

**Redmond City Council
Workshop Minutes**

February 23, 2026

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; 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; Finance Director James Wood; Police Chief Devin Lewis; Planning Director Kyle Roberts; Long-Range Planner Cory Murray; Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso; Budget Analyst Herlinda Corn; Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez; Public Works Operations Manager Joshua Wedding

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENTATIONS

A. 1,200 Acres

Mayor Fitch urged the Council to encourage the County to take over 1,200 Acres by providing funding in 2026-2027 to keep it moving forward, noting the potential benefit of directing a percentage of future property sale proceeds toward infrastructure improvements, particularly county roads.

The Council's discussion regarded concerns about the County controlling the master plan and infrastructure for the development; land use experience of the current County Commissioners; the timing and timeframe of east side development; future management of the development annexation while county-owned; funding a preliminary environmental assessment; using an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to keep the development unified and allow City input; balancing east- and westside infrastructure priorities; potential staff time, capacity, and risks involved in working with the County on the development; and a suggestion to defer the discussion until the 2027 goal session.

Mayor Fitch recommended deferring the discussion to the end-of-year goal session.

At this point in the meeting, the Council proceeded to Other Miscellaneous Items.

B. CORE3

Mayor Fitch stated that the CORE3 Executive Committee will recommend that the full board halt further discussions and advised that the Council should not weigh in, since any proposal would require a City land use application. He suggested that CORE3 address the matter first.

C. Central Oregon Irrigation District Piping

Mayor Fitch reported that the environmental impact statement for the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) piping project has been received, noting it would remove 14 billion gallons of water annually from the aquifer beneath and south of Redmond, which could affect the City's future water supply. He and City Manager Keith Witcosky plan to meet with COID representatives to discuss the matter.

Council discussion centered around concerns over the COID piping project's diversion of water to Jefferson County, potential impacts to the City's water supply, and the possibility of artificial aquifer recharge as a mitigation option.

D. Planning Department Workplan

Planning Director Kyle Roberts presented the 2026 Planning Division Work Plan, highlighting upcoming development applications, area plans, public facility plans and inventories, and Development Code amendments.

The Council suggested using the December timeframe as a placeholder for the 1,200 acres discussion and providing production builders more than the standard six-month notice before a new code takes effect.

E. Miscellaneous Budget Adjustments

Finance Director James Wood highlighted a budget adjustment request to be presented to Council on March 10, 2026, including updates on the Wetlands Complex, Eastside Arterial, Public Safety Facility project savings, and potential funds from Northpoint Vista utilities.

Deputy City Manager Steve Ashworth and Police Chief Devin Lewis provided an update on the Desert Rise and 17th Street encampment cleanup, noting the managed camp is nearing completion with an operator Request for Proposal expected later this week, and Deschutes County's soft closure of Department of State Lands property and ongoing relocation efforts. They also outlined a cleanup timeline targeting full closure by June 1, 2026, and the associated budget request.

Mr. Lewis presented a proposed budget adjustment for police vehicles and equipment, noting it would use existing savings to cover capital costs and support police operations and officer safety.

F. Annexation Ordinance

Mr. Roberts presented a draft annexation procedure, noting that the City's Development Code currently lacks formal annexation language and historically relies on state statute. The draft codifies the procedure and approval criteria, including a requirement that annexations be in the City's best interest. The draft will return to the Urban Area Planning Commission and then the Council for adoption around April.

The Council suggested Code amendments for food carts near residential areas and a review of how "City's best interest" is interpreted and whether guardrails are needed.

G. Other Miscellaneous Items

Mayor Fitch and Mr. Witcosky outlined a developer proposal for the City to acquire 0.82 acres near Bowley Fields through deed transfer, allowing the developer to receive a credit toward Parks System Development Charges (SDCs) for their cluster development, noting the property is not in the Parks Master Plan and would require amendments.

Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez explained that the 0.82-acre property on the Dry Canyon rim is already protected under land use policies, including setbacks and restrictions to preserve the Dry Canyon as a community asset. The land is not in the Parks Master Plan and has limited development potential. The City would assume liability and maintenance if the developer donates it, and in return, the developer will receive a donation receipt for a tax deduction.

The Council discussed the handling of Dry Canyon rim property donations and concerns about setting a precedent by amending the Parks Master Plan for one developer.

Mayor Fitch suggested dropping the discussion as it was still in early concept stages.

At this point in the meeting the Council returned to the CORE3 discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 28th day of April 2026.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder