



# CITY OF TROUTDALE

“Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge”

## AGENDA

### CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room  
234 SW Kendall Court  
Troutdale, OR 97060-2078

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 7:00PM**

**Mayor**

Casey Ryan

**City Council**

David Ripma  
Randy Lauer  
Jamie Kranz  
Glenn White  
Nick Moon  
Zach Hudson

**City Manager**

Ray Young

**City Recorder**

Sarah Skroch

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE.**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment on non-agenda and consent agenda items is welcome at this time. *Public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the item is considered. Public comments should be directed to the Presiding Officer, and limited to matters of community interest or related to matters which may, or could, come before Council. Each speaker shall be limited to 5 minutes for each agenda item unless a different amount of time is allowed by the Presiding Officer, with consent of the Council.*
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - 3.1 **MINUTES:** October 8, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting and October 22, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting.
  - 3.2 **RESOLUTION:** A resolution recognizing the completion of the public improvements associated with the OK Express site development at 1990 NW Commerce Court and accepting the improvements into the City’s fixed asset system.
  - 3.3 **RESOLUTION:** A resolution amending Section 6, Public Works, of the Fees and Charges Schedule adopted by Resolution 1954 and amended by Resolution 2472.
4. **PRESENTATION:** City of Troutdale Flood Hazards Video.  
*Arini Farrell, Associate Planner*
5. **DISCUSSION:** A discussion on Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting.  
*Annie Kallen, STAR Voting*
6. **RESOLUTION:** A resolution amending Section 3, Community Development – Planning, of the Fees and Charges Scheduled adopted by Resolution 1954.  
*Chris Damgen, Community Development Director*

7. **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**
8. **COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**



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**Casey Ryan, Mayor**  
**Dated: November 6, 2019**

City Council Regular Meetings will be replayed on Comcast Cable Channel 30 (HD Channel 330) and Frontier Communications Channel 38 on the weekend following the meeting - Friday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 9:00pm.

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.

**MINUTES**  
**Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room**  
**234 SW Kendall Court**  
**Troutdale, OR 97060**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 7:00PM**

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

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ryan, Councilor Ripma, Councilor Lauer, Councilor Kranz, Councilor White, Councilor Moon and Councilor Hudson.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** Sarah Skroch, City Recorder; Ed Trompke, City Attorney; Chris Damgen, Community Development Director and Arini Farrell, Associate Planner.

**GUESTS:** See Attached.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment on non-agenda and consent agenda items is welcome at this time.

<0:01:36>

Erin Janssens, Historic Landmarks Commission Chair, shared the news the Historic Landmarks Commission is excited to put forth a resolution the Council will be voting on December 12<sup>th</sup> on the consent agenda for the City to officially apply to become a certified local government. (A handout was distributed, a copy can be found in the meeting packet). Many cities in Oregon are and have been certified local governments for a long time. It opens opportunities for the city to apply for and administer grants for citizens with historic properties and do improvements.

<0:03:29>

Chris Edwards, Troutdale resident, stated Troutdale Road is a very heavily trafficked street. Parents and people in the community have been talking about trying to get speed cameras put on Troutdale Road to reduce speeding during school drop offs and pickups. He gave the Council a handout with information on research he has done regarding speed cameras (a copy can be found in the meeting packet).

<0:07:51>

Rich Allen, Troutdale resident, stated he wants to continue with what he said at the last council meeting during public comment concerning the property at 234 Kendall Court. The County talked about expanding emergency services on the property, which is what he spoke to at the

last meeting and about the need for future increase in emergency services. He believes that when the decision was made for the police facility to become a regional policing facility, it would bring more emergency traffic up and down the cul-de-sac and mixed with kids, he's concerned with vehicles going up and down that street that there could be a child getting run over.

<0:11:15>

Tanney Staffenson, Troutdale resident, explained he serves on the Troutdale Town Center Committee and they've had a few discussions about the property. Primarily what is going on now is the committee is doing a state mandated housing needs analysis which is nearing completion. The committee is going through data and analyzing the needs. He would like to see them get through that process and get more information of what potentially could go on some sites and what wouldn't.

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- 3.3 RESOLUTION:** A resolution amending Section 6, Public Works, of the Fees and Charges Schedule adopted by Resolution 1954 and amended by Resolution 2472.

**MOTION: Councilor White moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Kranz.  
Motion Passed 7-0.**

### **4. PRESENTATION: City of Troutdale Flood Hazards Video.**

<0:16:04>

Arini Farrell, Associate Planner and Flood Manager, gave a brief overview of the staff report and showed the Council a flood hazards video.

### **5. DISCUSSION: A discussion on Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting.**

<0:24:00>

Councilor Hudson mentioned the idea behind the proposal is a possible solution and the best option that he's seen to fix the scenario when more than 2 people run for a seat and someone could win with 33% of the vote.

<0:25:43>

Clay Shentrup, Co-Founder of the Center for Elections Science, showed the Council the PowerPoint presentation that was included in the meeting packet.

<0:33:43>

Annie Kallen, Organizer for STAR Voting Volunteers in Portland, introduced herself.

<0:34:42>

Councilor Ripma asked who is funding the effort.

Clay Shentrup replied in Oregon that hasn't been any single, large consolidated source of grants or foundations. Mark Frohnmayer, an entrepreneur in Eugene, has been a large contributor.

<0:36:22>

Councilor Ripma stated the Andrew and Edith slide of the PowerPoint worries him. If the voter had voted for Chris, Frank and Desi, and not for Andrew and Edith, that voter would not have participated in the runoff.

Clay Shentrup stated the point of the runoff is to give you an incentive to cast sincere scores. The definition of "vote for" is a little different here.

Councilor Hudson explained, for example, if a person preferred Chris, Desi and Frank as their top choices, but they still rated Andrew and Edith. They didn't really like Andrew or Edith, but they gave Andrew a 2 and Edith a 1. They're not their favorites but because none of their favorites made the cut, they still get a say.

Councilor Ripma stated it's very confusing and it needs more study.

<0:42:24>

Councilor Kranz asked if elected officials or members of the community are opting in for this.

Annie Kallen replied she is seeing it all levels. The majority of the Eugene Council is supportive. The Democratic Party of Oregon voted to use it for their elections.

Councilor Kranz asked if it's been brought to the League of Oregon Cities.

Annie Kallen replied no.

<0:43:40>

Councilor Moon stated a lot of voting now is polarized and turnout is poor. He asked if the STAR data has shown a better voter turnout.

Clay Shentrup replied one of the biggest factors of turnout is people believing there is a choice worth making.

<0:47:51>

Councilor White stated he tends to disagree with the slide with 3 candidates. He thinks something like that is going to happen based more on issues. In his opinion, the best overall candidate is going to win, especially in a small town.

<0:50:23>

Councilor Hudson stated if people want more research, he would like to set a time for the topic to come back to Council and then maybe get it on the May ballot.

Councilor Ripma stated he doesn't know if he wants Troutdale to be the leader of the charge on this until he knows more about it. Targeting the May ballot would be too soon. He thinks referring it to the Citizens Advisory Committee is an option while more information is gathered.

<0:52:54>

Mayor Ryan stated he would like to give this to the voters to decide.

Councilor White stated his concern is the timing. The City is already going into one of the biggest elections. He would like to remain status quo until after the big election.

Councilor Kranz suggested having the Citizens Advisory Committee look at it.

Councilor Moon stated he would like to know what cities have adopted this and hear their feedback.

Annie Kallen replied there haven't been any cities that have adopted it.

<0:57:16>

Rich Allen, Troutdale resident, stated he appreciates the statistics and demographics of it. The motivation behind the elections is missing. He's concerned how it would be used in motivations in elections.

<0:58:29>

Paul Wilcox, Troutdale resident, stated he met with Clay and Annie and exchanged many emails with Clay regarding STAR voting. Paul read from a statement he prepared (attached to these minutes as Exhibit A).

Mayor Ryan stated STAR voting will be brought back at the December 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

<1:03:26>

Councilor Lauer stated he will not be at the December 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. He stated when you start getting into the science of why people vote and if it were strategic, it muddies the water. You're given 1 vote and it's your decision how to vote with that 1 vote. If people are given 5 more votes, it muddies the water even further. He likes the system in place now but would be in favor of sending it to the voters to decide.

**6. RESOLUTION:** A resolution amending Section 3, Community Development – Planning, of the Fees and Charges Schedule adopted by Resolution 1954.

<1:04:48>

Chris Damgen, Community Development Director, gave a brief overview of the staff report. He let Council know that the proposals keep Troutdale middle or lower than comparators.

**MOTION:** Councilor Lauer moved to adopt the resolution amending Section 3, Community Development – Planning, of the Fees and Charges Schedule adopted by Resolution 1954. Seconded by Councilor Hudson.

**VOTE: Councilor Hudson - Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Lauer – Yes; Councilor Kranz – Yes; Mayor Ryan – Yes; Councilor White – Yes and Councilor Moon – Yes.**

**Motion passed 7-0.**

## **7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

<1:13:25>

Chris Damgen provided the following staff communications:

- Measure 26-202 - City Hall Bond failed 73% to 27%
- Metro Parks Bond passed regionally 71% to 29% and failed in Troutdale
- November 13<sup>th</sup> is the first day of Municipal Court held in the Kellogg Room
- November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm is a meet and greet for the community branding workshops and then there will be the Committee/Commission interviews with dinner at 6:00pm with interviews starting at 6:30pm
- November 20<sup>th</sup> is the Housing Committee meeting at 6:00pm
- November 26<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting is cancelled and City offices will be closed November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Budget Committee Work Session
- December 4<sup>th</sup> is the Citizens Advisory Committee rent burdens meeting
- December 10<sup>th</sup> will be the only City Council meeting for the month of December

## **8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

<1:19:14>

Councilor Hudson shared that the Reynolds High School theater department is opening Thursday with the stage version of The Little Mermaid. It will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday for 2 weeks with a matinee as well.

Councilor Ripma stated he is all for doing whatever the City needs to do improve safety and prevent danger on Troutdale Road. But making it a revenue source and openly discussing it as a revenue source is not permitted in Oregon. The City needs to focus on safety, patrols, etc.

<1:21:06>

Councilor Lauer thanked Rich Allen and all Veterans for their service.

Councilor Kranz stated safety needs to be improved not only on Troutdale Road but by Reynolds High School also.

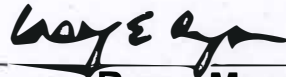
Mayor Ryan stated he spent Saturday night at Reynolds High School watching the soccer game and noted that Reynolds is ranked #2 in the State for soccer.

Councilor Moon stated he is all for improving safety and preventing speeding in Troutdale. The Winter movie will be Elf and will be shown on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

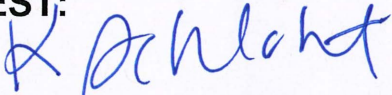
Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.



Casey Ryan, Mayor

Dated: January 15, 2020

**ATTEST:**



Kenda Schlaht, Deputy City Recorder



# CITY OF TROUTDALE

City Council – Regular Session  
7:00PM

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

## PLEASE SIGN IN

Name – Please Print	Address	Phone #
Clay Shentrup	1422 SE Belmont St Portland, OR 97214	415-295-2529
Annie Kallen	120 SE 126th Ave. Portland, OR 97233	503-841-8427
PAUL W/LOW ERIN JANSENS	TROUTDALE	
Draue Castillo White	12205 E Historic Columbia	503-888-14105
JANNY STAFFENSON	1820 Nisi Ave NW	503-319-7732
Kris Edwards	2847 SE Jewelllyn Ave	503-523-6436
Rick Allen	Troutdale	503-512-8060

Response to STAR voting presentation

The first thing to be aware of with STAR voting is that it only applies if there are three or more candidates for an individual Council Position. Based on that limitation, I checked my records to see what the incidence of multi-candidate elections had been. Since 1978, when elect-by-position first went into effect, there have been only 7 elections out of 21 in which there were three or more candidates for any one Position, I will acknowledge that 4 of those 7 have occurred in the last 5 elections. I have no idea what would account for that except that in 3 of those 4 there was no incumbent running. On the other hand, there have been 13 elections in which there was anywhere from one to three candidates running unopposed for a Position, and a total of 25 unopposed candidates over those 13 elections. In my opinion, nothing undermines representative democracy more than uncontested elections. Troutdale has a more fundamental problem in that regard than simply refining how votes are tallied in multiple-candidate races. Applying it to the office of Mayor, there's only been one election in the last 40 years that had more than two candidates for Mayor, while there have been several elections in which the Mayor ran unopposed, especially when it was a two-year term.

STAR voting proponents talk about the "spoiler effect", of similar candidates diluting each other's votes, thereby allowing a less popular candidate to win. In that scenario, I doubt that votes would be so evenly divided into thirds in a 3-way race, for example, that one of the more popular candidates wouldn't prevail. If a dissimilar candidate were to win over two similar candidates that doesn't change the fact that some voters preferred one of the similar candidates over the other. There's also the other scenario of the less popular candidate "siphoning off" votes from one of the two more popular, tipping the scale, so to speak. I haven't seen any evidence of that in past multi-candidate elections. I also don't have any problem whatsoever with the winner having received less than a majority, whether that's 34% in a 3-way race, or 21% in a 5-way race. Councilor Hudson referred to the 2010 election when the winner in the 5-way race only had a plurality of 24%. In that same election, another of the Positions only had one candidate. Why didn't any of those five run for that Position?

Not to belabor the point, but I see that uncontested Position as a much larger problem than someone winning with less than a majority of the votes. Also, the losing candidate in the third Position 2-way race received nearly as many votes as the top two candidates in the 5-way race. One could argue that that candidate had more public support than the 5-way race winner.

Another concern I would have with STAR voting is that voters would simply find it too cumbersome, and just not bother. Under-voting, or returning blank ballots, is already approaching 25% in Council elections. I also feel that STAR voting's rating system would tend to dilute one's first choice preference by providing support for the voter's second and third choices. If voters were to be offered a system that better expresses their preferences across all the candidates, I believe Ranked Choice voting would be a more accurate and reliable method. However, I would strongly caution that as we have seen in recent elections an unintended consequence could be that new candidates in particular will flock to the Positions where there is no incumbent, or where there are already two candidates. This could be especially attractive since under these alternative voting methods it's possible for the candidate with the most first choice votes to still not win. However, some voters might find that hard to accept.

At least as far as Troutdale is concerned, I believe that STAR voting is a solution in search of a problem.

Submitted by:

Paul Wilcox

11/12/2019

YEAR	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE
1978	X	XX			
1980	XX	X			
1982		XX	X*		
1984	XX	X			
1986	XX	X			
1988	XX	X			
1990		XXX			
1992	XX	X			
1994	XX		X^		
1996	XXX				
1998		XX		X^	
2000		XXX			
2002	X	XX			
2004		XXX			
2006		XXX			
2008	XXX				
2010	X	X			X*
2012	XX		X*		
2014		XXX			
2016		XX	X^		
2018	XX		X*		
21	13/25	16/31			* no incumbent
					^ incumbent