

**Redmond City Council
Special Meeting Minutes**

March 16, 2026

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

Present: Clifford Evelyn (Arrived at 3:08 pm), Ed Fitch, John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne, Jay Patrick, Shannon Wedding (Arrived at 3:25 pm), 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; Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso; Budget Analyst Herlinda Corn

Media Present: Ian Haupt, Redmond Spokesman

CALL TO ORDER

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

The Council, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Discussion with Housing Accountability and Production Office

Planning Director Kyle Roberts introduced the Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO) representatives, noting the presentation's purpose is to learn about HAPO's role and partnership opportunities with the City, and for the Council to share its housing policy priorities.

HAPO Manager Joel Madsen and Senior Housing Planner Sean Edging presented an overview of HAPO's background, purpose, and role, including engagement with the City and other jurisdictions statewide.

Staff and HAPO representatives explained the status of the housing law violation complaint that prompted HAPO's engagement with the City, noting the green space issue is based on how the City was measuring the green space, and that staff is developing a proposal to apply a 20-foot rear setback for alley-loaded townhouses across all residential zones to provide one off-street parking space via the driveway without a garage requirement. HAPO intends to remain a resource and stay engaged as the proposal moves through the City's process.

Councilor Zwicker expressed support for the proposal but noted a concern about fire safety in private alleys, emphasizing the need for adequate alley width and turnaround space for fire trucks. She suggested future consideration of how housing code and fire safety requirements work together.

The Council's questions were addressed, with additional input provided by Department of Land Conservation and Development's Central Oregon Regional Representative Angie Brewer.

The Council expressed frustration with State legislative mandates constraining the City's ability to address local safety and livability concerns, including wildfire risk, adequate alley width for emergency vehicles, and access for services, such as garbage collection. They suggested improvements to the HAPO complaint process such as complainants working first with the jurisdiction before filing a formal complaint, HAPO initiating contact with the jurisdiction upon receiving a complaint rather than later in the process and taking into consideration the need to balance housing production with safe and livable communities.

While ensuring local efforts align with State housing laws, HAPO representatives stated that they aim to be a collaborative partner through technical assistance and proactive engagement, such as early review processes rather than solely responding to formal complaints.

B. Discussion of restricting E-Bikes in City-owned Parks

City Attorney Keith Leitz presented two versions of a draft ordinance proposing to prohibit e-bikes in all city parks. He noted that enforcement is a challenge because State definitions classify e-bikes primarily by speed and proposed simplifying enforcement by defining an e-bike as any bike that does not require pedaling.

The Council and staff discussed the challenges of regulating e-bikes in City parks and the Dry Canyon, focusing on difficulties defining e-bikes and enforcement challenges. Key concerns included the inability to distinguish e-bike classes without radar equipment, the impact on residents with disabilities who rely on e-bikes, potential damage to ecological areas, limited enforcement resources, and whether the cost of enforcement justifies taking any action at all. Staff recommended a full ban on e-bikes in all City parks, defining an e-bike as any bicycle equipped with an electric motor providing assistance or propulsion.

The Council agreed to hold a public hearing and community survey on a proposed ban of electric bicycles and scooters in City parks, keeping the proposal simple and enforceable while allowing for public input.

C. Miscellaneous Updates: Central Oregon Irrigation District Piping, CORE 3, etc.

The Council and staff discussed the timeline for bringing proposed Code changes related to townhouse setbacks and open space requirements back to the Urban Area Planning Commission (UAPC) and the Council. The consensus was to first present the matter as an informational item at the April 7, 2026, Council meeting with a HAPO representative in attendance before proceeding to the UAPC on April 15, 2026, and then returning to City Council.

Mayor Fitch provided an update on the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) piping project, noting a public hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2026, and that the project is set to begin later in the year north of Redmond. COID supports using winter water releases from the North Unit reservoir to address spotted frog requirements, with potential for aquifer recharge once the water reaches Bend. The City drafted a letter for submission to the Environmental Impact Statement record and shared it with the Central Oregon Cities Organization for potential dissemination.

Mayor Fitch also reported that the Central Oregon Ready Responsive Resilient (CORE3) Board has given the private group until April 10, 2026, to submit a viable business proposal that does not impact CORE3's core mission.

Mayor Fitch shared that the Chamber of Commerce will not manage the fireworks this year, and City staff are coordinating with the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Western States to finalize arrangements by the end of the month. The Council discussed the potential costs and risks of the City managing the fireworks display, with the Council expressing general support for moving forward, and contacting previous donors to help mitigate the costs.

Mayor Fitch noted that Tobias Reed will be at City Hall on Wednesday, and the July 4th Parade will be organized jointly by Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Resolution #2026-04 - A resolution of the City of Redmond to make Budget Adjustments. (Fiscal Year 2025/2026 to General, Police, Wastewater, Capital Projects and Golf Funds)

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Councilor Nielsen declared a potential conflict related to garbage removal and hauling, stating it would not impact his decision-making.

Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff presented a budget adjustment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, covering \$150,000 for Desert Rise clean-up and restoration, an increase in Managed Camp funding from \$320,000 to \$350,000 to cover system development charges (SDCs), and allocations for police vehicles and equipment, all funded through the Public Safety Facility (PSF) project savings. The fund started at \$4.4 million, with approximately \$1.6 million remaining after the approvals. Once Northpoint Vista utilities are reimbursed back to the City, the PSF project savings will increase to \$2.6 million. The Redmond Wetlands Complex project is on schedule and the financing is secured with only a \$8.5 million fund transfer needed. The Toptracer Golf Range Improvement Project will be funded by reallocating reserves within the Golf Fund.

There being no testimony, Mayor Fitch closed the public hearing.

Councilor Nielsen moved, seconded by Councilor Zwicker, to adopt Resolution #2026-04 adjusting the City's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. The motion passed. (Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

STAFF COMMENTS

Police Chief Devin Lewis provided an update on the photo radar program, noting a 30-day warning period beginning April 1, 2026, followed by full implementation on May 1, 2026, for Phase 1, with ongoing evaluation and coordination with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Phase 2.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan provided an update on ODOT's proposed interim access management concepts for 35th Street and Highland Avenue, noting two concepts under consideration would restrict northbound and southbound access at 35th Street and prohibit left turns from 35th Street onto the highway, while preserving left turns into southbound 35th Street to maintain access to the new recreation center. ODOT is exploring options for a marked crossing. The speed limit changes are in queue with ODOT on an estimated one-year timeline.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 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