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MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL  
MARCH 24, 2024  
5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Richard Mays

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Ben Wring, Tim McGlothlin, Rod Runyon, Scott Randall, Dan Richardson

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Matthew Klebes, City Attorney Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Amie Ell, Public Works Director Dale McCabe, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Finance Director Angie Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mays at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL**

Roll Call was conducted by City Clerk Ell. Wring, McGlothlin, Runyon, Randall, Richardson, Mays present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Mays invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Mays noted there was a supplemental added Item #9D to initiate a vacation proceeding for the Federal Street Plaza.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Richardson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring Richardson, Runyon, Randall, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

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### **PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS**

#### Wasco County Emergency Services – Perimeter Mapping Software

Stephanie Krell Wasco County Public Information Officer and Sheridan McClellan Wasco County Emergency Management Service Director presented information on the Perimeter Mapping Software.

Runyon suggested they return again to report after an evacuation that uses the system.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Jim Wilcox, resident of The Dalles and Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Board member thanked the City Council for their service and acknowledged the significant time commitment involved. He expressed appreciation for several City staff members, including Matthew Klebes, Jonathan Kara, and Angie Wilson in the Finance Department, for their strong support and professionalism. Wilcox invited the Council to visit the airport after hours for a tour, noting recent and ongoing improvements such as the addition of five new hangars and the completion of the south apron project, largely funded through grants. He said the airport will serve as a regular fuel stop for military aircraft, generating revenue for the FBO, City, and County. He recognized recently retired Public Works Director David Anderson, highlighting his major contributions to the community, including the roundabout, hospital water storage, accessibility ramp upgrades, effective snow removal, and the successful completion of the Dog River pipeline project. He suggested the City consider naming a public facility or project in Anderson's honor, citing his exceptional public service.

Amanda Meeker, resident of The Dalles, expressed concern about light pollution from the Google facilities. She acknowledged Google's presence and operational needs but urged the City to consider measures to reduce excessive lighting. Meeker recalled how the night sky, once full of stars and meteor showers, is now obstructed by glare from the north. She emphasized that dark skies are important for wildlife, public health, and local tourism. Noting that her family had to follow strict lighting rules when building their home, she questioned why similar standards don't apply to large facilities like Google. She asked the Council to consider action to preserve the night sky before it is lost.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

- Ad Hoc Federal Street Plaza Committee met and discussed potential uses for the old Veterans Service Office building and future maintenance of the plaza; the next meeting

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was scheduled for April 9 for the final design presentation.

- Joint work session with Klickitat County was confirmed for April 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport.
- Staff were engaged in the budget process and began using new budget software, led by Finance Director Angie Wilson.
- Attended the NW Regional Managers Association conference and planned to host a regional city managers' luncheon.
- Staff held a season kickoff meeting with the downtown tree contractor to coordinate maintenance efforts.
- Met with the Library District Board to review the administrative transfer methodology and maintain communication.

## **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilor Runyon reported;

- Attended the Mid-Columbia Veterans Memorial Committee meeting at City Hall as committee president.
- Participated in a Phase One Vietnam War Memorial celebration in Salem; Phase Two kickoff was also recognized.
- Announced the Wasco County Pioneer Association luncheon scheduled for May 3 at St. Mary's.

Councilor Richardson reported;

- Attended the Federal Street Plaza Committee meeting.
- Met with the City Attorney.
- Took a few days of vacation.

Councilor Randall reported;

- Met with Mayor & Councilor Wring to discuss and review the evaluation process for the city manager, city attorney, and municipal court judge.

Councilor Wring reported;

- Attended the Urban Renewal meeting, where Sunshine Mill gave a presentation on a future proposal.
- Participated in the performance evaluation meeting with Councilor Randall and the Mayor.
- Worked with president of Sister Cities to adjust their meeting schedule to the fourth Tuesday of each month, avoiding conflicts with Urban Renewal meetings.

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Councilor McGlothlin reported;

- Attended a webinar offered by the Oregon Ethics Commission and completed the Public Meetings Law certification.
- Participated in the Coffee Break radio with the Mayor.
- Met with Scott Baker to discuss various matters.
- Attended the Airport Commission meeting.
- Held a meeting with a local resident.

Mayor Mays reported;

- Met with Ed Thomas, president of First Interstate Bank.
- Attended the Dalles Art Commission board meeting and solicited interest for the Beautification and Tree Committee.
- Hosted the first "Saturday with the Mayor" event since COVID-19, featuring Councilor Ben Wring and a presentation from the Beautification and Tree Committee.
- Attended an open house at the Dalles Inn, which was undergoing significant upgrades.
- Met with Councilors Wring and Randall regarding performance evaluations.
- Met with the City Manager and City Attorney
- Scheduled an executive session on performance evaluations for April 21.

Mayor Mays acknowledged that this was Finance Director Angie Wilson's last City Council meeting. He expressed gratitude for having worked with her during his six-year tenure as mayor and commended her for consistently improving the City's budgets. He highlighted her achievement of earning the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Conformance for eight years, noting that it is a significant accomplishment. The Mayor thanked Wilson for her expertise and dedication to the City, expressing regret that she would not be staying for at least two more years.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

McGlothlin asked if the owners of the property of the nuisance abatement were present. They were not.

Wring recognized there was a clerical error in the provided tax lot number for the address of the abatement.

City Attorney Jonathan Kara addressed the transposition error in the notice of assessment, confirming it did not affect the assessment process. He explained that the abatement process was at its final stage, and the property owners had been in significant communication with the City, ensuring they were aware of the situation. Kara stated there was no prejudice to the property

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owners, as the legal description was accurate. He thanked the Mayor for flagging the issue and assured that measures would be taken to prevent similar errors in the future.

Kara also noted a typo in a resolution he had drafted, which incorrectly stated the authorization date must be before February 4. He clarified that the correct date was April 1. He assured that this and other administrative clerical changes had been corrected before execution.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Randall to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring, Randall, McGlothlin, Runyon, Richardson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Items approved on the consent agenda were: 1) The minutes of the March 10, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting; 2) Resolution No. 25-015 assessing the real property located at 1290 West 8th Street the cost of nuisance abatement. 3) Resolution No. 25-016 authorizing the City Attorney to submit a Claim Form and all other necessary documentation for the City of Laurel, Mississippi v. Cintas Corporation No. 2 settlement agreement

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Adopting General Ordinance No. 25-1411, an ordinance amending TDMC Chapter 5.16 (Animals)

City Manager Matthew Klebes and City Attorney Jonathan Kara reviewed the staff report.

Kara noted that the ordinance, as drafted, would not take effect in the 30 days typical for most ordinances. The effective date had been pushed to align with the City's fiscal calendar year of July 1. Following Council adoption, staff intended to conduct extensive public outreach to ensure all stakeholders were aware of the pending changes, providing ample time for anyone wishing to obtain an animal permit before the new date.

Runyon asked where the term Equidae came from and why equine was not used instead as it was a word that most citizens would know. He also pointed out that when discussing the original proposed changes, he had asked for a provision stating that if a person had two horses and one died, they could replace it. He gave the example that if someone currently had two horses and one died; they should be able to replace the one that had passed. He did not see this provision in the current draft, which now allowed for the replacement of a deceased horse.

Kara said it was the scientific name for the taxonomical family for horse that includes horse, mules, and donkey. He said it would be an easy, non-substantive change. He also explained that the issue of replacing horses was not addressed in the ordinance. Since horses would be

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permitted under the new ordinance, there was no need for a specific replacement provision. He confirmed that individuals could replace their horses.

Richardson asked about the cost of a three-year permit, inquiring if staff had any proposal or estimate for the permit price.

Kara clarified that the fee adjustment would not be part of the ordinance and would instead be handled through a separate adjustment to the fee schedule by the City Council. This decision would need to be made by July 1 but would not require legal involvement.

Klebes said he would confirm that the current permit fee was \$25.

Kara explained that the fee structure was based on species, meaning that if a resident had seven chickens, they would pay one fee, not seven. The fee was for permission to have the species, not based on the number of animals.

Wring raised a concern about the ordinance, noting a section on revocation of permits due to potential danger to property or personal injury. He inquired whether this would also be the appropriate place to address animal cruelty, specifically regarding unsatisfactory living conditions for animals.

Kara explained that the Chief of Police could revoke a livestock permit if the animals were kept in unsanitary conditions or posed a risk to people or property. He noted that the existing ordinance for non-conforming animal permits required a petition from neighboring property owners or if the animals created a public nuisance. These standards ensured fairness in the revocation process for all permits.

Runyon pointed out that changes to the livestock permit requirements, including the shift to a three-year renewal and the new 25-foot distance, needed rewording for clarity. He emphasized the importance of neighbor approval in the revised ordinance.

Kara explained that the previous ordinance considered in February included two requirements for livestock placement: one specifying a 10-foot distance from property lines and another setting a 25-foot distance from any structure used for human occupancy. The 10-foot requirement had been removed, but the 25-foot requirement remained. This rule applied regardless of property lines and only allowed for exceptions if the occupants of neighboring structures had agreed in writing. He said this had been included because the City Council had not directed staff to remove it, but changes could be made if desired.

Klebes recalled that during the previous conversation, there had been more concern about the

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proximity of livestock to someone's home rather than the property line, which is why the focus had been on the 10-foot requirement instead of the 25-foot one.

Kara confirmed that the 25-foot requirement does not consider property lines but focuses solely on the presence of structures. A person can be within 25 feet of a neighbor's property but must maintain that distance from any structure.

Debbi Richelderfer, a resident of The Dalles, asked whether her neighbors with three goats and chickens on a 20,000-square-foot lot would need two permits and if they would now be limited to only having one goat.

Kara explained the situation depends on whether the neighbor already has an animal permit. If they do, and the ordinance passes, they would be considered non-conforming but allowed to keep their goats, subject to additional rules. However, new permits for three goats wouldn't be issued for a 20,000-square-foot lot. No one would be required to give up animals they currently own, but the ordinance would prevent acquiring more.

Richelderfer requested the City Council put a hold on the ordinance, revise it, and gather more input. She pointed out inconsistencies in the terminology, such as using "cow" to describe different types of bovines, and suggested consistency in definitions. She also raised concerns about the budget implications, including site reviews by city staff and software upgrades, questioning the accuracy of cost estimates for taxpayers. She acknowledged the complexity of the issue and expressed admiration for the Council's efforts.

Klebes addressed concerns that the permit process would be inefficient and labor-intensive. He said the new ordinance aimed to streamline the process and improve efficiency. He acknowledged the importance of using taxpayer dollars wisely but pointed out that the ordinance would modernize the system and make managing the workload more manageable for city staff.

Mayor Mays thanked Richelderfer for her comments and recommended she submit any inconsistencies in writing to staff for review.

Jesse Trosper, resident of The Dalles said he and his wife had been working on building an urban homestead, raising small animals like chickens and planning to add more for meat production. He expressed understanding of the regulations but suggested the current process, where a permit could be revoked based on neighbor complaints, naturally limited how many chickens a resident could keep.

Richelderfer asked Council to pause the proposed ordinance and reconsider the restrictions on cows, particularly miniature ones. She expressed frustration with the lack of exceptions or

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flexibility in the ordinance, stating that if there was a valid reason to prohibit a steer, she would understand, but she saw no justification for banning miniature cows.

Kara explained that the Ordinance had drafted provisions allowing the Chief of Police the discretion to permit similarly sized animals on a case-by-case basis, considering the impact on public health, safety, and welfare. He emphasized that the goal was to balance community needs with individual rights, ensuring that exceptions could be made, particularly for more rural areas of the city. However, he also acknowledged that, as a general rule, animals like cows may not be appropriate for urban areas due to issues such as odor.

McGlothlin asked whether the limit should remain at 12 chickens or if it should instead be driven by neighbor complaints.

Kara clarified that the ordinance allowed up to 12 chickens on any lot, and that properties with 10,000 square feet or more could have 13 or more chickens. He said staff had contacted Wasco County GIS to gather data on residential lot sizes in The Dalles. The average lot size, excluding properties owned by local governments, was about 13,000 square feet.

Klebes said on a hypothetical 10,000 square foot lot, a person could have up to 20 adult chickens and an additional 30 chicks (young chickens under one year old), as allowed by Section 2 of the staff report. This provision permitted 1.5 times the number of adult poultry, meaning that 20 adults and 30 chicks would total 50 animals.

Troster said his concern was with the limit on chickens, as he planned to raise 40 meat birds for six to eight weeks each year. He felt the 20-bird limit was too restrictive, especially since he already had 18 egg layers. He suggested keeping the process complaint-based and was open to a yearly permit to track the number of birds raised.

Randall said that this seemed to go beyond a hobby and veered more into commercial production.

Troster said last year he personally went through 30 meat birds in one year.

Runyon said this related to former City Manager Julie Krueger's comments about having a small number of chickens that could suddenly increase, making them harder to control. He agreed that under nuisance rules, if a property is not well kept and there are complaints from neighbors, that should be enough to address issues with chickens.

Kara said the intent of adding the provision allowing 1.5 times the number of permitted adult poultry for young poultry (under one year old) was to address the fluctuation mentioned by Councilor Runyon and brought up by the former City Manager. The provision provided



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significant leeway for raising young chickens. He recommended imposing limits for general applicability but allowing flexibility for responsible animal owners. He suggested a provision where limits could be exceeded on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Chief of Police or their designee.

McGlothlin emphasized ordinances were intended to address those who abused or pushed the limits, potentially impacting neighbors. He noted the goal of maintaining a healthy and safe city while balancing flexibility.

Wring asked about budget implications for site reviews, referencing concerns raised by the public. He acknowledged the City Manager had addressed this, and the existing process would likely already be covered under current budget limitations, such as those for animal control or property inspections.

Klebes explained that the topic arose from the Council's goal-setting session due to the unclear process and heavy workload on staff. Updating the animal permit process and upcoming discussions on dog licenses aimed to reduce the burden moving forward.

Wring said budget implications would likely be minimal, as staff would already be sent out to investigate if a complaint was filed.

McGlothlin commented that this is how government should work—proposing, listening, responding, and finding middle ground. He the process used that night was effective and that future contentious ordinances would also need careful evaluation, as they may last 10 to 15 years before being reassessed.

Kara said the changes requested by Council would be made, allowing the Ordinance to be passed as amended that evening. The changes included:

- Revising section on page six to clarify the prescribed limits.
- Adding subsection D to allow the Chief of Police to make exceptions to numerosity requirements on a case-by-case basis in support of public health, safety, and welfare.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Richardson to adopt General Ordinance No. 25-1411, by title only, as amended. The motion carried 5 to 0, Randall, Richardson, Runyon, McGlothlin, Wring voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Authorizing the City Manager to enter Intergovernmental Funding Agreements with Wasco County and Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District

City Manger Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report.

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Mayor Mays asked for clarification, stating that the meter would be read, and sufficient funds would be transferred from the general fund—where the lodging tax is allocated—into the water fund to compensate for the expenses incurred by the water bill for the parks and the park district in the county.

Kara stated that the IFAs would be amended to reflect the change to Section 4 in both agreements, allowing greater administrative flexibility. This change would enable the City to either process an interfund transfer or issue a monthly check as needed.

Klebes clarified that a portion of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue received would go to the general fund, with 54% allocated to a separate tourism promotion fund in the upcoming budget. In one scenario, the actual water usage of a particular entity would be assessed, and the corresponding amount would be transferred from the general fund to the water fund, not exceeding the previously mentioned limits. In another scenario, flexibility would be allowed to transfer the amount—either as a lump sum or in quarterly installments—to the respective entity, which would then pay the water bill as normal. This flexibility would help streamline the process if the proposal was passed.

Mayor Mays asked if the water bill were to exceed the \$40,000 or \$152,000 thresholds due to an exceptionally hot summer, was there a provision in the agreement allowing for an adjustment by mutual written agreement.

Klebes said there was a provision that included adjustments to the City's water rates. He emphasized that the goal was to keep the agreements long-term and adaptable to changing needs, such as the acquisition or disposal of property.

Wring asked for clarification, confirming that the flexibility for the interfund transfer was for the source of the money to come from a portion of the 46% of the TLT going into the general fund, which would then be transferred to the Public Works water fund. He also inquired whether Parks and Recreation, as well as the County, would continue to pay their bills as usual.

Klebes clarified the transaction could either remain internal, with the transfer from the general fund to the water fund, and the City would mail each entity a bill marked "paid," or the money could be transferred to the entities, and they would pay the bill on their own as usual. The inclusion of flexibility and administrative authority was to allow for discretion in how the transfer is executed, ensuring efficient handling of the process.

McGlothlin asked whether there was a consensus among the administrators from Parks and Recreation and the County regarding their preferred method for executing the transfer.

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Klebes said he had not yet discussed this change with the County Administrator or the Parks Director. However, he believed that, given the long-term nature of the agreements, they could work together to determine how to execute these transactions.

Kara said he had not spoken with any administrators but he had discussed the change with the Parks District's attorney before the meeting. The attorney did not have any issues with the change.

Runyon asked if the flexibility would allow for either sending a check to the entities or handling the payments internally.

Klebes clarified the process would be decided upon and kept as consistent as possible, but if it proved ineffective, adjustments could be made at the administrative level.

Wring asked if there was a limitation on the percentage of the 46% of TLT revenue allocated to the general fund that could be used for this purpose, and whether a larger sum might be needed if there was a cap on the percentage.

Klebes explained that 55.4% of transient lodging tax (TLT) revenue went into the tourism promotion fund, and 44.6% went into the general fund. Last year, this amounted to roughly \$800,000 for the promotion fund and \$650,000 for the general fund. He noted that TLT revenue fluctuated, especially during events like pandemics or when hotels were converted, but it generally grew with new or remodeled hotels. The \$800,000 allocated to the tourism promotion fund had strict rules for use, including tourism promotion, advertising, and related facilities. However, the funding in the general fund offered maximum flexibility, which is why staff proposed using general fund revenues to fulfill the agreements.

Scott Baker, Executive Director for Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District, thanked the City staff and Council for their support. He highlighted recent improvements, like Sorosis Park and the Cherry Heights skate park. He expressed confidence in the funding agreement but noted clerical errors in the account numbers on the exhibit and requested flexibility to correct them without altering the agreement's substance. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to annually review water conservation measures, which could reduce water usage, or address the potential increased needs due to park expansion.

Richardson said when the conversation began late last year, he was concerned and initially resisted making changes to the TLT and agreements with parks without clarity on the long-term relationship. He expressed satisfaction with the resolution and thanked staff and Mr. Baker for sorting it out.

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Tyler Stone highlighted efforts to improve Kramer Field, which had a \$300,000 annual budget. These included; the recent renovation of two softball fields and several Babe Ruth fields; the hosting of the district tournament for the first time in many years, contributing to local economic development; and the installation of electronic scoreboards, which could be controlled remotely by scorekeepers, and were required for hosting tournaments. He also mentioned additional requests for City funding to install outfield fencing and individual dugouts, which were necessary to meet tournament requirements.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Runyon to authorize the City Manager to enter the IFA with Wasco County and the IFA with the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District, as presented.

Kara stated that, due to the City Manager's decision to adjust, the recommended motion had shifted to be as amended, reflecting the change to Section 4 in both agreements to allow greater administrative flexibility. This change would permit the City to either conduct an interfund transfer or issue a check monthly, as needed. He clarified that this was a different motion than the one originally made.

McGlothlin withdrew his motion.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Runyon to authorize the City Manager to enter the IFA with Wasco County and the IFA with the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District, as amended.

Angie Wilson, Finance Director clarified the payments would not be interfund transfers, but would instead be coming from the General Fund.

The motion carried 5 to 0, McGlothlin, Runyon, Richardson, Randall, Wring voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Consideration of fireworks regulations**

City Manger Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report. Mayor Mays asked if there were any questions to clarify the staff report. After no questions were raised, he inquired if anyone in the audience wished to address the City Council on the subject. He then asked the Council to decide whether they preferred taking action that evening, delaying action, or taking action at a future date, but before the summer.

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Richardson expressed concern that the issue of wildfire risk would not become easier to address and noted the increase in his home insurance rates, which had gone up by about half. He mentioned that in nearby areas, some had lost home insurance coverage altogether due to wildfire risk. He said wildfire risk was unlikely to decrease in the near future and stressed the need for the Council to confront the issue and develop a solution with permanence and clarity.

Randall expressed support for taking action immediately. He stated there was no reason to believe that future summers would be any different, as they were consistently hot and dry.

Runyon expressed concern about local groups that use the sale of fireworks as a fundraiser, stating that he didn't want to interfere with those efforts. He emphasized that the issue of fire danger and the decision to prohibit lighting fireworks were separate concerns. He acknowledged that fire codes and the fire department regulate whether fireworks can be set off within city limits but felt these issues should be handled separately.

Richardson suggested providing clarity and permanence around rules could help groups find alternative fundraising venues, rather than facing uncertainty each year about whether fireworks sales would be restricted. He acknowledged that he didn't have a firm stance on the best course of action but saw the value in establishing consistent rules.

Runyon expressed his discomfort with being in a position where he would have to tell fundraising groups what they could or couldn't do regarding fireworks sales.

Klebes highlighted a concern from nonprofit organizations, noting that when a ban was instituted by the city, it impacted their fireworks sales. They expressed that they typically purchased a large inventory in advance, but with the uncertainty of a potential ban, they were left with excess inventory. The nonprofits wanted more clarity ahead of time to adjust their purchases accordingly.

Runyon acknowledged that an emergency ban due to conditions was understandable, recognizing it as a potential cost of doing business. He compared it to his past experience in business, where sometimes products couldn't be sold for various reasons, noting that it was a risk both for nonprofits and commercial entities.

Klebes said he had conveyed to a representative that the city's trend of banning fireworks every year for the past four years was a known risk. He emphasized that the representative was aware of this risk, given the historical actions taken by the City Council, and that it was likely the Council would take action again in June.

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Kara said if someone were new to the community and searching online for information about fireworks in The Dalles, they might find the city's municipal code related to fireworks, but the history of the city banning fireworks for the past four years might not be as easily apparent. He noted this lack of clarity could lead to confusion for new fireworks sellers. Additionally, he pointed out that a ban may not be considered an emergency if it is foreseeable that it will occur.

Mayor Mays asked what Wasco County did to determine firework regulations.

Kara said the City and the County have been aligned in recent years, often passing resolutions or ordinances regarding fireworks around the same time, usually in June before July.

Mayor Mays directed Council to discuss and give direction to staff on the items requested in the staff report; the sale of fireworks, the personal use of fireworks, and the commercial use of fireworks.

Runyon said the sale of fireworks should not be regulated.

McGlothlin outlined three options for fireworks regulation: 1) allowing unrestricted sales and use; 2) permitting sales only when the fire department deems the risk low, as done in previous years; or 3) implementing a complete ban on fireworks sales. He expressed preference for the middle option, which has been used in the past, allowing for flexibility based on weather conditions. He also noted the City supports a commercial firework display to still celebrate the Fourth of July, and acknowledged some communities have opted for a complete ban on sales during the summer months.

Klebes highlighted the distinction between placing restrictions on fireworks sales and the use of fireworks, emphasizing providing clarity to business owners regarding whether citizens can use fireworks helps with sales projections. He said the City supported professional commercial fireworks display on the river effectively celebrates the Fourth of July. This display could be seen as an argument for limiting personal use of fireworks, in order to protect the community, especially in light of fire risks.

Wring questioned why the City Council hadn't considered aligning fireworks regulations with the seasonal burn ban, which runs from May to September or October. He suggested restricting fireworks during high-risk periods while allowing them in lower-risk months. He opposed allowing fireworks at random times, believing it would disrupt peace and tranquility.

Runyon explained the burning of rubbish and debris was unrelated. He emphasized that fireworks sellers should anticipate the risk of a ban and adjust by ordering fewer fireworks if sales decline.

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Wring questioned how much of a problem fireworks have been historically, asking about the number of minor or major fires resulting from improper or intended safe use, even with precautions like water buckets, hoses, or fire extinguishers. He wondered if there was any historical data on this issue.

McGlothlin highlighted sporadic fires near Dallesport and the fairness issue of restrictions while neighboring areas allow fireworks. He suggested tying fireworks use to fire department recommendations, restricting usage during high fire danger and allowing it during safer conditions, like a wet Fourth of July. He leaned toward linking usage to fire danger reports, acknowledging the risk to vendors.

Wring expressed concern about neighboring areas allowing sale of fireworks that are illegal in the City, noting that despite existing regulations, people may still use dangerous fireworks. He acknowledged the complexity of the issue but didn't think it should prevent action.

Klebes explained the council had previously asked staff to bring the issue up for early discussion, which is why it was on the agenda. He sought direction from the Council on how to proceed, whether it be preparing a resolution, ordinance, or waiting until conditions warranted further discussion in June.

Richardson expressed feeling conflicted, acknowledging the ease of advocating for a rule or law but emphasizing the need for reason and necessity. He supported some regulation, suggesting clarity for businesses and residents about potential bans due to drought or climate conditions. He was open to revisiting the issue annually in June to determine if a ban should be implemented.

Klebes said council meetings in June would be on the 10th and 24th, and if drought conditions were declared on June 26th, a special meeting would be needed to implement a ban before the Fourth of July.

Runyon said fireworks sales should be regulated with clear permits, informing sellers of potential bans due to weather. He noted fundraising groups, like the Boy Scouts, relied on these sales, and Oregon's restrictions on certain fireworks helped reduce risks. He said any ban would be due to fire department decisions, not the City.

Klebes clarified the City does not issue fireworks permits; instead, it is the responsibility of the state fire marshal.

McGlothlin inquired about the specific restrictions on fireworks in the City of Hood River, Oregon, particularly regarding the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve. He asked whether there

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were written guidelines outlining fireworks usage, including limitations on certain types of fireworks, such as sparklers, under what was termed "safe and sane fireworks."

Klebes said Hood River was in a similar position and had recently directed staff to prepare a fireworks ordinance. He offered to contact the Hood River City Manager for details and adapt their approach if the Council was interested. Otherwise, he would focus on the direction provided by the Council.

Kara said the City of Hood River had an ordinance regulating fireworks. The sale of consumer fireworks was allowed from June 23 to July 7, and the discharge of fireworks was permitted from November 16 to July 14. However, discharge was prohibited during a fire emergency or burn ban declared by the Hood River Fire Chief. He noted the city of The Dalles did not have a fire chief.

Runyon suggested removing the words "burn ban" from the ordinance, as it would complicate the issue, noting that a burn ban was a separate matter affecting various concerns.

Kara said that a burn ban was a separate issue and explained the ordinance simply prohibited the discharge of consumer fireworks during a burn ban.

McGlothlin asked whether, in addition to the fire chief, other agencies such as the forest department collaborate to declare fire emergencies or hazards, not just within the city but across the broader community.

Klebes explained different agencies manage fire emergencies differently, such as the Forest Service's red flag days. He noted if the Council wanted to link fire restrictions to another entity, staff could explore it, but the City had authority to make its own decisions.

McGlothlin suggested Hood River's approach, permitting fireworks with exceptions for extreme fire dangers, would allow for promoting fireworks use while ensuring safety.

Kara agreed Hood River's code reflected that approach but noted it seemed they were changing it because it was no longer working for them.

Klebes confirmed Hood River was moving toward allowing personal use of fireworks only on New Year's Eve.

McGlothlin expressed uncertainty about going that far, but acknowledged he could be persuaded.

Klebes summarized there was no interest in banning or regulating the sale of fireworks. The Council was interested in allowing commercial fireworks use, like with Western Displays for the



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Fourth of July. Additionally, there was interest in regulating personal fireworks use through an automatic trigger, such as the declaration of drought conditions, to avoid annual formal action.

Mayor Mays confirmed council agreed and staff felt they had sufficient direction to return with a proposal in two weeks.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Mayor Mays recessed Open Session at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Mays reconvene Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt the revised collective bargaining agreement dated March 24 2025 with The Dalles Police Association and the City of The Dalles effective July 1, 2025 through June 2028. The motion carried 4 to 0, Wring, McGlothlin, Runyon, Richardson voting in favor; Randall abstaining; none opposed; none absent

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by/ Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:



Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amie Ell, City Clerk