



CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 p.m.

La Pine City Hall: 16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

Available online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83541195909>

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Richer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

ESTABLISH A QUORUM

City Council

Mayor Richer

Councilor Shields

Councilor Van Damme

Councilor Ignazzitto

Councilor Morse

Student Councilor Marston

Staff

Geoff Wullschlager – City Manager

Ashley Ivans – Assistant City Manager/Finance Director

Kelly West – Public Works Director

Brent Bybee – Principal Planner

Rachel Vickers – Associate Planner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Richer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Zorba Stathakis made a comment about the sidewalks behind Grocery Outlet. He stated that there are sidewalks that are perpendicular to chain-link fences or ending at different structures.

He also commented that the landscape company that works with the City in years past handpicked the cinder out of the grass and hauled it away. This past year a blower was used, and the cinder was left on the bike lanes and ramps making it difficult for people to travel around.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

No added agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 01.24.24 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Financials
 - a. Financial Summary
 - b. Interest Income Report
3. La Pine Chamber of Commerce FY23-24 Quarterly Report

Councilor Ignazzitto made a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Councilor Van Damme seconded the motion.* Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. City of La Pine Banking Proposal
 - a. Staff Report

Finance Director Ivans presented the associated staff report on the proposal of opening a general operating account with First Interstate Bank. She stated that the benefits of switching to First Interstate which include accruing interest on the operations account, funds would be collateralized at 100%, stop payments on checks would be at no charge, and lastly an offer of \$2,000.00 in conversion credits. This would allow the City to switch financial institutions at little to no cost.

There was a concern from the Council regarding local representation within the City limits. Finance Director Ivans commented that she will ask First Interstate and report back to the Council. Councilor Ignazzitto made a comment that First Interstate is very active in our community, they donate to non-profit organizations, and they also participate on different boards.

City Manager Wullschlager made a comment on the locality of both financial institutions. He said that Washington Federal is a national bank based in Seattle, WA and First Interstate Bank is an intermountain west bank making it a more localized institution.

Councilor Ignazzitto made a motion that the City open a General Checking account with First Interstate Bank and begin the process of transitioning, with the intent of ultimately closing, the current General Checking account. *Councilor Morse seconded the motion.* Mayor Richer asked for a roll call vote.

Councilor Van Damme – Aye

Councilor Shields – Aye

Councilor Ignazzitto – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of City Council President
 - a. Staff Report

Finance Director presented the associated staff report on the election of the City Council President. She stated every January a new Council President will be elected. The Council President serves as the Mayor in their absence. There was discussion on the current Council President, Councilor Van Damme, and how she has served the position well.

Councilor Shields made a motion to elect Councilor Van Damme as the City Council President. *Councilor Ignazzitto seconded.* Motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointment of Budget Officer & Budget Calendar Discussion

Finance Director Ivans presented the associated staff report on the election of the Budget Officer. She asked the Council to reach out to her if they have any recommendations on citizens that would be interested in participating on the Budget Committee. There were no questions from the Council regarding the Budget Calendar.

Councilor Van Damme made a motion to appoint Ashley Ivans as Budget Officer for the FY2024-25 budget. *Councilor Ignazzitto seconded the motion.* Motion passed unanimously.

3. Zoning Permit for Residential Development

Principal Planner Bybee presented the associated staff report regarding zoning permits for residential development. He explained the four different types of development within the City. He read aloud a portion of the City's code regarding applicability standards. He stated that the process for building permits should be reviewed by the City prior to it being sent to the County's Building Department to assure that it meets our standards. Historically this process has not been enforced. The concern is that City's criteria may not have been met after the structure is built.

He explained that currently when a building permit is applied for at the County an Advanced Planning Fee is collected and provided to the City. This fee covers current and long-range planning, code enforcement, and other department responsibilities. A possible solution would be a zoning permit requirement for all new building permits. In addition, an update to the fee schedule which will have a tiered option for different types of development.

City Manager Wullschlager shared information regarding the use of current fees and the amount of work that is involved with development permits. He stated that currently the City's Community Development Department does receive transfers from the General Fund to support their expenses. This new zoning permit requirement will help financially support their department. Principal Planner Bybee stated that this is a common requirement in most municipalities. He stated that the City of La Pine is the only municipality in Deschutes County that does not require a review fee that we are aware of.

There were no questions from the Council.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

Finance Director Ivans had no comments.

Associate Planner Vickers had no comments.

Principal Planner Bybee updated the Council on the La Pine 2045 update. He gave a brief description of the first Steering Committee meeting. He also stated that all future meetings will be in person.

He said staff submitted the City's Transportation System Plan (TSP) to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). They will review and make recommendations on any needed improvements. This is a federally funded service, and the information will supplement any grant applications needed for a TSP update.

Lastly, he said that staff has initiated work with Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW). CPAW will perform an audit on the current TSP and make recommendations for improvements regarding wildfire safety that the City could potentially implement. This will also coincide with the La Pine 2045 update and will help with one of the natural disaster goals.

Public Works Director West informed the Council that the City is contracted with GSI to update the Water Management and Conservation Planning (WMCP). It will take around 9 months to complete the update.

He gave an update on the Water/Wastewater Expansion Project. New electrical panels have been installed at the well and they are working on installing the new pumps. At the wastewater plant, new electrical panels have been installed to provide water to the new pivots. The project has expanded into Glenwood, and they are currently adding water and wastewater lines.

He informed the Council that a new street sweeper was purchased from the City of Redmond for \$10,000.00.

Lastly, he stated that two new employees have been hired in the Public Works Department.

City Manager Wullschlager updated the Council on sewer decommissioning in the Cagle neighborhood. He has been working with Anderson Perry, DEQ and the City's legal counsel to remove the older septic tanks. There are a few properties that require grinder pumps, some of these homes do not meet the electrical standards. A possible equitable solution to the extra cost of fixing the electrical issues would be an agreement with the property owner and placing a lien on the property. This will allow for the electrical improvement to be made, the homeowner will receive the water and sewer utilities and taxpayers won't be carrying the expense.

He gave an update on the County owned lots on Drafter Road. The County has moved forward for camping feasibility and is working with the City's Planning Department to stay compliant with the City's code. He stated that there are several areas of code with would require the County to make infrastructure investments.

He informed the Council that the City has purchased the cloud-based platform Placer AI. This will give the City details on demographics, population changes, and can also help inform policy shifts.

He said that the SLED board is in agreement with being considered a Citizen Advisory Committee. Finance Director Ivans will present a draft resolution and present it to the Council at a meeting in March.

He updated the Council on the Spec Building Project. There is a question about the feasibility of building a 9,000 square foot structure with the funds provided. He has made an inquiry with Representative Reschke to see if the City can change the square footage. He will update the Council once he receives an answer.

He stated that the City's attorney does not recommend that the Council discuss recreational immunity until the legislative session is over in a few weeks.

He gave an update on the Newberry Regional Partnership. They are closer to 5013c status and being recognized as their own entity.

Lastly, he stated that it is the City's intention to take on a stronger role in gravel removal. With the purchase of the street sweeper, it will allow staff to work with other infrastructure owners to clear the City's roadways.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Morse thanked Mr. Stathakis for giving feedback.

Councilor Ignazzitto did not have a comment.

Councilor Shields did not have a comment.

Councilor Van Damme asked if Student Councilor Marston had a comment.

Student Councilor Marston stated that the Principal of the high school would like feedback from the Council about switching from semester to trimester. He stated that having a semester schedule can be confusing since students do not have the same class every day. In addition, students are able to have a free 7th period with the option to leave campus for the day or stay in the cafeteria. With trimesters students would have all five classes every day of the week for twelve weeks.

There was a discussion about the difference between semesters and trimesters and the benefits of switching. He answered a question from the Council stating that this was discussed at a City Site Council meeting that happens once a month. This meeting is between the teachers and parents, and they agree that switching from semester to trimester will have a positive impact.

City Manager Wullschlager stated that if the School District would like a letter of support, it would be beneficial to have the principal submit a request to staff.

Lastly Student Councilor Marston stated that graduation rates have increased from 53% last year to 70% this year.

Mayor Richer thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving their input on the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: per ORS 192.660 if necessary

ADJOURNMENT – 6:25

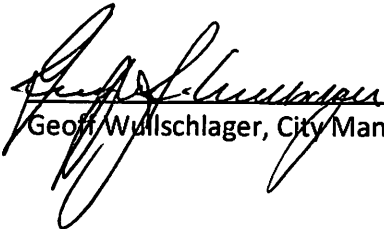
Mayor Richer adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.



Date: 13 MAR 24

Daniel Richer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Date: 3/13/24

Geoff Wullschlager, City Manager