MINUTES

<u>CITY COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL</u> <u>APRIL 14, 2025</u> 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

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 asked Councilor McGlothlin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor McGlothlin invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lisa Farquharson, CEO of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce shared information about the upcoming 2025 Cherry Festival. She invited all to attend the events that would take place April 25th - 27th including a parade, community fair, and a Cherry Trail app. She encouraged participation in voting for the Little Royals up until April 21st.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

- A Federal Street Plaza concept plan was finalized and will be presented at the April 28 Council meeting.
- Staff work on animal control ordinance updates.
- Improved staffing levels at the Police Department.
- Delay in forming a sign code ad hoc committee due to workload and staffing levels.
- An action item on the CAD/RMS project for the April 28 meeting.
- Housing strategies implementation continues, including consideration of a multi-unit property tax exemption.
- Ongoing houselessness response efforts and outreach to Mid-Columbia Community Action Council.
- Preparation for May budget meetings, incorporating SIP revenue guidance and new ClearGov budget software.
- Continued progress on infrastructure planning, including the Wastewater Master Plan and Sixth Street feasibility study.
- Communications improvements, including a video series and new Instagram account.
- Productive joint work session with Klickitat County Commissioners focused on revising the airport joint operating agreement.
- Forest Legacy Program funding for the City watershed expected in fall.
- Ongoing recruitments for key positions and internal promotions.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Runyon reported;

- Community Outreach Team meeting
- Retirement celebration for Economic Development Director Dan Spatz
- Vietnam War Veterans Memorial at Kelly Viewpoint
- Oregon Government Ethics seminar
- Quality Life Internet meeting
- Joint session with Klickitat County Commissioners

- Gorge Transit Summit
- Met with Councilor Wring
- Mid-Columbia Veterans Memorial Committee meeting at the new Veterans Service Office

Councilor Richardson reported;

• Federal Street Plaza Committee completed a concept plan with a forthcoming Council presentation and recommended inclusion in the City budget.

Councilor Randall reported;

- Dan Spatz's retirement celebration
- Joint session with Klickitat County Commissioners
- Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

Councilor Wring reported;

- Attended the Federal Street Plaza Committee meeting
- Met with Councilor Runyon
- Participated in Coffee with the Mayor

Councilor --- reported;

- Attended an Oregon State Chamber of Commerce Zoom meeting
- Dan Spatz's retirement celebration
- Joint session with Klickitat County Commissioners
- Announced an upcoming Airport Commission meeting

Mayor Mays reported;

- Participated in multiple meetings and public engagements
- KACI interview
- meeting with Kate Franko of Google
- Oregon Ethics training
- Community Affairs Committee presentation
- Lions Club presentation
- Yard of the Month event
- Meeting with Senator Wyden's representative
- Announced Council evaluation meeting scheduled for April 21 and requested Council remain after Executive Session to receive related materials.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Amie Ell noted a correction to the draft minutes on page 7. The word "not" would be removed from the second sentence in the paragraph second to last on the page.

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

Items approved on the consent agenda were: 1) The minutes of the March 24, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting; 2) Resolution 25-017 concurring with the Mayor's appointments to the Fort Dalles Museum Commission; 3) Authorizing purchase of Materials – OT Hardware and Software for the Wicks Water Treatment Plant SCADA Phase I Upgrade Project

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of General Ordinance No. 25-1413, amending certain provisions of The Dalles Municipal Code Chapter 6.02 (Overnight Parking in City-Owned Parking Lots)

City Attorney Jonathan Kara reviewed the staff report.

Runyon asked for clarification of what was meant by trailer in the Ordinance and if that was referring to commercial trailers or trailers found with commercial equipment.

Kara read the definition of trailer that was included under Chapter 6.04.

Runyon stated an oversized vehicle was typically a commercial vehicle, often identified by permits for transporting heavy equipment or similar items. This included accompanying trailers, which were also considered commercial if permitted for their type and size.

Kara said the intent of the direction he received was to prohibit most trailers—specifically, those drawn behind a vehicle and lacking an engine. He noted commercial trailers would be included in the prohibition, but the restriction was not limited to commercial types. The intent was reinforced by the change in item two, which prohibited vehicles or trailers from extending beyond a designated parking space. He said if a vehicle or trailer did not fit entirely within a space, it would have provided grounds for the City Manager to revoke the permit.

Klebes said an example was there had been people parking lengthwise across multiple spaces and they wanted to ensure the parking lot layout was being followed.

Richardson asked if the proposed ordinance was to solve a problem or to get ahead of one.

Kara said the timing of the ordinance was intentional, as the goal was to bring it to Council

before July 1, when a new season of permits would begin. He noted over the past year, various issues had arisen and were addressed on a case-by-case basis. The proposed changes provided an opportunity to address those issues more holistically. He deferred to the City Manager for specific examples.

Klebes said there were instances where trailers received permits and were parked in the area, or where vehicles were parked across marked lines, creating restricted conditions. He explained the lack of clarity at the time limited the City's ability to restrict or revoke permits.

Kara said none of the past instances resulted in enforcement. Individuals who were issued permits for their trailers still held valid permits. The intent was to address the issue before entering another permit year.

Wring asked if there would be an exemption or permitting process for commercial vehicles parked long-term during active projects, such as the plaza and First Street projects. These vehicles would likely need to be parked long-term while infrastructure work, like water main replacement, was underway.

Kara confirmed exceptions were already included in the ordinance, clarifying tonight's ordinance only contained minor changes. He explained Chapter 6.02 has exceptions, including for City vehicles, among others.

Klebes said the permits apply to parking lots that were properly posted. He noted that if flexibility was needed in those parking lots for projects, it would be a simple matter of temporarily removing the signage to free up space and then replacing it afterward.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Wring to adopt General Ordinance No. 25-1413 by title only.

Mayor Mays asked if any Councilor would like the Ordinance read by the City Clerk in its entirety. None requested. Ell read the ordinance by title only.

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

Adopting General Ordinance No. 25-1412, amending TDMC Title 7 (Public Protection) by creating TDMC Chapter 7.22 (Fireworks)

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report. Wring asked how the public would be notified when state or county triggers prohibited the use of

fireworks.

Klebes said this would be work for the City Clerk / Public Information Officer position and stated she had been working on various public communication plans. He suggested notifications could include a website banner, Facebook posts, press releases, and spots in regular radio and video updates. He asked the Clerk/PIO if there were other ways firework restrictions would be posted.

Ell added the Public Works Department would assist by placing digital reader signs on both ends of town to help notice the restrictions.

Kara mentioned the ordinance includes a provision in Section 722.030.B, which requires the City Manager to promptly publicize the conclusion of a state of emergency. This would be done conspicuously on the City's website, social media accounts, and any other means reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the public.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Richardson to adopt General Ordinance No. 25-1412, by title only, as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, Randall, Richardson, Wring, McGlothlin, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Proposed FY25/26 wage and cost of living adjustments

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report

Mayor Mays asked the City Manager to explain the significance of the first column of the nonunion wage table on page 36. He noted it starts with "DH1," which he assumed refers to department heads, and goes down to "MG," and then includes "OP.

Klebes explained the classifications represent different grades for each position. He confirmed "DH" stands for department head and apologized for possibly misstating the other abbreviations. He suggested "MG" might refer to manager, "OP" could be operator or office personnel, and "SP" might stand for specialist.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by McGlothlin to approve the fiscal year 2025-2026 Non-Union Wage and SEIU Tables as presented effective July 1, 2025.

Richardson asked for clarity on the nomenclature and if there were names or positions should be retitled.

Klebes explained the individual pay grades are simply a structure used to label each pay grade. He said specific pay ranges could be referred to as "MG2," "DH4," or "OP4," with the labels

corresponding to particular pay ranges. He said no updates to this structure were needed at this time. However every three years there was a review of the pay tables holistically, and that review would occur next year. While the structure and naming convention could be reviewed, they currently serve the purpose of identifying pay grades rather than specific positions.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion on proposed amendments to TDMC Chapter 5.20 (Dog Control)

City Manager Matthew Klebes introduced the staff report and City Attorney Jonathan Kara reviewed each item and asked for Council direction for each. Kara also invited Animal Control Officer Jake Baker to participate in answering Council questions.

Kara said he would first like direction with the leash law item.

Mayor Mays asked Suny Simon Director of Columbia Gorge Humane Society (CGHS) to share her perspective on a leash law.

Simon said the leash law issue was about control. She said the number of dogs at large had overwhelmed the shelter, making it hard to maintain police kennels and limiting their ability to accept owner surrenders. She said the lack of a leash law was contributing to overpopulation in both the shelter and the City. While she acknowledged some dogs may not need a leash, she supported a law with flexibility, including possible use of E-collars. She said she hoped for a clear definition of "under control" and a workable compromise.

Mayor Mays asked Simon to explain how not having a leash law affected the number of dogs at the facility.

Simon said dogs were often brought in after being let out without supervision. Owners sometimes failed to call within the required three days or could not afford the \$50-per-night fee, leading to high balances. While staff tried to return dogs to owners, the process was difficult. Mayor Mays asked if Simon had an estimate of the number of at large dogs they received. Simon said they had taken in eight dogs that week and noted for every two adopted, three more often arrived.

Baker said many owners let dogs out without containment, assuming they stay nearby. He often found dogs wandering and followed them home. He said a leash law could encourage better supervision, especially in public areas without fencing.

Richardson said a leash law made sense, though it might frustrate some. He observed that most dog owners already walk their dogs on leashes and felt the law would mainly affect irresponsible owners, which he supported.

Runyon agreed with the leash law, noting responsible dog owners already use leashes. He mentioned while he liked dogs having the ability to roam, it could create issues, and the shelter was overwhelmed with both strays and surrendered dogs. He supported the leash law but also suggested allowing alternatives, like electric collars, for those who preferred them. He emphasized the importance of enforcing dog licenses to track these alternatives. He said the law would improve public and dog safety and believed the majority of owners would follow it. He was in favor of the leash law.

Wring supported the leash law but raised two concerns: where people could take dogs to throw a ball, suggesting more dog parks, and how enforcement would work, questioning the penalties for non-compliance and the incentives for people to use leashes or fences.

McGlothlin said responsible dog owners use E-collars at Sorosis Park to control their dogs and suggested they could be an alternative to leashes. He stressed the need for enforcement to prevent dogs at large and address capacity issues at the Humane Society, which sometimes turns away dogs. He also noted confusion about dog licensing and its enforcement, recommending clearer policies and better management. He supported controlling dogs with a leash or electronic collar, noting enforcement is the key challenge.

Richardson said solving the issue would require collaboration with multiple partners, including the Columbia Gorge Humane Society, the County Animal Control Program, and potentially the Parks District to discuss the viability of a second dog park.

Mayor Mays expressed concern about penalizing dog owners who played fetch with their dogs at parks or schools, especially when there were no suitable dog parks available.

Kara said the issue was a community matter, with various partners like the school district, parks district, and county involved. He noted many properties, such as those at Sorosis, were not owned by the City of The Dalles. He asked if the parks district had any rules regarding dogs on or off leashes.

Runyon said he had been told Sorosis Park had signs posted that dogs were to be on a leash.

Kara noted if the city adopted a leash law, it could spark broader community changes, including possibly converting parks or creating spaces for off-leash dog activities, especially if there was public demand.

Richardson suggested including language with exceptions when the council revisited voting on the ordinance.

Kara said he had been working on a draft ordinance that included exceptions for dogs running at large. The draft specified control meant on a leash but allowed exceptions for dogs in a vehicle, legally hunting, or in designated off-leash areas, such as a dog park. The ordinance was designed to accommodate future off-leash areas, even if only one dog park had allowed it at the time.

Runyon said he supported the ideas discussed, including exceptions for dogs under control, like when playing fetch. He emphasized the need for public input and stated there was no rush to pass anything. He encouraged the media to help spread the word and gather feedback from the community.

McGlothlin suggested the riverfront park on the eastern area and the property off the riverfront trail could have been potential sites for a dog park. He acknowledged the Port owned the property and mentioned concerns around liability, but noted these areas were large and remote, making them possible alternatives for development.

Kara said he had researched comparable cities and their leash laws. Baker City required leashes with no exceptions but had dog parks. He added Hermiston, Lincoln City, Madras, Pendleton, Roseburg, and Prineville also required leashes, typically with exceptions for designated off-leash areas. Newport allowed voice control generally but required leashes in parks. Lebanon allowed off-leash dogs only during supervised training. He noted none of the cities he reviewed allowed electronic collars.

Randall said he supported adopting a leash law and was surprised the City did not already have one. He believed a comprehensive animal control ordinance, including a leash law with exceptions, could prompt public demand for dog parks and encourage more responsible pet ownership.

Klebes said a leash law would mainly apply to dogs in the public right-of-way or those wandering off private property. He added other agencies, like Parks and Recreation or D21, would still set their own rules.

Kara said the same applied to County-owned properties like Kramer Field. The City could help enforce other entities' ordinances, but those areas remained under the owners' control.

Simon stated a leash law was necessary to manage the shelter's growing burden, as many dogs were let out unsupervised. She noted the situation had worsened over her 20 years of involvement with the shelter.

Baker explained most dog bites in the city occur during dog fights, often when owners try to break them up. A leash law would give owners more control and prevent these situations. He said the County's canine officer works effectively with an e-collar, demonstrating its success, especially for recall. However, he noted in situations with two dogs, the e-collar may not be as effective for controlling interactions.

Mayor Mays acknowledged consensus but noted a leash law would increase staff's workload. He suggested staff assess resources for enforcement.

Kara said the next item was a limit on the number of adult dogs. The Animal Control Officer had recommended a limit of four adult dogs and one female for breeding, with no limit on litters under six months. Most nearby cities had no limits, while Baker City allowed four dogs with a special permit. Roseburg allowed up to four in single-family homes and two in multi-family dwellings. Exceptions for businesses like groomers or boarding facilities applied.

McGlothlin stated he agreed with the proposed limit.

Wring said he was not opposed.

Randall said four dogs was a reasonable number but suggested tying the limit to property size, similar to the previous ordinance, with a possible limit of two dogs for duplexes.

Richardson agreed.

Kara said the next item to discuss was impoundment. Expanding the animal control officer's authority to impound abandoned dogs, dogs that had bit someone, or were left unattended while tethered in a public right of way would be beneficial. He also proposed giving discretion to return dogs directly to their owners, improving efficiency and reducing fees to owners.

Baker said he encountered situations where dogs were left tethered for hours without food, water, or shelter, and he lacked the authority to impound them. He supported expanding his authority to remove dogs from these situations and later find their owners.

Mayor Mays asked if Council agreed.

McGlothlin said he agreed.

Richardson suggested clarifying the Animal Control Officer's authority regarding dogs in hot, locked cars, noting the need for clear direction on what is appropriate.

Kara said he recalled an example of this occurring where the animals were taken to the humane society and held as evidence. These types of cases would be prosecuted as animal abuse criminal cases in Wasco County Circuit Court.

Wring said he was generally in agreement and said he was again concerned about enforcement.

Klebes said this provision could generate efficiencies by allowing the dog to be returned nearby rather than taken to CGHS for processing.

Kara explained the first six public nuisance provisions—dogs at large, chasing people or vehicles, damaging property, causing continuous annoyance, scattering garbage, and being classified as a potentially dangerous dog—were required under state law and already adopted into City code. He then listed six proposed local additions: exceeding the allowed number of dogs, escaping confinement three times within a year, abandonment off premises, unsanitary premises, failure to remove a deceased dog from public property within 24 hours, and failure to remove dog feces off premises. He noted other Oregon cities with similar dog waste ordinances and clarified while The Dalles currently lacks a direct provision, enforcement has occurred through other avenues.

Mayor Mays asked Council for direction on the six nuisance provisions. Council gave direct to include as public nuisance;

- Using the proposed number of exceeding four dogs;
- a dog that escapes confinement three times in a 12-month period;
- a dog found abandoned off-premise, defining abandoned as 1 hour if the dog is barking otherwise 4 hours;
- unsanitary premises;
- a dog carcass left for more than 24 hours off premises; and
- failure to remove dog feces off premise.

Kara introduced dog licensing as the last item. He said while the City required annual licensing, it had not been enforced. Proposed amendments changed the requirement to a three-year license expiring July 1, aligning with rabies vaccination cycles and Council's previous direction. He added most cities had annual licenses, though some, like Pendleton, used a three-year model.

McGlothin supported implementing a digital dog licensing program, with proceeds and related fees directed to the Humane Society. He suggested an annual model and raised a question about verifying rabies vaccinations.

Randall agreed licensing should be required and suggested it be tied to required inoculations. He questioned the frequency of rabies vaccinations, asking whether they occur every three years or are a one-time requirement.

Klebes emphasized the importance of engaging local veterinarians in the dog licensing process, suggesting collaboration with the City and the Columbia Gorge Humane Society. He noted vets already check for rabies tags during visits and supported tying licensing to the three-year rabies vaccination cycle. He also proposed an annual licensing option at a lower cost to increase accessibility, while acknowledging the need to balance administrative burden. He explained licensing information was previously available on the Home At Last website, but communication and process clarity had diminished over time due to transitions within the Humane Society. He recommended reestablishing partnerships with local vet offices to support the licensing process.

McGlothlin noted past instability in the licensing process, which led to inconsistent follow-up. The City's recently purchased financial software includes various. He asked whether it might support a dog licensing function.

Kara said dog licensing was a well-established industry and many veterinary medical facilities, including those within City limits, already used software capable of managing licensing as part of their systems. He noted this information had been shared by veterinary representatives and some of the licensing features were currently unused. Kara requested Council direction on whether licensing should occur annually or every three years, and indicated there appeared to be general support for a three-year model.

McGlothlin preferred 1 year. Wring 3 years. Runyon said either 1 or 3. Randall preferred 3. Richardson did not have an opinion.

Randall asked about considering including microchipping.

Kara explained dog licensing typically included issuing a tag to be worn when the dog was offpremises. He noted an exception had been drafted to exempt dogs from the tag requirement if they were microchipped and the chip contained the owner's name and address.

Councilor Runyon supported dog licensing but questioned its implementation details. He proposed including identification tags for dogs and suggested a three-year licensing model with a discount for owners with multiple dogs. He recommended reduced fees for spayed or neutered

dogs, dogs owned by elderly individuals, a fee waiver for guide or service dogs for the visually impaired, and a veterans' discount. He also raised concerns about affordability and emphasized the need to understand enforcement costs before allocating funds to the Humane Society.

Kara explained proposed amendments would set the dog licensing fee through the City Council, replacing the outdated Wasco County fee. He suggested requiring vets to inform clients of the city's licensing requirements, collect fees, and remit them to a designated facility like CGHS. Kara also proposed the animal control officer educate those suspected of violations, focusing on voluntary compliance initially.

Kara confirmed City Council was open to setting its own dog licensing fee and proposed adding a reduced fee for veterans, in addition to reduced fees for spayed/neutered dogs, elderly individuals, and no fees for guide or service dogs. These reduced fees would be set by the fee schedule, which would be updated in June. Regarding veterinary medical facilities, Kara suggested requiring vets to inform clients or provide information for follow-up, with CGHS potentially issuing licenses. He noted dog licenses could be obtained through various channels, including the city, veterinary offices, and the Humane Society, making use of all contact points with dogs and their keepers.

Richardson said he supported the four points raised. He asked for clarification on the benefits of a dog licensing program.

Kara explained the benefits of dog licensing, including ensuring public health through rabies vaccination, helping return lost pets, distinguishing between strays and pets, funding local services like animal control and shelters, and encouraging responsible ownership. He also mentioned licensing supported law enforcement and emergency response, as it provided proof of ownership. Additionally, while counties were required to have dog control programs, cities were not, but if a city adopted one, it had to include a licensing component, which the City of The Dalles had yet to fully implement.

Klebes emphasized the importance of the partnership with Columbia Gorge Humane Society, noting it was vital for local pet services, especially during the transition from Home at Last. He thanked Simon for the Humane Society's role in the licensing program and for supporting the community's needs.

Simon raised a concern about the cost of rabies vaccinations required for licensing in Wasco County. She pointed out the expense of both the vaccination and the vet visit can be a financial burden for pet owners, especially those who struggle to afford basic veterinary care.

Kara highlighted the challenge of determining individuals' financial situations and the administrative burden it would have created. He said being able to afford a veterinary visit likely indicated the capacity to care for a pet. He noted the rabies vaccination was crucial for public health, as rabies is a deadly disease that affects both humans and animals. The state authorized technicians to administer the vaccine, meaning a veterinary technician, not just a doctor, could provide the service.

Kara said the goal was to align the animal ordinance with its planned introduction on July 1. A media campaign would be launched to advertise the ordinance, with special notice of the meeting sent to all relevant stakeholders, including Miss Simon. The municipal judge, who was unable to attend due to a family health issue, had contributed to the ordinance's development. Notices were also sent to veterinary offices in the city.

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 7:59 p.m.

Mayor Mays reconvene Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Richardson to authorize the City Manager to execute the bilingual pay addendum with SEIU, effective May 1, 2025, upon SEIU approval. The motion carried 5 to 0, Randall, Richardson, Wring, McGlothlin, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed;

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Runyon to authorize the City Manager to execute the insurance MOU with SEIU, effective July 1, 2025, contingent upon SEIU approval. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring, Runyon, Richardson, Randall, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Klebes said his intent was to apply similar verbiage and standards regarding the health insurance premium shares between the City and employees for all exempt staff, mirroring what was being done with SEIU and the police union.

Mayor Mays said he, Wring, and Randall had met about a month prior to discuss the evaluation process. He provided three folders to each councilor: one for the City Manager, one for the City Attorney, and one for the Municipal Judge. Each folder contained a self-evaluation, a blank form for evaluating job performance, and a copy of last year's performance evaluation. He scheduled the next meeting for Monday at 10 o'clock and asked if there were any questions.

Klebes stated the wage table included in the packet for the meeting reflected the 3% increase. He clarified the table should also show each department head's actual wage and their step, as indicated by the mayor. He encouraged everyone to use the sheet in the packet and check that the numbers match, confirming the 3% inclusion.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by/ Amie Ell, City Clerk SIGNED: Richard A. Mays, Mayor Que ATTEST: Amie Ell, City Clerk