



CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2026

1. Meeting Information

Meeting	Winston City Council Regular Meeting
Date	August 3, 2026
Location	Winston City Hall
Presiding Officer	Mayor Christie Knutson
Prepared By	Transcription Record
Status	Draft — Pending Approval at Next Regular Meeting

g should be confirmed against an official roster or the mayor directly before these minutes are finalized.

2. Attendance

Roll call was conducted at the start of the meeting. The following council members responded "Here":

Name / Title	Role	Note
Mayor Knutson	Mayor / Presiding Officer	
Councilor Nick Wiggins	Council Member	Present — roll call
Councilor Allen Hobson	Council Member	Present — roll call
Councilor Dave Cunningham	Council Member	Present — roll call
Councilor Dorie White	Council Member	Present — roll call; first name "Dorie" heard later in meeting

Staff:

- Thomas McIntosh — City Manager

3. Call to Order / Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by roll call. Councilors Wiggins, Hobson, Cunningham, and White answered "Here"; the Mayor was noted as present.

3.1 Agenda Adjustments

No adjustments to the agenda were proposed.

4. Approval of Council Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 20, 2026 Council minutes as presented.

Motion	Result
Approve July 20, 2026 minutes as presented by Hobson; second by White	PASSED — Unanimous (Aye); no opposition voiced

5. Public Comment

The floor was opened for comments from the audience on items not listed on the agenda. No members of the public came forward to speak at this time.

6. Department & Committee Reports

6.1 Reports from Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Schools

None.

6.2 Administration — Thomas McIntosh

- No substantive report; staff time this period has been focused on budgetary analysis ("a lot of numbers to push around and understand"), consistent with ongoing budget work noted in prior meetings.

7. New Business

7.1 New Business License Applications

Staff presented two new business license applications:

- All About Beauty — Tonya Smart
- Cedar and Stone Land Improvements, LLC — Jared Lane

Motion	Result
Approve both business license applications as presented by Cunningham; second by Hobson	PASSED — Unanimous (Aye); no opposition voiced

7.2 Resolution 26-1237 — IGA with ODOT for License Plate Reader (Flock Camera) Installation Along OR-42

Read by title only. This resolution would authorize the City Manager to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the placement of automated license plate reader ("flock") cameras along OR-42, within ODOT's right-of-way.

Staff report and discussion highlights:

- The city currently operates eight flock cameras countywide; four sit within ODOT's right-of-way and are the subject of this agreement. Total cost for all eight cameras is approximately \$24,000/year (roughly \$6,000 per camera).
- Council raised concern over a \$127,200 "estimated project cost" figure stated in the resolution, which staff clarified is a contractual placeholder required by ODOT's own process and does not reflect an actual cost to the city; staff offered to obtain this in writing from ODOT contact Glen Pederson.
- The agreement term runs through December 31, 2035.
- Cameras are governed solely by the city; per Oregon Senate Bill(s) referenced in the agreement, data is not shared with federal authorities or across most other agencies — only with local law enforcement for criminal-investigation purposes. An audit of flock camera data use is published on the police department's website.
- Staff noted the cameras have aided investigations into a homicide, a drive-by shooting, and other criminal activity, particularly in Riverbend Park.
- Council members raised concerns about cameras located outside city limits (e.g., "Kelly's Corner," in the county), questioning city liability for litigation arising from cameras placed in county jurisdiction and why the county is not

funding cameras in county areas. Staff explained camera placement targets choke points for traffic entering/exiting the city, and that the county has paused its own flock camera program pending resolution of related litigation (referenced ACLU litigation).

- A member of the public, Mike Schneider (622 Parkway), voiced no objection to the cameras generally but questioned the placement of cameras outside city jurisdiction; council members expressed similar concerns and suggested that the bridges into Winston, rather than Kelly's Corner, may be the more appropriate choke points to monitor, potentially reducing the number of cameras needed and associated cost.
- Additional discussion covered: capability of the cameras beyond license plates (staff noted awareness of reported facial recognition, vehicle attribute tracking, and Bluetooth metadata capabilities in flock systems generally, but stated Winston's cameras are configured to use only license-plate-reading features); monitoring is handled within existing staffing levels; and cameras have been in place for at least three years.

Given the concerns raised regarding cost, geographic placement, and jurisdiction, a motion was made to table the resolution to allow the Police Chief to address council's questions before further consideration.

Motion	Result
Table Resolution 26-1237 pending further information from the Police Chief on cost, camera count, and placement by Hobson; second by Cunningham	PASSED (tabled) — Unanimous (Aye); no opposition voiced

Note: The individual(s) making and seconding the motion to table were not clearly identified by name in the transcript.

7.3 Ordinance 26-725 — Franchise Agreement with Winston-Dillard Water District (First Reading)

Read by title only. This ordinance would grant a non-exclusive franchise to the Winston-Dillard Water District, a special district under ORS 261, for the maintenance and operation of a water system within city rights-of-way.

Staff report and discussion highlights:

- The existing franchise agreement, in place since 2019, generates approximately \$104,000/year for the city, assessed at 6% of the district's gross income, consistent with the city's standard franchise-fee practice for entities working in city rights-of-way (comparable to Pacific Power, Avista, CenturyLink, and similar utilities).
- Staff negotiated a new five-year agreement with terms unchanged from the current agreement (no fee increase), noting that an increase would likely be passed on to district customers.
- New water infrastructure costs associated with private development continue to fall to the developer, per the existing agreement structure.
- In response to a public question from a commenter identified as "Iris," staff confirmed that the district provides the city access to bulk water (e.g., for its flusher truck) on a quid pro quo basis, in exchange for the city waiving right-of-way activity permit fees (normally \$125 each) — an arrangement staff characterized as benefiting the district somewhat more than the city in dollar terms, though no precise dollar comparison was cited.
- Staff recommended the council forward the ordinance to a second reading and adoption.

A motion was made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 26-725 (referred to verbally by the mover as "26-75" — see note below) and to direct staff to schedule the ordinance for second reading and adoption at the next regular council meeting.

Motion	Vote	Result
Approve first reading of Ordinance 26-725 (Winston-Dillard Water District franchise agreement) and forward to second reading/adoption by Hobson; second by Cunningham	Aye — Councilors Williams, Hobson, Cunningham; Councilor White (Dorie) abstained	PASSED

8. Consolidated Voting Summary

Item	Description	Vote	Result
Minutes	Approval of July 20, 2026 minutes as presented	Unanimous Aye	PASSED
Business Licenses	2 new business license applications	Unanimous Aye	PASSED

Res. 26-1237	IGA with ODOT — flock camera (ALPR) installation, OR-42	Unanimous Aye	TABLED
Ord. 26-725	Franchise agreement — Winston-Dillard Water District (1st reading)	Aye, 1 abstention (White)	PASSED

Note: For every motion in this meeting, the recording captures an "Aye" response followed by silence on "Opposed," interpreted as unanimous approval by the members present unless an abstention was explicitly noted for the record (as with Ordinance 26-725). Individual mover/seconder names were often not clearly stated and are noted only where audible.

9. Non-Agenda Items / Good of the Order

9.1 Upcoming Agenda Items

- Seismic retrofit grant (Winston Police Department building) was flagged as an upcoming agenda item. A council member asked whether an associated engineering study had already been completed; staff clarified that the item coming before council is an agreement to receive grant funding for the study, and that the study itself has not yet been performed, despite an earlier informal statement from the Police Chief that may have implied otherwise.

9.2 Non-Agenda Items from the Council — Postal Service Concerns

- A council member raised concerns about ongoing mail and package delivery problems in Winston. Staff (Thomas McIntosh) reported having met with the local postmaster, Tina, who initially agreed to attend this meeting but later declined after learning that congressional and senatorial inquiries into the matter were already underway, at which point the issue was referred to the U.S. Postal Service's internal inspection process.
- Because the local postmaster is now not expected to appear before council, staff and council indicated intent to move forward with sending a letter on city letterhead to congressional and Senate officials requesting attention to the issue. No formal motion was made or required, as this item was not on the agenda.
- Council members noted the mail delivery issue appears to be a broader, potentially nationwide problem, and encouraged residents to use the city's drop box for voting ballots rather than relying on collection from residential mailboxes.

9.3 Announcements

- Friends of the Winston Library — August 12, 2026, 11:00 AM, Winston Library.
- Economic Development Committee — August 12, 2026, 12:00 PM (noon), City Hall.
- Next Winston City Council Regular Meeting — Monday, August 17, 2026, 7:00 PM, City Hall.
- Purple Heart Day observance this Friday — volunteers needed; several council/staff members noted they would be unavailable due to travel.
- Checks, copies, and claims in excess of \$500 were included in council packets per standard practice.

No executive session was held.

10. Action Items & Follow-Up

Action Item	Responsible Party	Deadline / Notes
Obtain written confirmation from ODOT (Glen Pederson) that the \$127,200 estimated project cost figure in Resolution 26-1237 is a contractual placeholder, not an actual city obligation	Thomas McIntosh / Staff	Timing not specified
Bring Resolution 26-1237 (ODOT IGA — flock cameras) back before council with Police Chief input addressing cost,	Police Chief / Staff	Item tabled; timing not specified

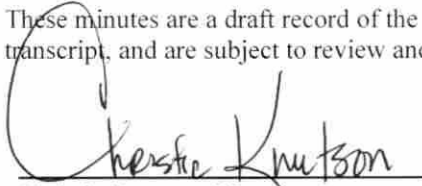
camera count, and placement (e.g., bridge choke points vs. Kelly's Corner)		
Schedule second reading and adoption of Ordinance 26-725 (Winston-Dillard Water District franchise agreement)	Staff	Next regular council meeting
Bring seismic retrofit grant agreement (Police Department building) before council	Staff	Coming before council soon
Send letter on city letterhead to congressional and Senate officials regarding local postal service / mail delivery issues	Thomas McIntosh / Council	Timing not specified
Coordinate Purple Heart Day volunteers	Council / Staff	This Friday

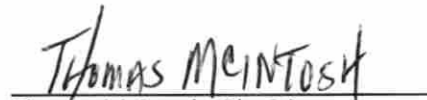
11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:34 PM.

Certification

These minutes are a draft record of the Winston City Council meeting held on August 3, 2026, reconstructed from an audio transcript, and are subject to review and approval at a subsequent regular meeting.


Christie Knutson, Mayor


Thomas McIntosh, City Manager