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City Council Meeting
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 24, 2025
5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

PRESIDING: President Time McGlothlin

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Rich Mays, Rod Runyon, Scott Randall, Dan Richardson, Ben Wring

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, Assistant City Manager/HR Director Brenda Fahey, Finance Director Brita Meyer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President McGlothlin at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Wring invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Richardson to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5 to 0: Wring,, Richardson, Randall, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

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PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS

OPOA Award Recognition

Police Chief Tom Worthy recognized Detective Sargent Ell and Detectives Castro and Perez for receiving the Oregon Peace Officer Association's Unit Citation Award. He recognized Detective Sergeant Austin Ell, Detective Juan Castro, and Detective Sam Perez for their work on a major crimes case. On April 11, 2025, the detectives responded to a Hood River Major Crimes Team call-out involving a homicide during an attempted theft. They collaborated with Hood River Police Department and the Hood River County Sheriff's Department, apprehending two of the three suspects on April 12. The primary suspect remained at large for three days. Detectives Ell, Perez, and Castro conducted extensive searches, surveillance, and utilized drones, ultimately locating and apprehending the suspect without the use of force. Their efforts enhanced community safety and demonstrated exemplary investigative work. On November 7, 2025, the detectives received a Unit Citation Award for Excellence from the Oregon Police Officers Association.

Household Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program

Kristina Fiebig, Solid Waste Coordinator presented updates about the program.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

- Attended Oregon City/County Managers Association Board meeting; serves as liaison to the International City Managers Association.
- Participating on planning committees for upcoming conferences: Northwest Regional Conference (Long Beach, CA) and Summer Conference (Ashland, OR).
- Appointed to the League of Oregon Cities Policy Committee on Taxation and Finance.
- Met with U.S. EPA regarding Portland Harbor cleanup and potential Wasco County landfill use:
 - Wasco County landfill is one of four potential disposal sites.
 - Projected total truck volume across all sites: ~120 per day.
 - Waste to Wasco County landfill will be solid, not hazardous.
 - City added to EPA listserv and will engage in community impact mitigation planning.
 - Cleanup and waste movement projected to begin in 2028.

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- Provided overview of facilitated goal-setting retreat with Sarah Singer Wilson; packets include session minutes and overview. Additional information and next steps will be brought to Council, including further organizational outreach on vision, mission, and values.
- Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Fund application submitted at the federal level; awaiting confirmation of grant award.
- Acknowledged Northern Wasco County PUD, Wasco Electric, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, The Dalles Main Street, and volunteers for holiday lighting installation downtown, including updated LED garland in partnership with Northern Wasco County Parks and Rec.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Richardson reported;

- Recent Traffic Safety Commission meeting discussion around concerns about impacts on PDX Harbor Cleanup locally.
- He expressed concern about the projected volume of cleanup trucks and the potential impact on the community.
- Emphasized the need for proactive engagement beyond monitoring EPA communications, including evaluating staff involvement, committee action, or additional resources as needed.
- Urged timely consideration and planning to address potential community impacts this year.

In response to Councilor questions, additional information was provided regarding the meeting with the EPA. The project was identified as the Portland Harbor Remediation, with an estimated 120 trucks per day spread across four disposal sites over five to six months per year for multiple summers. The EPA had not made an acceptability determination, and logistics were still under regional review. The City had engaged directly with the EPA to track the current status, critical next steps, and decision points. Discussion included potential impacts on the landfill's lifespan, long-term implications for the community, and possible benefits such as tipping fees and revenue. Updates were to be provided to Council as information became available.

Councilor Randall reported;

- Participated in the Walking School Bus along the newly completed Safe Routes to Schools project on West 10th Street.
- Attended the Strategic Planning Council retreat.
- Attended the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting and heard a staff report on an application to remove and replace a non-contributing garage; the issue will be reconsidered at the next meeting

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Councilor McGlothlin reported;

- Appeared on KODL radio with Mayor Mays.
- Attended the Airport Commission meeting, where hangar construction and a college program associated with the new hangar were discussed; both projects are moving forward.

Councilor Wring reported;

- Met with the City Manager regarding ongoing matters.
- Participated in the annual goal-setting session with Council and City staff at the Readiness Center.
- Participated in the Walking School Bus with Councilor Randall, Public Works staff, and students from Chenoweth Elementary.
- Met with the Assistant City Manager, Mayor, and Councilor Richardson to discuss performance review evaluation revisions.
- Met with Sister Cities representatives to discuss public engagement and the upcoming spring visit of Dalles High School students to Miyoshi City.
- Raised the possibility of moving Sister Cities oversight into a City committee to increase participation, support, and sustainability; Council expressed support for this idea.

Councilor Runyon had no report.

Mayor Mays reported;

- Participated in a radio interview with Mark Bailey at KACI.
- Attended the downtown projects open house hosted by City staff.
- Participated in a KOIN-TV interview in Portland with Emily Burris and Travis Teich regarding City activities.
- Attended Dallas High School girls volleyball quarterfinal and subsequent state championship matches; the team finished second in the state. The team would be recognized at the next Council meeting.
- Attended The Dalles High School girls soccer semifinal against Scappoose, which The Dalles won 2–1 with four seconds remaining; arrangements were being made for the team to be recognized at the December 22 Council meeting.
- Served as a judge for the Veterans Day Parade.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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Items approved on the consent agenda were:

- A) Approval of the October 27, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B) Approval of the November 6 and 7, 2025 City Council Goal Setting Work Session Minutes
- C) Resolution No. 25-044 Amending Provisions of Resolution No. 23-024 (Beautification and Tree Committee) and Concurring with the Mayor's Appointments of Emily Whitfield and Andruca Knight
- D) Award of Contract No. 25-010 for the Westside Interceptor Upgrades – Phase 2

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution No. 25-046 Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, Making Appropriations and Authorizing Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

President McGlothlin read the rules of the Public Hearing then asked if there were questions. There were none.

President McGlothlin opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

He called for the staff report.

Brita Meyer, Finance Director reviewed the staff report

President McGlothlin asked if there was anyone present or on Zoom who wanted to testify. There were none

President McGlothlin closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Wring to adopt Resolution No. 25-046 authorizing the acceptance of an additional \$71,998 for the Business Oregon: Housing Infrastructure Support Grant and Appropriation to the Special Grants Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No 25-045 Authorizing Transfers of Budgeted Amounts Between Categories of Various Funds of the City Of The Dalles Adopted Budget, Making Appropriations, and Authorizing Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

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Brita Meyer Finance Director reviewed the staff report.

Assistant City Manager/HR Director Brenda Fahey clarified that the work would be outsourced on a temporary basis and would not require an additional FTE position. Contractual funds were anticipated to cover work potentially through the end of the current fiscal year, with the possibility of requesting additional contractual funds in the next fiscal year. The City planned to evaluate longer-term needs before determining any permanent staffing requirements.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Wring to adopt Resolution No. 25-045 Authorizing the transfer of budgeted amounts between categories of various funds of the City of The Dalles Budget, making appropriations and authorizing expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

Resolution No. 25-047 Approving a Rate Increase Resulting from Increased Operational and Disposal Fee Costs Incurred by Waste Connections of Oregon, Inc. (DBA The Dalles Disposal)

Jim Winterbottom from The Dalles Disposal presented proposed rate increases based on operational costs and tipping fees. He noted that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used as a benchmark ended in July 2025 at 3.04%, and the company applies 85% of that rate to manage expenses efficiently. He explained that the Wasco County landfill would increase its tip fee by 2.58% effective January 1, 2026. The proposed rate changes for City customers included a 32-gallon weekly trash service increasing from \$21.78 to \$22.34 per month, a 90-gallon weekly service increasing from \$32.10 to \$32.93 per month, and a one-and-a-half-yard weekly container increasing from \$116.54 to \$119.55 per month.

When asked about using the Western Region CPI as a benchmark and whether it keeps pace with operating costs such as truck maintenance, salaries, and benefits, Winterbottom explained that the CPI basket includes very few items relevant to the waste and recycling industry. A Waste and Recycling CPI exists, currently approaching double digits, and some jurisdictions and companies use that index to better align rate increases with actual operating costs, including employee benefits and medical expenses.

President McGlothlin asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak on the topic.

Comments were made recognizing The Dalles Disposal for their professionalism, helpfulness, and contributions to the community. Staff were praised for their courteous and consistent service, even in difficult locations and winter conditions, reflecting strong leadership from the top. The

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transfer site was noted as clean and orderly, and employees were commended for their friendliness and attention to service. The company's broader contributions, including support for the Lions Club, Christmas tree pickup, community cleanup, provision of liners for downtown trash cans, and ongoing service, were acknowledged and appreciated for their benefit to both the community and the City.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Randall to adopt Resolution No. 25-047 Approving a Rate Increase Resulting from Increased Operational and Disposal Fee Costs Incurred by Waste Connections of Oregon, Inc. (Dba The Dalles Disposal), Effective January 1, 2026.

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

Winterbottom noted that due to a shortage of pennies, The Dalles Disposal proposed adjusting pricing at the City transfer station. He suggested working with the City Manager to round menu board prices so that all items would end in either zero or five cents, simplifying transactions and avoiding the need to round each individual payment.

Staff noted they would explore whether any formal action was required regarding pricing adjustments and indicated the item could be brought back for future consideration.

General Ordinance No. 25-1422 Amending The Dalles Municipal Code Chapter 11.04 (Planning Commission)

Community Development Director Joshua Chandler reviewed the staff report.

Planning Commission Chair Cody Cornett provided his perspective on the proposed ordinance changes, noting updates represented an initial upgrade in process and a proactive approach. The changes would help the Planning Commission manage potential increases in quasi-judicial hearings or appeals, avoid overloading the schedule, and address attendance concerns. Overall, he viewed the amendments as a forward-looking measure to prepare for anticipated challenges.

Councilor Wring expressed a concern regarding language in the ordinance stating commissioner qualifications "shall be consistent with ORS 227.0304, as may be amended or superseded." He noted that referencing the state statute in this way could make the qualifications automatically change if the state law is amended, potentially bypassing local review by City staff or Council and limiting input from the City's residents. While he supported aligning with current state law, he identified this automatic update as his primary concern with the ordinance.

In response to Council questions, clarifications were provided regarding the proposed ordinance

changes. Key items included;

- The removal process for commissioners was outlined in the ordinance, including notice and a public hearing; commissioners had the opportunity to provide testimony, so removal was not automatic.
- An internal selection committee was established to handle appointments or related matters, with the hearings officer required to be a practicing land use attorney; the process was to follow local contract review board rules, allowing for direct hire without an RFP while complying with state law.
- Language referencing state statute ORS 227.0304 (“as may be amended or superseded”) was clarified as necessary, since the City is always subject to state law; restricting this language would reduce City flexibility without addressing underlying concerns, so no change was recommended.
- Changes to the statute effective January 1 removed the restriction limiting the number of real estate professionals on the Planning Commission, reflecting statewide challenges in recruiting qualified volunteers.
- Local control was maintained through appointments and confirmations by the Mayor and City Council.
- Councilors acknowledged and agreed that the clarification appropriately addressed concerns about maintaining local oversight while aligning with state law.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Richardson to adopt General Ordinance No. 25-1422, as presented, by title only.

President McGlothlin asked the City Clerk to read the ordinance by title only.
City Clerk Amie Ell read the ordinance by title.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed Updates to the Funding Request Process

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report.

During the discussion Council and staff highlighted several additional key points:

- The recommendation maintained two allocations—one in the Tourism Fund and one in the General Fund—separating funding into distinct categories and allowing flexibility depending on the purpose of the request.

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- Transient lodging taxes collected within the City were deposited entirely into the Tourism Fund, with just under half subsequently transferred to the General Fund; once transferred, those funds were treated as General Fund dollars rather than transient lodging tax dollars.
- Proposed recommendations for ongoing funded programs, such as the spay and neuter initiative in partnership with the Columbia Gorge Humane Society, supported key City services and could be incorporated into the City Manager's budget recommendation and secured through the normal budget process without a separate application.
- The process would focus a structured and transparent method, with clear steps, criteria, limitations, expectations, timelines, and parameters for funding, improving on past procedures and addressing concerns about consistency.
- The proposal included changing the application deadline from January 31 to August 1, allowing applicants to understand available funding after the City's budget was approved and adjust applications accordingly.
- Available funding could vary from year to year depending on remaining funds after core City services, contingencies, reserves, and other needs were met; core services were prioritized first. A base funding amount tied to a consistent metric, such as the Consumer Price Index, was suggested as a potential way to maintain stability.
- Scoring rubrics for evaluating applications were being developed, with transparency for Council and applicants, and would be refined based on Council consensus.
- In the event of budget constraints, the funding program would be prioritized for reduction before core General Fund departments.
- The City Council would make the final decision on awards after the Budget Committee set the program allocations, which were then adopted by the City Council.
- Support was expressed for setting a grant budget, recognizing it as a long-overdue improvement and a sound approach.
- Applications submitted in August would be reviewed and awarded within the same fiscal year, with funds made available after agreements were secured, and annual reapplication would be required for recurring funding.
- Council acknowledged that future funding could fluctuate based on revenue, including transient lodging tax and Google data center revenues, and that a cap could be considered for overall allocations.
- A suggested limit on frequency of funding for organizations was discussed, with some concern that restricting consecutive years could be overly limiting for recurring applicants.
- The procedure was viewed as fair, impartial, and transparent, increasing participation and providing clarity for Council and the community.

Klebes summarized that Council indicated had support for the proposed approach, affirming a preference for maintaining flexibility and openness for applicants regarding frequency and funding amounts. He noted agreement that the program should operate through the budget

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process, with City core services prioritized first, and that there was general support for providing resources to key community partners and services.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by/
Amie Ell, City Clerk

SIGNED:



Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amie Ell, City Clerk