

**Redmond City Council  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 2026**

Executive Conference Room & Remote Video Conferencing

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

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

Excused: John Nielsen

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky; City Recorder Kelly Morse; City Attorney Keith Leitz; Airport Director Zachary Bass; Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan; Communications Director Heather Cassaro; Finance Director James Wood; Economic Development/Urban Renewal Program Project Manager Chuck Arnold; Police Chief Devin Lewis; Planning Director Kyle Roberts; Human Resources Director Jason Bavuso; Housing Program Analyst Linda Cline

Media Present: Ian Haupt, Redmond Spokesman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Discussion of Potential Capacity Building Partnerships with Deschutes County on Homelessness**

Key discussion items were as follows:

- Recent fires on Deschutes County's (County) property close to Desert Rise, which threatened larger areas of the community and engaged all 16 firefighters on duty, leaving the entire fire protection district vulnerable with only a Bend fire engine covering headquarters downtown.
- The rejection of three proposals to manage operations due to liability issues, which the County would now take on, so a manager should be successfully selected within the next few weeks. The City and County may negotiate having staff on site and parsing out some of the management into different contracts. The managed camp is still expected to be operational by June with 36 spaces available.
- The need for the City and the County to establish and implement similar rules on their respective properties to avoid confusion and make enforcement clearer for both residents and enforcement personnel and to prevent the accumulation of trash and sewage and damage to public lands and reduce ongoing, expensive cleanup costs.
  - Services between the City and County needed to be balanced to avoid having the Police Department address every major incident with no County sheriff in the area. The City needs to determine how to better spend County funding or use it to shore up overtaxed city services.
  - Each time the City attempts to address homelessness, it must incentivize the County to act.
- Public safety and the best interests of the community must remain the priority.
- Several local service providers have beds available, so resources are currently available for anyone living east of Redmond who wants help. Contrary to what is being heard, the City and the Council are being intentional and trying to do everything as humanely possible for those who want help. Lawless living within the city limits has consequences. The City is taking a very measured approach with noticing and providing resources in the next months; people can choose not to engage in services.

- Expanding the managed camp may not be necessary. Many individuals will not want to be in the managed camp; some do not need mental and behavior health services. Some feel excluded having to go through hoops, which make them feel less; it is off-putting to be treated like they are out there because they cannot do it on their own. A place with less rules like the managed camp may not be as much pressure. A large percentage want to be on their own, others are having trouble and want to live somewhere for a while.
- The Council should monitor the situation throughout the summer when CORE3 and Desert Rise will be fenced, but not the land the County traded with DSL, creating challenges for clearing the area. Two green zones are also located east of the County/DSL trade property where people can go if they do not want a managed situation.
- The managed camp is physically ready; the question is whether a manager will be on site by June 1<sup>st</sup> or June 15<sup>th</sup>, which should be closely coordinated between the City and County. There would be flexibility on timelines if the managed camp is not available when closures are scheduled.

Mayor Fitch stated he would inform County Commission Chair Phil Chang that the City will coordinate with the County and monitor the situation. He noted the City has invested over one million dollars on the East Side Campus through 21<sup>st</sup> street and the managed camp, and opined it is not shirking any responsibility.

#### **B. Miscellaneous Items (if needed)**

Staff encouraged the Council to pursue their contact lists to help raise funds for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks and Redmond250 celebrations and highlighted the activities planned for July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The goal was to raise at least \$50,000. The Redmond Airport wants to sponsor some of the fireworks and use it as advertising, which is permissible under Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Staff noted the City website currently has a link to the Redmond250 Celebration website, which included pages featuring the Mayor inviting the community to get involved as well as sponsor and general donation links managed by the City.

Promoting donation opportunities through social media, local news outlets, schools, the Historical Society, downtown window flyers, etc. was suggested because many people go to other sources for news rather than the City's website. Staff confirmed coordination for promotion is underway with the Downtown Association Board and Executive Director.

City Attorney Keith Leitz reported the Airport issued an Request for Proposal (RFP) with two components. Two proposals were received for both the concessionaire and food and beverage components for the new terminal. The food and beverage proposals will proceed to the selection committee and then come before the Council for approval or denial, due to time-sensitive nature given the new terminal's design. The concessionaire RFP was less time-constrained and Staff requested that Council reject the concessionaire proposals and reissue a modified RFP.

Mayor Fitch updated that the Core3 Board gave the private race car group until April 10<sup>th</sup> to present a realistic business proposal. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with City Manager Keith Witcosky, City of Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz, Mayor Fitch, and representatives from Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council. The group was asked to provide a written proposal before the meeting, but nothing had been received yet.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Litigation – ORS 192.660(2)(h) authorizes executive sessions “to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.”**

