stop-bar (white line) at a four-way stop was flagged for repainting.
- Next committee meeting: October 12, 2026.

7.3 Park Board (July 14)

- Playground equipment was removed at Riverbend Park; some residents were upset it was removed without advance notice. The Board recommends providing notice before future closures.
- A new Park Advisory Committee will include four citizen volunteer positions (residency in Winston not required); the city still needs to appoint two ex-officio members and a council liaison to the committee. Applications are available at City Hall and on the city website.

7.4 Public Works:

- The water line project (Helweg area) is progressing; the contractor has fused the plant-side pipe sections (12-inch and 16-inch complete, 18-inch in progress) and expects to begin directional boring under the river this week, weather/schedule permitting.

8. New Business

8.1 New Business Licenses

Staff presented two license items: Emily Pressel (independent contractor) and JJW, Inc., DBA Grocery Outlet. Staff noted, informally, that Grocery Outlet's longtime local owner plans to retire in October, with a successor to be determined through corporate process.

Motion	Vote	Result
To approve business licenses as presented (Emilie Pressel; JJW, Inc. DBA Grocery Outlet) by Hobson; second by White	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

8.2 Civic Wayside Park Lighting Project (Park Board Recommendation)

Bryan Freed (504 Hooton Road) presented a Park Board-recommended project to install a photo-eye sensor controlling Christmas lighting at Civic Wayside Park, automatically turning lights on/off by daylight rather than relying on smaller devices that fail. The project is fully funded, with Cascade Electric contracted to perform the installation.

Motion	Vote	Result
To approve the Civic Wayside Park lighting project as recommended by the Park Board by White; second by Wiggins	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

8.3 Resolution 26-1233 — Chamber of Commerce Agreement Extension

Read by title only. Authorizes the City Manager to enter into a first-extension agreement with the Winston Area Chamber of Commerce for use of transient room tax (TRT) funds for tourism promotion.

- Staff explained the prior contract was \$1,000/month (\$12,000/year). Due to reduced TRT revenue following the loss of a hotel (now roughly \$12,000–\$13,000/year total), staff recommended the funding level be brought back in line with actual revenue.
- Chamber representatives Teresa DeWald and Shannon Nelson reported on the Chamber's first year of operation: over 40 paid members, a hired part-time executive director, nonprofit status established, two membership drives, a chamber luncheon and open house, a WACP grant received, and growing social media reach (about 1,300 Facebook followers). They noted the Chamber currently lacks a president and vice president and is recruiting additional board members.
- The Chamber proposed reducing its ask to \$500/month in light of the city's reduced TRT revenue, in exchange for a one-year contract extension.

Motion	Vote	Result
To approve Resolution 26-1233: allocate \$500/month to the Winston Area Chamber of Commerce and extend the agreement for one year by Cunningham; second by White	Unanimous — Aye; none opposed	PASSED

9. Consolidated Voting Summary

Item	Description	Vote	Result
Public Hearing	Close public hearing on Ordinance 26-723 appeal	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Public Hearing	Affirm Ordinance 26-723 (marijuana business moratorium); deny appeal	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Consent Agenda	Approve July 6, 2026 Council minutes	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Consent Agenda	Accept Econ. Dev. Committee (6/10) & Park Board (6/9) minutes	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Business Licenses	Emilie Pressel; JJW, Inc. DBA Grocery Outlet	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
New Business	Civic Wayside Park lighting project (Park Board recommendation)	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Res. 26-1233	Chamber of Commerce Agreement Extension (\$500/month, 1-year)	Unanimous Aye	PASSED

10. Other Business, Executive Session, and Announcements

10.2 Non-Agenda Items from Council

None.

10.3 Checks, Copies, and Claims

Checks, copies, and claims in excess of \$500 were included in Council packets per standard practice.

10.4 Announcements

- Next regular City Council meeting: August 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m., City Hall.
- Riverbend Live free summer concerts, Fridays in July, 7:00 p.m.
- Riverbend Live youth theater performances: July 31 and August 1, 7:00 p.m., Riverbend Park.
- Coffee with Christie August 1st 10 – noon; City Hall

10.5 Executive Session

The Council announced it would convene an executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel on litigation or potential litigation, estimated at approximately 10 minutes, covering two matters. Andy Howell and Megan Hamilton were asked to remain.

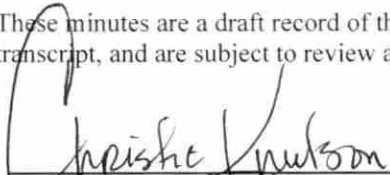
Break for executive session at 8:15.

11. Adjournment

Reconvene from executive session and adjourn at 8:37.

Certification

These minutes are a draft record of the Winston City Council meeting held on July 20, 2026, reconstructed from an audio transcript, and are subject to review and approval at a subsequent regular meeting.


Christie Knutson
Mayor, Presiding Officer


Thomas McIntosh
City Manager