

Redmond City Council

June 2, 2025

Workshop Minutes

Executive Conference Room & Remote Video Conferencing

<https://www.redmondoregon.gov/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, Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth, Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager Jason Neff, City Recorder Kelly Morse, Finance Director James Wood, Planning Director Kyle Roberts, Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Economic Development/ Urban Renewal Program Manager Chuck Arnold, Urban Renewal Program Analyst Meghan Gassner, Billing and Collections Manager Valerie Taylor

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

A. O'Neil Junction Project Design/ODOT

Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Region 4 Area Manager Omar Ahmed and Project Manager Abbey Driscoll provided a presentation on the status of ODOT's Highway 97 and NW Galloway Avenue-O'Neil Highway project, highlighting the project's purpose, historical safety data, and current project scope and schedule.

The Council discussed concerns about the project increasing traffic on 10th Street in front of the middle and elementary schools, creating bottlenecks, prompting drivers to accelerate as the one-lane section widens, and whether to include a roundabout. Additional concerns included eliminating an evacuation route, narrowing the entryway into a growing city, and relying on a traffic study rather than real-life experience. ODOT was asked to consider a shorter median barrier to keep the intersection wider.

The Council will review the project plans and inform ODOT of its position.

B. Republic Services Franchise Agreement Update

Billing and Collections Manager Valerie Taylor updated the Council on the Republic Services franchise agreement noting it addresses all City concerns including local support, reviewing damages, and transparency reporting. The agreement is expected to come before the Council in July. Republic Services requested a 6 percent rate increase for Redmond.

Deschutes County (County) Director of Solid Waste Tim Brownell reported that Republic Services requested a 6 percent rate increase, double the pass-through cost of the County's landfill fee increase. The County asked Republic Services to account for reduced processing fees under the Recycling Modernization Act, and the request to the County was reduced to 4.7 percent. As all Redmond customers have recycling, he expected the City's rate could be reduced by 1.5 percent. He also reported on Republic Services' negotiations with the County and the City of Bend.

C. Enjoy Downtown Redmond Update

Economic Development/Urban Renewal Program Manager Chuck Arnold and Urban Renewal Program Analyst Program Analyst Meghan Gassner presented the grant contract in the amount of \$76,000 for Enjoy Downtown Redmond (EDR) which was included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. Key highlights included Urban Renewal funding for the grant, the purpose of the work, and the reimbursement-based grant disbursement process.

EDR Executive Director Shannon Hawkins provided some of her background and an overview of EDR, highlighting some of their accomplishments and goals.

D. Ice Rink Update

Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gassner provided an update on the downtown ice rink design, highlighting the concept draft of a skate ribbon and a boulder park. The estimated \$7 million project would commit the majority of Urban Renewal resources over the next seven years.

Questions and comments from the Council were addressed with input from Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth and Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager Neff.

The Council discussed how the boulder park would create a need for oversight, other options for off-season use that could generate revenue, and direct and indirect return on investment. Suggestions included replacing the boulder area with tables. Additional discussion regarded the need for a family activity center, developing Redmond-specific tourism assets, and concerns about project costs in an uncertain economy.

Ms. Hawkins reported the ice rink was missed this past winter by downtown business owners as well as residents.

Following discussion, the Council directed Staff to continue with the design contract, explore off-season alternatives, and present firmer costs and operational details for another discussion in July.

Timbre Lofts SDC Buydown Request

Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gassner presented a PowerPoint on the Timbre Lofts project and the developer's request to Urban Renewal for \$540,000 in System Development Charge (SDC) buydown and permit support. The developer is considering shared parking agreements tied to the improvements to the 5th Street and Forest Avenue parking lot.

The Council discussed its support for the SDC buydown without the inclusion of permit costs, increasing parking supply without increasing vehicle demand, and the commercial component allowing for the funding recharge.

The Council consented to a not-to-exceed amount of \$275,000 for the SDC buydown only.

E. Update on Parking Lot at 5th and Forest

Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gassner presented the proposed \$99,950 engineering and design contract with Hickman Williams for the 5th and Forest Parking Lot Project and highlighted the project background and scope of work.

The Council directed staff to place the Parking Lot Project and Enjoy Downtown Redmond contracts on the June 10, 2025 Consent Agenda.

Marijuana Dispensaries Update

City Manager Keith Witcosky reported approximately 16 site applications were received, representing approximately 11 different dispensaries. Staff will review the applications for eligibility and meet with applicants next week to outline next steps. A decision is possible by the end of July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 22th day of July 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder