

**Redmond City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

January 14, 2025

Council Chambers & Remote Video Conferencing

<https://www.redmondoregon.gov/government/city-council>

Present: Clifford Evelyn, Ed Fitch, John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne, Jay Patrick, Shannon Wedding, Cat Zwicker

Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky, City Recorder Kelly Morse, City Attorney Keith Leitz, Airport Director Zachary Bass, Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso, Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager Jason Neff, Planning Director Kyle Roberts, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, Network Administrator Dan Schroedl, Water Division Manager Travis Robbins, Public Works Operations Manager Joshua Wedding

Media Present: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Litigation – ORS 192.660(2)(h) authorizes executive sessions "to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed."**
- B. Labor Negotiations – ORS 192.660(2)(d) authorizes executive sessions "to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations."**

Mayor Fitch convened the Council into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(h) which authorizes executive sessions to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed and ORS 192.660(2)(d) which authorizes executive sessions to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry out labor negotiations.

Mayor Fitch adjourned the Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was established.

BLESSING

Pastor Thomas Bengé, Redmond Community Church, led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Patrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of October 22, 2024, Council Meeting**
- B. Minutes of October 22, 2024, Joint Workshop with Deschutes County**
- C. Minutes of November 12, 2024, Council Meeting**

Councilor Osborne moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilor Evelyn seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0 to 1 with Councilor Patrick abstaining.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Draft 2025 - 2027 Council Goals Discussion

City Manager Keith Witcosky presented Council's draft 2025-2027 goals, highlighting the issue areas, objectives within each issue area, and next steps. He noted the goals also help Staff craft the budget and that quarterly updates will be provided on goals progress.

The Council discussed moving the public comment period back to the beginning of the meeting and whether to extend the three-minute comment time-limit. Most Councilors supported keeping public comment at the end of meetings so that the business of the city is taken care of first. Several Councilors believed three minutes was ample time to express one's thoughts, and citizens could follow up by email or letter.

- Councilor Patrick suggested providing a short summary, at the beginning of regular Council meetings, of the relevant topics from the Council's Monday workshops.
- Additional discussion items included Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) funding for street infrastructure at SW 35th Street and Highland Avenue, Northpoint, status on approval from the Oregon Water Resources Department, large lot industrial sites, opportunities for more manufacturing sites on lands outside the Airport property, and partnering with St. Charles Hospital to develop residential in light of the new cancer center.

Mr. Witcosky explained the South Highway 97 Urban Renewal District was not set up as a business assistance district, but rather a mechanism to lead to investment on Highway 97 for infrastructure. The City is holding its funds so it can partner with ODOT and the Department of State Lands in adding infrastructure to the Large Lot Industrial Lands.

BID AWARDS / BID REJECTIONS

A. Contract Award to Olson, LLC for City Backflow Testing Program: \$700,000

Water Division Manager Travis Robbins requested approval of a three-year contract with Olson, LLC for irrigation backflow testing in a not-to-exceed amount of \$140,000 annually. The City has the ability to extend the contract for an additional two years with a not-to-exceed amount of \$700,000 over the life of the contract. The benefits of the program were explained.

Mr. Witcosky noted the program will be announced in the City's newsletter and on social media so that homeowners' associations know the service is available and to get the word out, so no one pays it on their own.

Councilor Zwicker moved to approve a contract for up to five years to Olson, LLC for testing of residential irrigation backflow assemblies in the amount not to exceed \$700,000 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Councilor Wedding seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

None.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Witcosky reviewed topics for the Council's upcoming joint meeting with Deschutes County on March 11, 2025, and noted the Council will begin discussing marijuana dispensaries in February.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Councilor welcomed Councilor Patrick back to the dais.

Councilors Osborne and Wedding thanked Councilor Patrick for his comments on Council goals, noting it serves as a reminder of the extensive work the Council and staff have put in over the past two years.

Councilor Zwicker reported on touring the new library and invited everybody to visit once it opens on January 27, 2025. She also reported on touring Cleveland Commons in Bend, noting Redmond could watch its progress as work continues with Redmond's unhoused.

Councilor Patrick appreciated the welcome to Council.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

A. Parks Committee - Appointment of Karin Stauder, term expiring December 31, 2026

Councilor Wedding moved to approve the appointment of Karin Stauder to the Parks Committee with a term expiring December 31, 2026. Councilor Evelyn seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Mayor Fitch announced the following liaison appointments: John Nielsen to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council with Clifford Evelyn as backup; himself to the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT) with Jessica MacClanahan as backup; Cat Zwicker to the Regional Housing Council, John Nielsen to the Chamber of Commerce, and himself to the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District for the time being.

Councilor Zwicker moved to approve the liaison appointments as stated. Councilor Evelyn seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Mayor Fitch reported on having a social gathering in February 2025 with all City committees and commissions. In addition to having City Attorney Keith Leitz provide an ethics training, the purpose will be to explain that the Council will no longer have a formal liaison situation and to assure them the Council will have a more interactive approach on a regular basis through their chairs and staff liaisons. The Council is still welcome to attend any meeting. City Attorney Keith Leitz will also provide an ethics training

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services
Reviewed by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 11th day of March 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder