



CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 PM
La Pine City Hall: 16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

Available online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83082510343>

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Jeannine Earls called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Committee

Jeannine Earls

Courtney Ignazzitto

Mike Shields

Janis Curtis

Rachel Vickers

Lynn King

Staff

Geoff Wullschlager – City Manager

Ashley Ivans – Finance Director/Budget Officer

Tina Kemp – Administrative Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The NJROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. 05.07.2024 Budget Committee Minutes
 - a. Supplemental Handout – La Pine High School Cheerleading
 - b. Supplemental Handout – La Pine Park and Recreation
 - c. Supplemental Handout – Newberry Regional Partnership
2. 05.08.2024 Budget Committee Minutes

Courtney Ignazzitto made a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Mike Shields seconded the motion.*
Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Election of a Chairperson**

Jeannine Earls made a motion to nominate Courtney Ignazzitto as Chairperson. *Rachel Vickers seconded the motion.* Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community Sponsorship Applicant Presentations

Budget Officer Ivans informed the Committee that some presenters might revise their original funding requests following a clarification regarding the available community sponsorship funds. She explained that there had been a misunderstanding, many believed that \$6,500.00 was the maximum amount any individual presenter could request, whereas in fact, \$6,500.00 was the total amount allocated for all presenters combined.

- a. La Pine Visitor's Center – Annual Funding
- b. Frontier Days – Annual Funding

Ann Gawith, Director of the La Pine Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center, addressed the Committee to provide an overview of her organization's activities. She highlighted the Chamber's partnership with CraterLakeCountry.com and discussed its collaborative efforts to promote the region.

Ms. Gawith highlighted that the portion of the City's budget allocated for advertising Frontier Days and the Rodeo falls under the responsibility of the Visitor's Center.

There were no questions from the Committee following her presentation.

- c. American Legion – Ice Breaker Poker Run

Curtis Cray, representing the American Legion, presented information on the Ice Breaker Poker Run fundraiser. He explained that this fundraiser is how the Legion can help community members in need. He provided background on the American Legion as an organization and shared the various ways the local chapter supports the community. These efforts include holiday outreach programs that help provide food for community members, as well as veteran relief initiatives aimed at supporting local veterans in need.

There were no questions from the Committee.

- d. La Pine High School Cheer Team

Mary Oldham, Coach of the La Pine Cheer Team, presented a funding request to support the team's participation in the Oregon Dream Camp. She explained that the camp provides valuable opportunities for the cheerleaders to develop essential skills in tumbling, stunting, and team building.

Coach Oldham emphasized the importance of accessibility, noting that aside from uniforms, the team is responsible for fundraising all other equipment costs. This approach helps ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate, regardless of financial circumstances.

In response to a question from Committee Member Rachel Vickers regarding the number of participants, Ms. Oldham stated that 16 cheerleaders are expected to attend the camp this year, with

the potential for up to 25 next year. She proudly shared that the team has grown from 6 to 26 members over the past two years under her leadership.

Ms. Oldham also provided a list of additional fundraising activities the cheer team engages in to support their needs throughout the year.

e. La Pine Band of Brothers – Community Events & Veteran Assistance

There was no one present to present for the La Pine Band of Brothers.

f. La Pine High School – Hawk Mascot Costume Renewal

Gracie Loonie, the student body president, presented a request for funding a new La Pine High School mascot uniform.

The modified amount to their request, \$2,582.00

Ms. Loonie provided a history of the mascot uniform, stating that it was approximately 26 years old and had been used by an average of four students each year. She explained that due to its age, the uniform could no longer be cleaned or repaired, as businesses were hesitant to service it. She listed the events at which the hawk uniform was used and presented the committee with the uniform that would be purchased, explaining the benefits of the new uniform. She also provided a breakdown of fundraising efforts completed to date and stated that \$4,418.00 had been raised, leaving a remaining balance of \$2,582.00.

A question was asked regarding whether the original purchase of the new uniform included a warranty. Ms. Loonie stated that there was a warranty included, but she was uncertain of its length.

Ms. Loonie responded to a question about the anticipated purchase date, explaining that the uniform would be purchased at the end of the current school year so it would be available for summer events and the following school year.

Ann Gawith stated that Frontier Days would pledge the remaining \$358.00.

Budget Officer Ivans clarified that if the funding was approved, it would not be available until July 1, 2025.

g. La Pine Pickle Ball Club – Annual Tournament

Tammy Lesueur and Carlos Soto, representing the La Pine Pickleball Club, presented a sponsorship request of \$5,000.00 for their annual tournament. Ms. Lesueur explained the history of the club and stated that they would be hosting their 10th annual tournament. She requested that the Committee consider placing the tournament into the budget as an annual recurring sponsorship to ensure the event could continue each year. She described the tournament's outreach and the number of tourists who traveled to La Pine annually to participate.

Mr. Soto stated that approximately 40% of attendees traveled from out of state, including Florida, Arizona, and Colorado, and that many participants were touring professionals. He shared that he had received positive feedback indicating that the La Pine tournament was well run and expressed appreciation for the volunteers who assisted each year.

Ms. Lesueur stated that all proceeds from the tournament were reinvested into the community. She noted that the club had recently made improvements to the courts and facilities. Jeannine Earls asked how funds raised were used beyond improvements to the pickleball facilities. Ms. Lesueur responded that the club donated to La Pine Parks and Recreation and expressed interest in developing a junior pickleball club that would include high school students.

h. NJROTC – Spring Orientation Trip

Officer Netto and Officer Lilly, students within the NJROTC program, explained the mission, vision, and honor concepts of the organization. They described how the program supported numerous community events, including placing flags around the City during holidays. They stated that the funding request was for the 2026 spring orientation trip, competition expenses, leadership academy participation, and monthly unit socials.

i. La Pine Park & Recreation – Music in the Pines & ADA Playground

Robert Ray and Carlos Soto, representing the La Pine Park and Recreation Foundation, requested funding for Music in the Pines and an ADA playground. They discussed the upcoming bands scheduled to perform at this year's Music in the Pines event. Mr. Soto explained that the lineup included both local bands and bands from around the State, which would allow for broader advertising throughout Oregon. Mr. Ray clarified that the event would remain free to the community. They noted that this year's event would differ from past years by offering additional activities for children and more vendors.

Ms. Vickers inquired about other grant opportunities or funding sources that had been pursued for the ADA playground. Mr. Ray explained that the Foundation had applied for several grants and had received two grants totaling \$31,000.00 to date. He also stated that ADA-compliant equipment was expensive and that the Foundation hoped to raise additional funds to upgrade the playground surface to ensure accessibility.

j. Newberry Regional Partnership

Kathy DeBone and Megan Tuck, representing the Newberry Regional Partnership, requested \$2,500.00 in funding. Ms. Tuck explained the history of success the Newberry Regional Partnership had achieved since 2023. She stated that last year's funding assisted with the design of the Newberry Action Plan Booklet. She passed around the Sisters Action Plan Booklet as an example and noted that the Newberry Action Plan Booklet was expected to be finalized in the upcoming month.

Ms. DeBone discussed the implementation of action teams and stated that the teams had already begun work within the community. She outlined the different teams and described what they were planning and working to accomplish.

Ms. Vickers asked what specifically the sponsorship funding would cover. Ms. Tuck explained that the funding would assist with organizational costs related to implementation efforts.

k. La Pine Community Kitchen – New Facility

Steve Lionstien and Jamie Belvic, representing the La Pine Community Kitchen, requested \$4,500.00 to cover the City application fee for a new building facility. The proposed project would replace the existing three buildings with one larger facility. Mr. Lionstien explained that consolidating into one

building would better serve the increasing number of community members utilizing their services. The plan was to expand from 6,500 square feet to 10,000 square feet, which would increase dining seating capacity as well as grocery storage and distribution space. He reviewed the services the Kitchen had provided in the previous year and stated that the new building would allow them to reach more people due to the growing number of requests from the community. He also shared that they were starting a diaper bank to assist families in need.

Mr. Lionstien stated that the estimated cost of the new facility was \$2.5 million and that \$1 million would need to be secured before applying for a block grant. City Manager Wullschlager clarified that the grant being pursued was a federal grant and not awarded by the City, but that a City was required to be included when requesting the federal funds.

Ms. Vickers asked how likely it was that the Kitchen would submit the land use application this year if the \$4,500.00 sponsorship were approved. Mr. Lionstien responded that because \$1 million needed to be raised prior to applying for the grant, the land use application would likely be submitted in Spring 2026. He also stated that during construction the Kitchen would continue operating, although the clothes closet would need to be stored at an alternate location.

I. Habitat for Humanity

Ms. Dammond stated that the revised requested amount was \$1,000.00.

Kim Dammond, Executive Director for La Pine and Sunriver Habitat for Humanity, explained her organization and how it supported the community. She stated that since July 2024 there had been an increase in requests for critical home repairs and, given the number of individuals currently on the list, she anticipated that the need would continue to grow. She explained that the organization was requesting \$1,000.00 to assist with critical home repairs for community members. She clarified that the requested funds would be used specifically for critical home repairs and, as the program was volunteer run, the funds would not be allocated toward overhead expenses.

Ms. Dammond also responded to a question by clarifying that any resident in South County could request assistance and that the funds were not limited to Habitat for Humanity homes.

3. Community Sponsorship Discussion

The Committee discussed the annual events and whether funding requests would need to be submitted each year or if recurring sponsorships could be established. The Budget Committee determined that annual events would still be required to submit funding requests each year. The Committee also discussed the presentations and identified the different accounts from which the funds would be distributed. Additionally, there was discussion regarding how tourist dollars could be allocated and what expenses were eligible. The Committee reviewed each request individually and determined the amount to be awarded for each sponsorship. New requirements for the following year were established, including limiting presentations to two presenters per group and requiring more specificity within the grant application.

The Budget Committee approved the following sponsorship requests:

- American Legion Ice Breaker – \$1,500.00
- La Pine High School Varsity Cheer – \$2,000.00

- La Pine Band of Brothers – \$0.00
- La Pine High School Student Council Mascot – \$2,000.00
- La Pine Pickleball Tournament – \$0.00
- NJROTC – \$2,000.00
- La Pine Park and Recreation Music in the Pines – \$6,500.00
- La Pine Park & Recreation ADA Playground – \$0.00
- Newberry Regional Partnership – \$2,000.00
- La Pine Community Kitchen – \$4,500.00
- Habitat for Humanity – \$2,000.00
- Visitor Center – \$74,800.00
- Frontier Days – \$10,000.00

The Committee took a 10-minute break.

PRESENTATIONS:**1. Budget Message**

Budget Officer Ivans outlined the next steps in the budget process and read the budget message to the Committee. The Committee discussed the various rate studies, including the 2015 utility rate study, and noted that the Community Development Department would be conducting a rate study related to land use applications. She also reviewed each fund and explained whether there were any changes in the current year's budget.

2. FY 2025-26 Budget Review

The committee discussed the budget items and each fund while Budget Officer Ivans explained the budget message.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

There were no added agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

STAFF COMMENTS

Budget Officer Ivans reminded the Committee that if any questions arose after the meeting, she was available to provide clarification. She also noted that a second Budget Committee meeting would be held the following day.

City Manager Wullschlager did not have any comments

Administrative Assistant Kemp did not have any comments.

BUDGET COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Jeannine Earls did not have any comments.

Budget Chair Ignazzitto did not have any comments.

Mike Shields did not have any comments.

Janis Curtis did not have any comments.

Rachel Vickers did not have any comments.

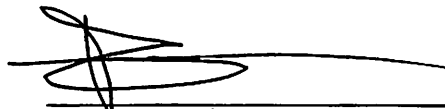
Lynn King did not have any comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Budget Chair Ignazzitto adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.



Date: 5/12/26

Rachel Vickers, Budget Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Date: 5/12/26

Amanda Metcalf, City Recorder