

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Mayor Richard Mays

COUNCIL PRESENT: Rod Runyon, Scott Randall, Ben Wring

COUNCIL ABSENT: Tim McGlothlin, Dan Richardson

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Matthew Klebes, City Attorney Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Amie Ell, Public Works Director Dale McCabe, Deputy Public Works Director David Mills, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Community Development Director Joshua Chandler

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Mays noted the removal of items 9I, 10A, 10B, and 10C from the agenda. He added that item 10F would be moved from Action Items to become Discussion Item #11A.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Wring to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 3 to 0: Randall, Wring, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; McGlothlin, Richardson absent.

PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council Community Presentation

Leslie Naramore Executive Director and Sarah Kellems Development and Partnerships Director presented an update on Mid-Columbia Community Action Council.

Mayor Mays asked for the number of people who had been placed in permanent housing from the Annex. Naramore said she would get back to Council with an updated number. He also noted the City had contributed \$500,000 toward the construction of the Gloria Center.

When asked about goals, roadblocks, and how the City could assist, Naramore stated her main goal was organizational stability following recent growth from nine to 31 employees and a move into a new facility. She emphasized maintaining current service levels and requested the City's advocacy regarding anticipated federal funding changes, noting the importance of staying informed and communicating impacts in real time.

When asked about the pallet shelters, Naramore explained they are at the Gloria Center and now operate only as emergency shelters due to limited staff and funding. Opening the Annex through Project Turnkey increased shelter beds by 259%, including family units. She noted the Gloria Center shelters could operate year-round if resources allowed.

Hunger Action Month Proclamation

Leah Hall, Community Philanthropy Manager at Columbia Gorge Food Bank, said the Food Bank serves Sherman, Wasco, and Hood River counties as part of the Oregon Food Bank Network. She said Hunger Action Month raises awareness of local food insecurity, which affects thousands of families, farm workers, and individuals facing tough choices between essentials. She said the Food Bank works year-round to provide access to food and hosts the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser in September. She said addressing hunger requires policy changes on wages, food assistance, housing, childcare, and health care, and thanked the Council for recognizing Hunger Action Month and raising awareness of local needs.

Mayor Mays read the proclamation.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Police Chief Tom Worthy introduced new Code Enforcement Officer Arturo Dominguez.

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

- Safety officer resigned; position to be filled.
- Finance Director search was ongoing; positive report expected soon.
- Attended National Night Out, Public Works meetings, and police ride-along.
- Toured Crow Creek Dam with Congressman Bentz to support watershed legislation.
- Attended work session on Economic Opportunities Analysis.
- Q Life fiber partnership with Wasco County and Northern Wasco County PUD.
- Northern Wasco County PUD applied for Oregon BEAD broadband grant; results expected this month.
- Would be speaking at Oregon PUD Association on fiber partnership.
- Would be attending The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.
- Community outreach team traveling to Washington, D.C.; thanks to Abby for outreach book.
- Reminder: Free downtown transit passes offered through Mid-Columbia Economic Development District.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Runyon reported;

- Attended Joint work Session with Planning Commission
- Participated in a briefing session with City Manager and City Attorney
- Invited the Council and public to attend:
 - September 11th memorial program at Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue: Thursday at 7 a.m.
 - POW/MIA Day evening of honor: September 19th at 6 p.m. at Kelly Viewpoint, across from Sorosis Park on Scenic Drive.

Councilor Wring reported;

- Participated in Urban Renewal Agency Board meeting:
 - Elected a new Vice Chair and completed officer elections.
 - Received first update on the First Street Project from Director Chandler.
 - Reviewed adjustments to public records fee requests.

Councilor Randall reported;

- Attended Local Public Safety Coordinating Committee; voted to accept the Community Corrections Biennial Plan.
- Participated in joint work session with Planning Commission and City Council.
- Attended Municipal Fundamentals training covering public meetings law, lobbying, and land use.

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- Attended Historic Landmarks Commission; elected new officers and received presentation on First Street Project.
- Briefing with Mayor, Councilor Runyon, City Attorney, and City Manager.

Mayor Mays reported;

- Met with Boy Scouts of America and local representative Anthony Pereira.
- Attended two mural ribbon cuttings: one at the Annex and one involving local children and the Dalles Arts Center.
- Attended Yard of the Month celebration for Lynn and Marlene Law.
- Met with Cottage Grove representatives regarding murals for their 2027 Wall Dogs event.
- Attended 15th and 16th Federal Street Plaza Committee meetings.
- Presented to the Community Affairs Committee at the Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended Oregon Mayors Association Conference.
- Participated in radio interview on KODL Coffee Break.
- Attended joint meeting with Planning Commission.
- Attended Community Outreach Team meeting.
- Met with Naramore and Sarah Kellems regarding Mid-Columbia Community Action updates.
- Attended Board of County Commissioners meeting to discuss Basalt Commons project.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Wring to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Motion carried 3 to 0: Randall, Wring, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; McGlothlin, Richardson absent.

Items approved on the consent agenda were:

- A) Approval of the July 28, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B) Resolution No. 25-035 Assessing the Real Property Located at 3223 West 7th Street the Cost of Nuisance Abatement
- C) Resolution No. 25-036 Assessing the Real Property Located at 3221 West 10th Street the Cost of Nuisance Abatement
- D) Resolution No. 25-037 Assessing the Real Property Located at 1724 East 17th Street the Cost of Nuisance Abatement
- E) Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Legal Services Agreement with Stag Liuzza, LLC, for the AFFF Product Liability Multi-District Litigation
- F) Authorizing the City Attorney to Execute a Participation Form and all other Necessary Documentation for the Purdue Direct Settlement

- G) Authorizing the City Attorney to Execute a Participation Form and all other Necessary Documentation for the Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, Zydus Settlements
- H) Authorizing the City Manager as the City's Authorized Representative for Purposes of Accepting FAA AIP Grant 3-41-0059-023-2025 for the Airport Master Plan Project

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 25-038 Clarifying the Extent of Compensation for City Personnel

Mayor Mays presented the staff report.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Wring to adopt Resolution No. 25-038, as presented.

Motion carried 3 to 0: Randall, Wring, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; McGlothlin, Richardson absent.

Special Ordinance No. 25-609 Granting a Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise to Blue Mountain Networks LLC

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Randall to adopt Special Ordinance No. 25-609, as presented, by title only.

Motion carried 3 to 0: Wring, Randall, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; McGlothlin, Richardson absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

General Ordinance No. 25-1419 Repealing TDMC Chapter 8.28 (Transient Merchants) and TDMC Chapter 8.29 (Mobile Food Vendors) and Establishing TDMC Chapter 8.06 (Mobile Food Vendors & Transient Merchants)

Wring announced a potential conflict of interest in accordance with ORS 244.120. He stated, while the matter may affect the mobile food vendor industry, he believed he could participate meaningfully by disclosing his business interests, distinguishing them from broader policy considerations, and being transparent before taking any action.

City Attorney Jonathan Kara reviewed the staff report.

When asked about the definition of healthy food for the ordinance, Kara said it was included in

the ordinance and was based on the Blue Zones Initiative, healthy food. It was defined as plant-based, not fried, free of trans fats and high fructose corn syrup, or certified as healthy by NCPHD.

When asked about public rights of way, sidewalks, and roads, Kara explained the ordinance did not change existing restrictions. Merchants and vendors could not operate in the right of way, except during approved events such as the Cherry Festival or as ice cream trucks. Other than these exceptions, there was no change to the right of way prohibition.

When asked about the impact of removing the Type Three provisions on mobile food vendors and whether the to be determined (TBD) land use process would be business-friendly, Klebes explained that staff had determined a full site plan review was appropriate for a food cart pod or vendors connecting to utilities. For lower-impact vendors—such as those operating a few years without additional seating, structures, or canopies—a less involved process could meet City objectives while remaining business-friendly. He emphasized the need to balance City responsibilities with the ordinance’s goals of streamlining compliance, efficiently bringing vendors into alignment, and providing a business-friendly process for mobile food vendors.

When asked about Section 2 and the meaning of “approved” for exceptions, Kara explained that approval referred to the property owner, not the City. For example, a food truck at a high school basketball game would be approved by the school, and a vendor at the Cherry Festival on City property would be approved through The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce.

When asked about the TBD land use process and expiring licenses, Kara said vendors could continue operating under a Type Two license until completing the process, with up to six months after the ordinance update to obtain approval, provided they maintained a valid license.

Mayor Mays invited public comment.

Michael Leash, resident of The Dalles, thanked the Council for considering the issue. He expressed concerns about meal distribution occurring in the public right-of-way at First and Union, citing blocked sidewalks, safety concerns for visitors, and unauthorized use of his property’s power supply. He suggested the activity would be more appropriate on private property with access to restrooms and utilities.

Alex Hattenhauer, resident of The Dalles, expressed concern about the safety impacts of meal distribution at First and Union. He noted that overflow of people into the street created traffic conflicts, especially with commercial vehicles and fuel transport. He supported finding a more suitable location.

Gene Parker, resident of The Dalles, shared concerns that Bread and Blessings may be subject to the ordinance as vendors. He cautioned about potential legal conflicts regarding food distribution

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and religious expression, referencing a lawsuit in Brookings. He encouraged the Council to find a solution that would allow the program to continue, possibly at the St. Vincent de Paul site.

Chris Zukin, resident of The Dalles, spoke in support of Bread and Blessings and emphasized that the program was low-impact, using a few tables and trash bins for short periods. He urged the Council to consider an exception for such small-scale food distribution, similar to allowances for lemonade stands. He also announced that repainting of the Umatilla House mural would begin in October.

Shelly Hanson, resident of The Dalles representing Bridges to Change, spoke in support of Bread and Blessings, highlighting its importance for providing meals, outreach, and connection to vulnerable individuals. She stated that the program kept the area clean and orderly and urged the Council to help find a suitable, stable location.

Lisa Farquharson, representing the Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council for holding a discussion rather than an action item. She suggested extending the compliance period for Type 2 vendors from six months to 12 months to allow time for land use approvals. She also recommended creating a fact sheet and process guide for new food vendors and offered the Chamber's assistance in distributing information.

Judy Merrill, resident of The Dalles, thanked the Council for clarifying that the ordinance was a discussion item. She asked whether there would be opportunities for further discussion and raised questions about when and why Bread and Blessings was asked to leave Lewis and Clark Park. She referenced recent changes in state law regarding recreational immunity and urged collaboration with the community to support vulnerable residents.

Bob Kenyon, resident of The Dalles, shared his long involvement with Bread and Blessings and community meals. He clarified that the move to First and Union was not the program's choice but due to circumstances. He described the program as a gift both to those who receive and to those who serve.

Karen Murray, resident of The Dalles, and a volunteer with Bread and Blessings, praised the dedication of the organizers and suggested returning the program to the St. Vincent de Paul building, which had been renovated for meal service with Bread and Blessings' fundraising support. She advocated for collaboration with local partners to address safety and operational concerns.

Connie Krummrich, resident of The Dalles and a volunteer with Bread and Blessings, urged the Council to support the program and avoid what she described as "criminalizing kindness." She emphasized the importance of working with the community to find a permanent solution that balances concerns of residents, businesses, and vulnerable individuals.

Teresa Yragui-Zeman spoke on behalf of Bread and Blessings, stating that the program complied with police requests to leave sidewalk space clear and kept the area orderly. She emphasized the importance of serving individuals who are marginalized and expressed gratitude for the Council's consideration.

Mays stated when the item returned on September 22, the City would follow a process similar to the evening's meeting and asked that testimony not be repetitious. He asked the City Attorney to explain the recreational immunity ordinance passed earlier in the year.

Kara explained recreational immunity protected landowners, including public bodies, from liability when allowing public recreational use of their property. He explained the legislature had periodically adjusted the scope of recreational immunity, and to avoid uncertainty, the City had adopted its own ordinance a few months earlier. The ordinance allowed the City to post properties as recreational, restrict non-recreational uses unless a permit was obtained, and require permits for exclusive uses. He noted Festival Park was a unique property where exclusive use could be permitted.

Klebes reminded the audience the topic was not on the agenda and clarified recreational uses such as gatherings, walking dogs, or birthday parties were permitted at Lewis and Clark Festival Park. He stated exclusive uses or non-recreational activities, such as food distribution or charging admission for events, required a permit. He explained permits balanced public use with exclusive uses, had a limited number available each month, and included different insurance requirements depending on the activity due to risk. He also noted recreational immunity did not cover all uses, and the permit system helped manage those risks. He added ORS 105.668, which had been referenced, primarily applied to right-of-way in cities with populations over 500,000 and was not relevant to Lewis and Clark Festival Park.

Kara further clarified the City had dismissed its lawsuit against St Vincent de Paul. He emphasized the City had no role in the decision and was not preventing services from being offered.

Klebes summarized direction from Council, stating the ordinance would return to the September 22 meeting. He noted staff would prepare the packet by the end of the week. He summarized the discussion from the evening focused on a streamlined process for mobile food cart vendors and transient merchants to obtain permits and operate on private property, while maintaining the prohibition of activities in the right-of-way. He noted fee reductions and waivers for nonprofits and reported recent meetings with Community Health, Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Bread and Blessings, and Community Meals to discuss the ordinance, its impacts, and potential alternative locations. He added City staff continued to review related issues concerning housing and houselessness as part of Council goals. He stated the only potential revision for consideration involved the timeline for mobile food cart vendors to obtain land use approval, with a proposal to extend it from six to twelve months as requested by the Chamber of

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Commerce director.

Runyon noted the ordinance had not been updated since 1997. He said his primary concern involved the use of the public right-of-way, rather than food distribution itself. He noted the issue arose because residents had moved into areas adjacent to food service locations, including under the underpass, drawn by proximity to the services. He emphasized the need to balance the interests of both the community and those receiving services. He encouraged consideration of housing groups' input regarding those currently staying near these locations.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by/
Amie Ell, City Clerk


SIGNED: _____

Richard A. Mays, Mayor


ATTEST: _____
Amie Ell, City Clerk

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

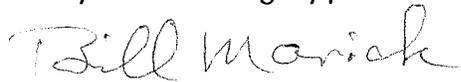
RE: Ordinance No. 25-1419

I understand the need to regulate vendors and merchants and set standards that need to be followed.

This ordinance will severely restrict the ability of a number of charitable organizations to perform their mission. Some provisions need to be made to enable them to continue to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves.

Rather than attempting to resolve problems by being restrictive, we need to be more proactive in our attempts to solve our problems. This is a community problem that needs many factors to come together to arrive at a solution.

Thank you for hearing my position even though I could not be present .

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Marick".

Bill Marick

1620 E. 19th St.

The Dalles, Or 97058

541-298-5733

To members of The Dalles city council ,

I am concerned about proposed changes to ordinances that may affect the ability of Bread and Blessings to continue its' mission to provide food for our city's homeless population or other needy residents. I have supported this effort financially and observed the process of setting up tables, serving meals and cleaning the area to remove any trace of their having been there. When they were in the Lewis and Clark park where garbage cans were available, Teresa made every effort to keep people from using those cans by providing her own trash container.

So I have been wondering about proposed changes and what the possible need for them might be. I am having trouble figuring out what problem needs to be addressed. Then I heard about a proposal to relocate this service to that location where the "pallet houses" used to be before moving to the Gloria Center. If that is actually a valid offer, it begs the question of why one parcel of city property would be usable while every other area the city owns is not.

Could all of this concern simply be about public perception? That property in the port area is less likely to be seen for sure but, unfortunately, it would be much more difficult for those who need this service to get there.

I am hoping everyone can just take a moment to realize that what we have here is a number of people who want a little help with their dietary needs and another small number of people who are willing to go way out of their way to provide it. I think the city should be looking for a way to support this heroic effort rather than creating rules to obstruct it.

Thank you for your consideration, Jim Schwindt

Amie Ell

From: murrcat at gorge.net <murrcat@gorge.net>
Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 2:12 PM
To: Amie Ell
Cc: murrcat@gorge.net
Subject: Testimony for Monday, Sept 8th City Council Meeting on Ordinance No. 25-1419

WARNING: Email from external source. Links and attachments could pose security risks. Investigate sender and think before you click.

Dear Mayor Mays, City Manager Klebes, Community Development Director Chandler and all the city council members:

My purpose in writing you to two fold: I want to express concern in adopting Ordinance No. 25-1419 and I want to offer support to the non-profit organization, Bread and Blessings.

Please wait to adopt Ordinance No. 25-1419. I found the reading of the ordinance confusing and overwhelming. I wanted some "Cliff Notes" to cut to the chase and help me see its impact to our community. I suspect that many other groups and individuals had the same feelings.

Secondly, I wanted to offer support to our non-profit, Bread and Blessings. Teresa Yregi has been fixing and offering food to the hungry in The Dalles for over 30 years. She has been moved around many times and still continues to serve the hungry with passion. She needs to be supported by our community. In thinking about the impact of this ordinance on Bread and Blessings, I have come to the conclusion that we need to find a way for her organization to NOT be considered transient or mobile. Her program should be allowed to return to the St. Vincent de Paul building with the blessings of the city. Teresa was instrumental in raising the funds to initially purchase and redesign the building for the purpose of feeding the hungry. Let's use the building for what it was designed to do. Obviously, the program would work with the staff and board members of St. Vincent de Paul. the city police and the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council and whoever else could assist in making sure people stay safe and follow all the rules. And, this would only include feeding the hungry on weekday mornings at 9am, Monday through Friday. (Usually the meal serving ends at 10am.)

Bread and Blessings is a separate organization from St. Vincent de Paul. They use St. Vincent dePaul's kitchen, storerooms, restrooms and dining hall and parking area. If the breakfast was allowed to resume at the facility, they would serve to their clients in the St. Vincent de Paul dining area and the restroom area would be used.

I know there were complicated feelings and actions that happened when the building was shut down. In working together with all our partners, I feel we can overcome the challenges. Bread and Blessings was one of the main fundraisers to secure the St. Vincent de Paul building. They should be allowed to return and not be considered mobile or transient and have to deal with Ordinance No. 25-1419.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Gartland Murray
Volunteer for Bread and Blessings