

**Redmond City Council
Special Workshop Minutes**

August 18, 2025

Executive Conference Room 141 & Remote Video Conferencing
<https://www.redmondoregon.gov/city-council>

Present: Clifford Evelyn, Ed Fitch, Jay Patrick, Shannon Wedding, Cat Zwicker

Excused: John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne

Staff Present: City Recorder Kelly Morse, City Attorney Keith Leitz, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso, Public Works Operations Manager Joshua Wedding, City Arborist Avery McChristian, Billing & Collections Manager Valerie Taylor

Parks Committee Present: Chair Alan Ewert, Vice Chair Erin Trimble, Eve Ponder, Peter Gassner, Shawna Hicks, Brad Porterfield (arrived at 3:25 pm)

Others Present: Katie Hammer, Redmond Area Park & Recreation District; Fire Chief Ryan Herrera, Redmond Fire & Rescue; Director of Solid Waste Tim Brownell, Deschutes County

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENTATIONS

A. Strategic Discussion with Redmond's Parks Committee

Parks Committee Chair Alan Ewert, Vice Chair Erin Trimble, and Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez provided an overview of the Parks Committee's relationship with the Council's and Committee's multi-year initiatives. The Committee wished to discuss aligning with the Council's priorities, improvement of its representation of the community, its help in determining City parks policies, and communication with Council.

Redmond Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Ryan Herrera explained the current fire management initiative, including working with the City, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, and Deschutes County's Natural Resource Specialist with a focus on fuel mitigation.

Discussions included broad priorities for Redmond's Parks Program, fire prevention and landscape management, use of e-bikes and electric motorcycles in the Dry Canyon, the need for community education through signage and outreach, enforcement considerations to support safe use, and the distinction between e-bikes and electric motorcycles. Budgetary implications of proposed initiatives were noted, as well as the value of larger parks to accommodate multiple uses. The Parks Master Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) were identified as key communication points between the Parks Committee and the Council.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan recommended the Parks Committee discuss potential five-year CIP park investments and bring a recommendation to the Council when it considers the CIP in January/February 2026.

Mayor Fitch stated he will coordinate with City Manager Witcosky to schedule regular Council feedback sessions with the Parks Committee and commission officers.

Deschutes County Solid Waste Director Tim Brownell provided an update on the negotiations of a uniform countywide solid waste franchise agreement. Progress is affected by Cascade Disposal's opposition to the liquidated damages component and preference for early termination, which Republic Services does not support. A determination on whether a universal agreement will be possible is expected in the next two to four weeks.

Mayor Fitch noted challenges with liquidated damage and expressed support for early termination.

The Council consented to refrain from discussing the franchise agreement with Republic Services and will direct any inquiries from Republic to staff.

B. July 4, 2026 / the Country's 250th Birthday

Mayor Fitch reported on preparations for July 4, 2026, including potential City investment of up to \$20,000, efforts through the Parks Foundation or other foundations to raise money from the business community, a Friday night event in Centennial Park coinciding with First Friday, a Saturday parade with high school band participation, a fighter jet flyover coordinated by Airport Director Bass, enhanced fireworks at the Fairgrounds with parking and security considerations, and downtown murals in collaboration with the Dry Canyon Art Association and Redmond Commission for Art in Public Places.

Communications Director Cassaro reported that Aaron Switzer with Lay It Out Events is proposed to serve as the City's lead organizer for the event, coordinating with groups like the Historic Landmarks Commission to develop the event framework. He and other stakeholders will meet with Council to discuss desired involvement and ideas and may assist in identifying financial resources to help make the event more affordable. The Lay It Out Events contract, separate from the event cost, would be approximately \$5,000 for the year.

Mayor Fitch plans to attend the September 9, 2025, Deschutes County Fair Board and Deschutes County Commissioners meeting to discuss opening the Fairgrounds on July 4, 2026, and contributions from the Fair Board for the managed camp's garbage services, etc. Staff was directed to return in September with recommendations for a seed budget for the July 4th event, a method to accept donations, the Lay It Out Events agreement, and the expanded fireworks cost.

Council supported a permanent change to City Code to allow fireworks only on July 4.

Mayor Fitch explained that Council must complete State-required disaster training, including viewing a video from the Office of Emergency Management. He recommended Councilors discuss their communication roles during a crisis with Chief Devin Lewis, Deschutes County Emergency Services Manager Nathan Garibay, and City Manager Witcosky.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.
Reviewed by Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 23rd day of September 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder