



128 S Main St.
PO Box 445
Condon, OR 97823
P: 541-384-2711
F: 541-384-2700
<http://cityofcondon.com/>

MINUTES REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026, 7:00 PM

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jan Stinchfield called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Jan Stinchfield, Councilors Hanna Bass, Jeremy Kirby, Michael Durfey. Staff: Public Works Superintendent Gibb Wilkins, Administrative Assistant Jessica Isley. City Attorney Wyatt Baum. Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt. *Mayor Dustan Hall and Councilor Tom Fatland were present via Zoom, however, due to connectivity issues, they were in and out of the meeting.

Guests: Eli Caudill, Darryl Houghtelling, Cris Patnode, Anja Mundy, Robyn Johnson, Jill Frazee, Steve Allen, and via Zoom: Lisa Helms, Dailene Wilson, Kelly Smith, A., Samsung

3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1. The council may hear discussion of unannounced items from the floor and comments on the agenda items. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes.

Darryl Houghtelling, a homeowner and resident of Condon for 27 years. He stated that he has raised his children here and has been active in boards and events for 26 years. 26 years ago he ran for city council and was told that he was not wanted at the time, he was new, and he has not attended a meeting since until now. The last couple of years, he has been frequently asked by family and friends that follow our newspaper and social media online what is with all the negativity in our little town. He is not here to be negative. His hope is that whoever ends up running the city will embrace the citizens with kindness and understanding and a renewed sense of cooperation that we need and deserve in our small town.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1. Review & Approve the December 3, 2025 Regular Condon City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Bass made a motion to approve the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilor Durfey, motion carried. Yes: Councilors Bass, Durfey, Kirby, Stinchfield. No: 0 Abstain: 0

5.2. Review the December Accounts Payable & VISA Statements

No questions on the December accounts payable and VISA statements.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1. Review & Discuss Condon Community Swimming Pool Master Plan

Wilkins expresses concern at the \$11 million dollar price tag and \$5 million of that being site prep. Councilor Durfey states that the way he read it was for the \$5 million, it was actually \$4 million for the buildings and the site being the pool, so that would be prep and concrete. Wilkins and Councilor Durfey both agreed that it was still so much money. Wilkins asked if they would like to table this for the retreat or if they would like to see this go to the pool committee meeting. Councilor Bass said she would like to see it go to a pool committee meeting first. Wilkins states that the final pool master plan was just received on Monday; the previous one was for \$12 million. Councilor Durfey stated that the pool committee needs to look into how they want to move forward. Mayor Hall agreed with Councilor Durfey on getting the pool committee together and going from there. Gibb asked when the pool meeting would need to happen and Councilor Stinchfield stated that it would be nice to have the meeting before the council retreat so that they could have the recommendations.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Discuss & Approve Six-Month Interim Personnel Appointments

Councilor Stinchfield asked for an overview from Councilors Bass and Kirby from the personnel committee meeting on December 15th. Councilor Kirby states that both Wilkins and Isley were asked to bring their compensation requests to this meeting for the council to decide on. Wilkins explained his ask of \$95k per year, stating that he used comparable salaries both inside and outside the community and went for a whole year so that if the interim position went beyond 6 months, then he would not need to renegotiate with the council after 6 months. Councilor Durfey asked Councilors Bass and Kirby about the personnel committee and what the meeting was about and Councilor Kirby explained that it was to go over job descriptions, titles, and compensation. Wilkins explained that former CA Greiner's position was made up of the city manager and city recorder positions and that he would take on the city manager role and Isley would take on the city recorder role. Councilor Bass explained that Isley had already been working with former CA Greiner on tasks that she would take over. Councilor Durfey asked if they were still looking to hire anyone and Wilkins said the council would need to decide that, and Councilor Bass said right now they are just deciding compensation for the 6-month interim period and that the compensation asks are based on 1 year, so that we wouldn't have to come back and renegotiate. Councilor Stinchfield states that would not be the same for Isley as she is hourly. Isley stated that hourly is negotiable. Wilkins states that if a full-time city manager is found, then he would revert to his previous wage. Councilor Stinchfield states that she appreciates both Wilkins and Isley for stepping up and that she does not have any issue with the compensation packages that were presented. Mayor Hall states that he is good since he was part of the committee that met with Wilkins and Isley. Guest Anja Mundy asked if she could ask a question, and asked, "When will the job be posted again?" Councilor Bass responded that they haven't decided that yet and Anja said that she thought that would be something that they would want to do right away because it takes awhile. Councilor Bass explained that they had just gone through the process as well, so they do have previous candidates and can change job descriptions and work with the company too. Wilkins asked Isley to state out loud what her ask was, and she stated that it was \$80k, which was down from the \$12k that she asked for, so it was about \$10,500. Councilor Durfey said he had a question that he did not know about and asked Wilkins if he was on the hiring committee then what kind of legality would there be for him taking the interim job position. Wilkins asked City Attorney Wyatt Baum to weigh in. Attorney Baum clarified that Wilkins was on the interview committee, not the hiring committee, and that, from an ethical and legal standpoint, there is no issue, as this is a temporary fix, and none of the candidates were hired, and all power is held with city council, and they can appoint whomever they want to the city administrator and city recorder positions. As long as it's been disclosed that Wilkins was on the interview committee that there are no legal or ethical issues with it. Councilor Durfey asked about Isley's compensation and Wilkins said it should be structured as a yearly salary and that if someone is hired then we will revert to our previous pay and that staff will have to be compensated for taking on extra duties. Councilor Stinchfield states that she wants to make sure that they get a discussion down about the recruitment process for the council retreat and Baum weighed in on how it can be futile to keep going out after you have just gone out because you might just get the same applicants but will discuss further at the retreat. Sheriff Bettencourt asked if you raise a person's salary, how do you take that back and if there was BOLI law for that. Wilkins explained that we are going into this knowing it's a temporary fix. Sheriff Bettencourt suggested that the hiring committee include community members. Councilor Stinchfield asked for a motion and Councilor Kirby made the motion to accept the 6-month personnel appointments with Gibb Wilkins at \$95k and Jessica Isley at \$80k, Councilor Bass seconded and motion passed. Yes: Councilors Stinchfield, Kirby, Bass, and Durfey. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

7.2. Review & Approve the 2026-27 Budget Calendar

Councilor Bass made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar, the 2026 City Calendar, and Gibb Wilkins as the 2026-2027 Budget Officer. Councilor Durfey seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Councilors Bass, Kirby, Durfey, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

7.3. Review & Approve the 2026 Condon City Calendar

Councilor Bass made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar, the 2026 City Calendar, and Gibb Wilkins as the 2026-2027 Budget Officer. Councilor Durfey seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Councilors Bass, Kirby, Durfey, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

7.4. Appoint ??? as 2026-27 Budget Officer

Councilor Bass made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar, the 2026 City Calendar, and Gibb Wilkins as the 2026-2027 Budget Officer. Councilor Durfey seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Councilors Bass, Kirby, Durfey, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

7.5. Appoint Councilors to City Committees

Councilor Stinchfield suggested that councilor to be Caudill be put on the housing committee as he has experience in that area, and she would move to the open position on the finance committee. Councilor Fatland was okay with his committees and Mayor Hall is already on all the committees. Mayor Hall made the appointment of councilor to be Caudill to the housing committee and to the park and rec committee, and also moving Councilor Stinchfield to the finance committee.

7.6. Designate The Times-Journal as the Newspaper of Record & City of Condon Depositories of Bank of Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Local Government Investment Pool

Councilor Stinchfield designated The Times-Journal as the newspaper of record and the City of Condon depositories of Bank of Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Local Government Investment Pool.

7.7. Designate Dave Wildman, PE at Anderson, Perry & Associates and Integrator of Record as The Automation Group

Councilor Stinchfield designated Dave Wildman, PE at Anderson, Perry & Associates and Integrator of Record as The Automation Group.

7.8. Review & Approve the Lease with Gilliam County SWCD

Ward Street Shop — the Soil and Water Conservation District will be leasing this. The lease has been reviewed by legal. Councilor Durfey made the motion to approve the lease, Councilor Bass seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Councilors Kirby, Bass, Durfey, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

7.9. Discuss and Consider Appointment to Fill Vacant Councilor Position

7.9 was moved up before appointing committees. The only letter of interest to fill the vacant councilor position was from Eli Caudill. Councilor Bass asked how long it had been advertised for and Wilkins stated 1 month. Councilor Durfey asked if the vacancy had been advertised. He addressed the community members in the room and asked if they knew about it. Guest Anja Mundy spoke and said that she didn't think it was on the city website, but it had been in the paper. Councilor Stinchfield also stated that it had been advertised. Councilor Stinchfield asked if Mayor Hall had an opinion or if he would like her to make the appointment. Mayor Hall agreed with appointing Eli Caudill to the vacant city council position. Councilor Stinchfield announced that the appointment had been made and received a vote. Yes: Councilors Kirby, Bass, Durfey, Fatland, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

Eli Caudill's term will expire at the end of 2026, so he will need to run if he plans to stay on city council. He will be sworn in at either the council retreat or the next regular meeting, Feb. 4, 2026.

7.10. Discuss and decide on future placement of cardboard recycling box

One of the cardboard dumpsters at the recycling center is outside the fence on private property. This was allowed by a handshake deal with the previous landowner, who has since passed. The new landowner would like the city to rent this space for \$25 per month. Councilor Durfey thought renting it would be a cheap fix. Further discussion decided that the city should find a permanent solution as the landowner plans to develop the land, and it might only be a short-term solution. Pushing the dumpster further into the fence or using land west of the recycling center were options mentioned. Consensus to find a workable solution.

7.11. Appoint Gibb Wilkins as Cash Manager Administrator for the City of Condon accounts at Bank of Eastern Oregon

Councilor Bass made the motion to appoint Gibb Wilkins as the Cash Manager Administrator for the City of Condon accounts at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Councilor Durfey seconded. Motion passed. Yes: Durfey, Kirby, Bass, Stinchfield. No: 0. Abstain: 0.

8. STAFF REPORTS**8.1. Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Gibb Wilkins**

PW Wilkins reported that 2.7 million gallons of water was pumped up the hill. He is working on getting cold mix so that the potholes can be filled. Dark sky streetlights LED, budget was \$30k and the cost is about \$38k. Dark sky streetlight discussion has been tabled until the retreat. Councilor Stinchfield would like more information on it. Booster pump #2 was put in 1996 and was pulled. It reached the end of its usable life and will cost \$11k to replace. Booster pump 1 was also placed in 1996 and will be pulled at a later date. Both booster pumps have been inspected every 5 years. Painting for the Summit St traffic and parking will be taking place soon. New meters have caught some big leaks.

8.2. Police & Fire – Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt

Sheriff Bettencourt reported that he had a detective leave due to personal reasons. This job is being advertised. They are hoping to find a lateral. The position is for south county. No questions, no complaints.

8.3. Administration – City Administrator

Set date for council retreat. Councilor Durfey indicates that Fridays work well for him. Councilor Bass states she will be gone the last Friday of January. Wilkins will look into scheduling this.

9. COUNCIL INFORMATION**9.1. Gilliam County Housing Solutions Meeting January 28th 5:00pm**

Wilkins states that this is a joint meeting with the county, and he will notice this in case there is a quorum of council members present.

9.2. Columbia Basin High School Rodeo Club Sponsorship Letter

Wilkins states that we donate to the Columbia Basin High School Rodeo each year and Isley states that we have donated \$100.

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

10.1. The next Condon City Council meeting will be held Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 7 p.m. at Condon City Hall.

11. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Meeting adjourned by Councilor Stinchfield at 7:37pm.

_____ Date _____
Dustan Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: _____ Date _____
Gibb Wilkins Interim City Manager