



# CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

## AGENDA

### CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING

Troutdale City Hall - Council Chambers  
219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. (Lower Level, Rear Entrance)  
Troutdale, OR 97060-2078

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 7:00pm**

Mayor

Doug Daoust

City Council

David Ripma  
Eric Anderson  
Larry Morgan  
Glenn White  
Rich Allen  
John Wilson

City Manager

Craig Ward

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE.**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCE (Introduced 3/8/16):** An ordinance to withdraw those properties within the City Limits lying East of the Sandy River from Multnomah County Rural Fire Protection District 14 and declaring an emergency. Ed Trompke, City Attorney

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Doug Daoust, Mayor

Dated: 3/8/16

Further information and copies of agenda packets are available at: Troutdale City Hall, 219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy., Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; on our Web Page [www.troutdaleoregon.gov](http://www.troutdaleoregon.gov) or call Sarah Skroch, City Recorder at 503-674-7258.

The meeting location is wheelchair accessible. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to: Sarah Skroch, City Recorder 503-674-7258.



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**MINUTES**  
**Troutdale City Council – Special Meeting**  
**Troutdale City Hall – Council Chambers**  
**219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy.**  
**Troutdale, OR 97060**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 7:00PM**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE.**

Mayor Daoust called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Daoust, Councilor Ripma, Councilor White, Councilor Allen and Councilor Wilson.

**ABSENT:** Councilor Anderson (excused) and Councilor Morgan (excused).

**STAFF:** Craig Ward, City Manager; Ed Trompke, City Attorney; and Sarah Skroch, City Recorder.

**GUESTS:** See Attached List.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCE (Introduced 3/8/16):** An ordinance to withdraw those properties within the City Limits lying East of the Sandy River from Multnomah County Rural Fire Protection District 14 and declaring an emergency.

Ed Trompke, City Attorney, states this is the second reading and public hearing on the proposed ordinance to withdraw the properties in the City that lie east of the Sandy River from Fire District 14. We had a public hearing on it last week and written notices were sent out to every property owner provided in the packet. There was testimony last week and in the interim the Fire District Board did have a meeting and discussed it. I'm going to leave that to Chief Dave Flood to talk about how the fire district addressed it. There is no change from staff's position from last week. We'll refer now to Chief Flood.

Dave Flood, Fire Chief, Fire District 14, states the Board discussed this for about 20 minutes back and forth but ultimately didn't take any action one way or the other. The board doesn't want double taxation.

Mayor Daoust opens the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Craig Gardner, Troutdale resident, I apologize for last week getting kind of excited. I said some things I shouldn't have. I did a little research on my tax bill. I'm paying almost \$1,600 for City of Troutdale tax. What am I getting for my City tax?

Mayor Daoust states you get all the City services that everybody in the City of Troutdale gets.

Craig Gardner states I don't get water, sidewalks, sewer.... If we were taken out of the City it would be the same services we're getting now.

Mayor Daoust replies that is a totally different subject than we are talking about tonight.

Craig Gardner states it's actually on the same subject. You're talking about taking us out of Fire District 14. But some of us still want to stay in that Fire District and would prefer to be taken out of the City. I think I'm right on target. I know most of the people in the audience feel the same way I do. They would rather be taken out of the City and stay in Fire District 14. There are those mutual agreements between the fire districts so we don't feel we're going to lose any fire service whatsoever.

Councilor Wilson states last week while you were here and the many times Tanney has come and spoken to us about this there's a lot of mixed feelings about who wants to be where. Either with Gresham or with Corbett. A while back there was a petition and maybe the petition didn't really have anything happen because there were those mixed feelings that neither side wanted to give in. Our services are paid for through our contract with Gresham, not Corbett. It would be natural for you to come over to where we have contracted services.

Craig Gardner states I understand what you're saying. My point is that we said last week that there are mutual agreements between the 2 fire districts. They're going to cover each other regardless. I still ask you what am I getting for my \$1,600 versus someone in the City who has sidewalks, fire hydrants, street lighting? We don't get the same services they are getting. We'd rather be taken out of the City.

Councilor Wilson states there is not 100% of you that wants that. Is that correct?

Craig Gardner responds if you ask everybody here tonight I would gather it would be 100%. I did some research on some Oregon Revised Statutes and to petition for it you only need 15% of the people that are in that area. It would only have to be a majority to do it. Not every single person. Instead of following through with this Fire District 14 removal maybe we should explore this removal from the City which would actually save people more money.

Councilor Ripma states it might not. People who are outside the City obviously get some sort of tax bill from the County which is probably different from the tax bill we get.

Craig Gardner states they would have to add on Multnomah County Sheriff's Office onto my tax bill if I didn't have City of Troutdale because I need police protection.

Councilor Ripma states one thing is for sure, if we don't adopt this ordinance we will get double taxation again this year. We have not heard a ground swell of people who did not want this done. My feeling is people who want to withdraw from the City have a path available to them by petition to the County I suppose.

Ed Trompke states there are mechanisms for withdrawal from the City called de-annexation. They're not as simple as you might think. There would be other taxes that would probably be imposed. There is an enhanced Sheriff levy for Corbett that would come down on you. I don't know what the difference would be. It would probably save you some money but it would probably be a lot less than just subtracting the amount of money you pay to the City of Troutdale.

Craig Gardner states there is a lot of overlapping circles. There was a guy here last week who was saying he was having all these problems just getting some permits. We would still have issues if we wanted to build some stuff. We need to simplify those properties on that side that aren't getting the services that they are on the inside of the river.

Ed Trompke states the other piece is that the plan is you should be getting, at some point in time, urban level services such as fire hydrants and the water and all the rest. It takes time to get it there and apparently it's taken longer than promised. The squeaky wheel does get serviced.

Councilor Ripma states realize also that citizens who do get water service pay for it in a monthly water bill. You're not paying that now.

Craig Gardner states it's a double taxation. You guys are going one direction to remove Fire District 14 to remove the double taxation and all I'm saying is there is another avenue for that.

Mayor Daoust states we are pursuing this ordinance because it was my understanding that the majority of people living on that side of the river wanted to go this route to save the double taxation.

Councilor Ripma states it was assumed and we did send out notices to all of the properties over there on the other side of the Sandy River to make sure everybody was notified this was happening.

A woman in the audience states we did not get notices at all.

Mayor Daoust states we do have the option of not passing this ordinance. We don't have to pass it. If we don't I think you may end up with a lot of mad neighbors. Those are our 2 options. We either pass it or we don't. If we don't pass it tonight that means you'll have the double taxation this tax year.

Councilor Allen states back when we started this we had people testifying that they wanted this and we've got people testifying that they don't want it. I don't want to not do anything.

Councilor Ripma states nothing is irreversible. If you want to de-annex from the City look into what is required and start a process. I assure you it will be much more complicated than this because you'll have to work through the County on that because you'll be joining the County. Also look into the financials that you discussed and see if it's really going to

save you money. I don't know that it would. The ordinance we have before us tonight will remove the double taxation by de-annexing you from Fire District 14. That we can do tonight. If we don't do it tonight you will be double taxed again. I'm hoping that you'll let us do it and look into the de-annexation from the City separately.

Councilor White asks what is the rate for Fire District 14?

Dave Flood states it is \$1.26 per \$1,000.

Taney Staffenson, Troutdale resident, states Mr. Gardner brought up City services and there was some discussion about infrastructure going to that side of the river. One of the issues was a sewer line going over there would cost \$3.9 million dollars which is going to be mean something like \$112,000 per resident. Although some of these things would be nice to have it's not cost feasible. If you put in a water line I believe that would require residents to vacate use of private wells if there is City water available.

Ed Trompke states that would be a matter of City ordinance.

Craig Ward states I am pretty sure that we would not go to the expense of putting in a water line over there just for the single purpose of charging fire hydrants.

Councilor White states the sidewalks were brought up too. Is that something the Gorge Commission would have to approve? Does that fall under their rules? There doesn't seem to be much room for sidewalks.

Craig Ward states it's important to understand that that is not a City street. Anything done there would have to have the County involved and a significant amount of funding too.

Taney Staffenson states it would be relatively expensive and that would be all State, ODOT handles the road.

Councilor White states I would love to hear from that group. I value that they're in the City of Troutdale. If you want to see things happen talk to us. I would like to work with you.

Councilor Allen states we're getting mixed signals on whether to pass this ordinance or not. Taney, do you have an opinion?

Taney Staffenson responds from the people that I've talked to, their personal preference would be to stay with Corbett over Gresham. I think that is primarily due to the tanker. I also understand that this is the only way to solve the double taxation, double coverage or dual service. The only way to solve it is to leave Corbett or go with Gresham. Given that, I think people are just on board for not having to pay for the same service twice.

Councilor Ripma states the fire service won't change. The response with tankers from Corbett district won't change based on the reciprocal help. The reciprocal agreement with Gresham goes both ways. They assist each other in an equal way. It's just the double taxation that is going away.

Mayor Daoust asks if we pass this ordinance all of those residents will be withdrawn from District 14?

Dave Flood responds yes.

Mayor Daoust asks if there is a ground swell of opinion changes in the future where they want back into Fire District 14, how would that happen?

Dave Flood responds the last major annexation the Fire District did was in the mid 90s in the Bridal Veil area. It's a process that I'm not very familiar with. They were unprotected at the time. They relied on Fire District 14 to help them out without paying and the process was lengthy. It took 1 ½ to do it from start to finish.

Mayor Daoust closes public hearing at 7:29pm.

**MOTION:** Councilor Wilson moved (to approve an) ordinance to withdraw those properties within the City Limits lying East of the Sandy River from Multnomah County Rural Fire Protection District 14 and declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilor Ripma.


**VOTE:** Councilor Wilson – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Mayor Daoust – Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Allen - Yes.

**Motion Passed 5 – 0.**

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Councilor Ripma moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:31pm.

  
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Doug Daoust, Mayor

Dated: 6/15/16

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kenda Schlaht, Deputy City Recorder

