

**Redmond City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2025

Council Chambers & Remote Video Conferencing

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

Present: Clifford Evelyn, Ed Fitch, John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne (Virtual), Jay Patrick, Cat Zwicker

Excused: Shannon Wedding

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky, Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth, Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager Jason Neff, City Recorder Kelly Morse, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Finance Director James Wood, Network Administrator Christian Armatas, Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso, Public Works Business and Strategic Initiatives Manager Lorelei Williams, Housing Programs Analyst Linda Cline

Media Present: KTVZ, COTV

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

BLESSING

Pastor Jason Reeves, Redmond Heights Pentecostals, led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Patrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Police Chief Devin Lewis provided a brief background on state law and Police Department policy regarding sanctuary. He reminded the public that the Police Department does not participate in immigration investigation or enforcement activities, unless criminal activity is involved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of November 18, 2024, Council Workshop**
- B. Minutes of November 26, 2024, Council Meeting**
- C. Minutes of December 5, 2024, Council Workshop**

Councilor Zwicker moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilor Nielsen seconded the motion, which passed 5 to 0 to 1. (Ayes: Mayor Fitch and Councilors Evelyn, Nielsen, Osborne, and Zwicker. Nays: None. Abstentions: Councilor Patrick.)

PRESENTATIONS

A. Cascades East Transit Presentation on Emerging Initiatives

Cascades East Transit (CET) Director Bob Townsend provided a presentation on CET project and status updates, grants and funding awards, and 2025 CET initiatives. Highlights also included transit usage data, service hour and service area expansions, customer transit passes/cards, new approaches to outreach and engagement, the return to a fare system, and updating CET's mission/values and marketing/branding.

Comments from Council were addressed regarding a route from Redmond/Bend to Madras, access to the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, and the update to CET's mission statement demonstrated by a driver who helped transition two families into housing.

B. Redmond Proficiency Academy Civic Project with the City of Redmond

Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) Middle School science teacher Andrea Adams along with her students Norah [no last name provided], Parker Ellis, and Demetrius Fultz, provided a presentation on their 6th grade science class project on water. While not only encouraging them to learn about water, Ms. Adams empowered her students to contribute to solutions for water conservation. Students were tasked with designing a public campaign to aid the City of Redmond in promoting water conservation strategies, using social media platforms. The students presented their sample projects.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance #2024-16: An Ordinance amending the Redmond City Code Chapter 5, updating the Safe Parking Program section as a continued means to help address homelessness and declaring an emergency.

Housing Program Analyst Linda Cline provided a presentation on the proposed Safe Parking code amendments, highlighting the definitions for vehicles and micro-shelters as well as provisions for size limits and maximum number of micro-shelters per site. The micro-shelter pilot program would be in effect through May 2026.

Mountain View Community Development Executive Director Rick Russell provided an overview of the Safe Parking Program and the people it served last year and during the 2023-2024 school year. He noted the request for micro-shelter approval came with no request for funds, as funds are available from the State to purchase and site the micro-shelters. Mr. Russell noted the funding expires June 30, 2025. He supports the idea of the pilot program and noted that Safe Parking rules and accountability also apply to anyone using a micro-shelter.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

John Heylin, Deevy Holcomb, Carol Storm, Chuck Hemingway, Jon Stoneman, Daniel Sibila, Gloria Olson, Carol Carlson, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, Sam Bernhisel, Paula Schaffer, Steve Schaffer, Andrew Kaza, and Sally Griffin expressed support for the ordinance.

Mayor Fitch closed the public hearing.

Councilor Nielsen moved to have a First and Second Reading of Ordinance #2024-16 by title only. Councilor Zwicker seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0. (Ayes: Mayor Fitch and Councilors Evelyn, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, and Zwicker. Nays: None)

City Recorder Kelly Morse provided the First and Second Reading of Ordinance #2024-16 by title only.

Councilor Osborne moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-16 by roll call vote. Councilor Zwicker seconded the motion.

Ayes: Evelyn, Fitch, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, Zwicker

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 0.

Mayor Fitch called for a brief recess/break and then reconvened the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Public Safety Facility Office Furniture and Equipment Contract with PacificWRO, Project# PD2201: \$561,286

Chief Lewis requested approval of a contract with PacificWRO, in the amount of \$561,286 for office furniture and equipment for the Public Safety Facility (PSF). The price is under the estimated cost of \$600,000. Chief Lewis provided a brief update on the PSF project and described how the office furniture would be used. PacificWRO was selected through a cooperative contract with Sourcewell. He explained how usable furniture at the current police station would be offered to other departments for repurposing.

Councilor Evelyn moved to award a contract to PacificWRO for the supply and installation of office furniture and equipment for the new public safety facility center in the amount of \$561,286 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Councilor Patrick seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0. (Ayes: Mayor Fitch and Councilors Evelyn, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, and Zwicker. Nays: None.)

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

Redmond resident Marty Nelson spoke about the fires in Paradise, California, which destroyed his family's home and killed at least 80 people. He urged Redmond to prepare evacuation plans, provide the ability to open fire gates in neighborhoods, and raise community awareness of residents with health issues who might need assistance during a disaster. Mayor Fitch confirmed a plan is underway to make fire gates accessible in case of emergency and an upcoming review of emergency management plans will take place in March or April.

Prineville resident Greg Miller spoke about his experience with the permit process to hold his Summertime in the City event in Centennial Park. He stated he is trying to cultivate business downtown but could scale the event back. Mayor Fitch recalled the conversation about the event, that opined that 75 tents in Centennial Park for a number of days was not good for the park or grass, and suggested Council talk with Staff and get back to Mr. Miller by mid-February at the latest.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Keith Witcosky reminded the community that the Oregon Department of Transportation will be doing construction on Highway 126 starting February 3, 2025. Construction is anticipated to last one month. CORE3 Day at the Capitol will be held February 20, 2025, and Central Oregon Cities Organization Day at the Capitol on March 20, 2025. The legislative session opened January 21, 2025, with almost 3,000 bills. The draft Council goals are available for public comment. Upcoming Council items include marijuana dispensaries likely on February 25, 2025, and a disaster preparedness panel on March 25, 2025.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Nielsen thanked everyone who spoke about Safe Parking, opining it was good to see the community's work has changed people's hearts regarding homelessness.

Councilor Zwicker thanked Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez and the RPA students for their presentation, reported on touring the new Nova Apartments, and announced the completion of NeighborImpact's new food warehouse. She spoke about food scarcity as a precursor to becoming unhoused. She also reported on the swearing-in of Oregon Representative Janelle Bynum.

Councilor Evelyn thanked those who provided testimony on Safe Parking and RPA. It is great to see people working together to move Redmond forward.

In response to questions from Councilor Patrick, City Manager Witcosky confirmed Code Enforcement officers ensure that unpermitted sellers, such as those selling flowers and fruit at intersections, are aware there is a business license process.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch announced the appoint of himself and Councilor Osborne to represent Redmond in CORE3.

Councilor Zwicker moved to approve the appointments as stated. Councilor Evelyn seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0. (Ayes: Mayor Fitch and Councilors Evelyn, Nielsen, Osborne, Patrick, and Zwicker. Nays: None.)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 25th day of March 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder