



CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

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

Available online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88513718684>

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ignazzitto called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Council

Mayor Earls – Absent (Excused)

Council President Ignazzitto – Mayor pro tem

Councilor Shields

Councilor Morse

Councilor Curtis

Staff

Geoff Wullschlager – City Manager

Ashley Ivans – Finance Director

Brent Bybee – Community Development Director

Nick Tierney – Associate Planner

Amanda Metcalf – City Recorder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Ignazzitto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

There were no added agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 05.28.2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Reports for April 2025

- a. Financial Summary
- b. Interest Report

Councilor Morse made a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Councilor Shields seconded the motion.* Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2025-06 Making Appropriations and Declaring the Tax Rate for the FY 25-26 Budget

Finance Director Ivans presented the Council Resolution 2025-06 which would make appropriations and declare the tax rate for the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. The Council did not have any questions or comments.

Councilor Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06. *Councilor Shields seconded the motion.* Council President Ignazzitto asked for a roll call vote:

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Councilor Shields – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

2. La Pine Community Identity

Community Development Director Bybee presented the goals and desired outcomes of the La Pine identity community visioning project to the Council. He explained that the Planning Commission had previously been presented with the same questions, and that responses from both the Commission and Council would help shape the questions to be presented to the public.

Question 1 – In your view, why does La Pine need a defined identity at this point in time?

The Council expressed that as the city continues to grow, there is a need for a defined identity to guide cohesive and intentional development rather than random or unplanned growth. Council President Ignazzitto commented that while residents share a small-town feeling, there is no clear or commonly understood definition of what La Pine is. She stated that she is hopeful that through this process, a defined identity will help articulate what La Pine represents.

Director Bybee asked the Council to elaborate on the benefits of having a defined identity. The Council responded that a clear identity would create consistency for residents and foster a sense of unity. Additionally, for businesses, a unified identity could serve as a shared marketing approach that supports economic development and community branding.

Question 2 – What would success look like at the end of this project?

The Council discussed that a successful outcome of the project would be characterized by residents and stakeholders being able to speak about La Pine using common terminology. Councilor Curtis offered examples, citing Sisters being known for its shops and Bend for skiing, as models where community identity is clearly defined and widely recognized.

The Council emphasized that success would involve businesses and community groups adopting and utilizing the same identity, resulting in a unified representation of La Pine. They also highlighted the importance of the identity being shaped by the community itself, rather than imposed by outside perspectives. A shared voice and vision, rooted in local values and chosen by the people of La Pine, this was considered a key indicator of the project's success.

Question 3 – How do you want La Pine to be described in 10 years by locals and outsiders?

The Council expressed that in ten years, they would like La Pine to be described as a fun place to live and raise a family. They envisioned it as a safe, law-abiding community with efficient traffic flow, strong fire protection, good law enforcement, and a peaceful atmosphere. The city should feel inviting, where people feel welcome. They also hoped La Pine would be seen as beautiful, well-maintained, and well-manicured. Additionally, they wanted it to be recognized as the Gateway to Central Oregon, highlighting its exceptional access to outdoor recreational activities that surpass what many other cities offer. However, they emphasized that La Pine should not only be known as a gateway but also as a destination in its own right.

Question 4 – What groups or perspectives in the community do we need to hear from most?

The Council agreed that it is essential to hear from the entire community to ensure broad and inclusive representation. They emphasized the importance of gathering input from a diverse range of voices, including youth particularly regarding what would encourage them to return to La Pine and raise families in the future. They also highlighted the value of preserving the city's history and heritage by engaging long-term residents who have lived in the community for over 20 years. The Council noted the importance of including perspectives from people of various backgrounds and walks of life. Additionally, they stressed that the business community plays a critical role, as they provide employment opportunities for both new residents and the youth.

Question 5 – What should we be careful not to overlook when shaping a community identity?

The Council stated that while it is important to hear from everyone in the community, special care must be taken to ensure that the voices of youth, diverse ethnic groups, and the elderly are not overlooked. They emphasized the importance of inclusivity in the identity-shaping process to ensure that all community members feel represented and valued.

Question 6 – How can we ensure this process feels inclusive, not just symbolic?

The Council emphasized the importance of providing multiple opportunities for the community to voice their opinions and participate in the process. They noted that true inclusivity comes from meaningful engagement rather than symbolic gestures. The execution of the identity, how it is used and implemented, is also critical in reinforcing that the process was community-driven. The Council cited the La Pine 2045 project as a positive example of community interaction, highlighting its structured check-in points and avenues for public feedback. They suggested that similar mechanisms be used to regularly gather input and ensure the community feels heard throughout the identity development process.

Question 7 – How do you think residents currently perceive La Pine?

La Pine was described as growing rapidly, with the understanding that significant changes were underway. While the community views itself as a piece of heaven and expressed concerns about preserving its character, there was a mix of perspectives. The Council stated that some residents feel the pace of change is too fast, while others appreciated the area's reputation for being friendly and neighborly, where people were willing to help each other. Councilor Shields added that there had been longstanding rumors about wells being contaminated, although he clarified that this was not the case.

Question 8 – How do you want tourists, businesses, or new residents to experience La Pine?

The Council expressed a desire for La Pine to be seen as open and welcoming, with the ability to provide whatever residents or visitors may need. They emphasized the importance of having businesses that support local recreation and can offer goods at reasonable prices, reducing the need for residents to travel elsewhere for basic necessities.

Director Bybee prompted the Council to elaborate on how someone should experience La Pine. In response, the Council discussed the importance of creating an environment that is inviting and safe for tourists, making them feel like they are part of the community. They also emphasized that businesses should feel supported and integrated into the city.

Question 9 – Where do you see the new identity being used most effectively?

The Council discussed various areas where the new identity could be most effectively utilized, agreeing that it should be incorporated into all aspects of city planning, marketing, and economic development efforts. They highlighted tourism as a key area, noting the opportunity to reposition La Pine as a destination where visitors choose to stay and engage with the community, rather than simply passing through.

Question 10 – How should this project influence our other strategic or policy efforts, if at all?

In response to this question, the Council engaged in a discussion centered on the City's comprehensive plan, specifically its vision and goals. They agreed that the new identity should be aligned with and support the broader objectives outlined in the comprehensive plan, ensuring consistency across strategic and policy initiatives.

Question 11 – If you had to describe La Pine in three words, what would they be?

Councilor Morse responded with "outdoors" and "recreation" but stated she needed more time to think of a third word. Council President Ignazzitto described La Pine as "resilient," "with grit," and "energized." Councilor Curtis offered the word "character." Councilor Shields described the city as "welcoming," "safe," and "clean."

Community Development Director Bybee thanked the Council for their input and stated he would prepare a project vision plan. He also noted that he would be attending upcoming community events as part of outreach efforts.

3. Newberry Neighborhood/Cagle Subdivision Master Plan Discussion
 - a. Staff Report
 - b. Letter from Deschutes County CDD

Community Development Director Bybee reported that the topic of master planning for the Newberry neighborhood had been discussed during the recent joint meeting with the Board of County

Commissioners (BoCC). He explained that all of Neighborhood one has already been developed. Neighborhood two has remaining land yet to be developed, while Neighborhoods three and four have not yet begun development. This situation presents an opportunity for collaborative planning with Deschutes County to create a comprehensive master plan.

The City reached out to the County with the intention of initiating public engagement for the Newberry master planning project during the summer of 2025. However, the County indicated they were not prepared to proceed due to pending land sales and a lack of sufficient funding to support the planning process. While the County is not currently ready to begin the master plan project, they expressed support for the City moving forward with it independently.

In addition, Director Bybee discussed the Cagle subdivision, which staff has received an increase of partition applications due to the availability of city water and sewer services. Staff recommended developing a master plan for Cagle as well, citing significant issues with existing road infrastructure. He asked for direction from the Council on how to proceed, as the department would be exploring grant opportunities to support either the Newberry master plan, or the Cagle subdivision, not both.

Councilor Shields stated that the City should move forward with planning for the Cagle area, emphasizing that residents were already living in the area and that infrastructure upgrades were necessary. He also expressed that the County should assume responsibility for the Newberry master plan. The Council reached a consensus on these points.

4. Republic Services

Shiane Beauchamp, a representative from Republic Services, presented a request to the Council for a 6% increase in garbage rates, which included a 3% disposal pass-through and a 3% CPI inflationary increase. She provided updates on service performance and the statewide Recycling Modernization Act, and reviewed the company's revenue and expenses for 2024, along with projected increases for 2025. She noted that disposal rates were expected to continue rising annually.

City Manager Wulschlager presented a financial analysis of Republic's waste management services, highlighting significant fluctuations in net income over the past three years. He reported a 183% revenue increase for 2023-2024, followed by a projected 32% loss for 2024-2025. He recommended maintaining the traditional 3% rate increase instead of the proposed 6%, stating that the current financial data did not justify the higher adjustment.

Councilor Shields recused himself from the discussion and vote for Republic Services.

The Council discussed the material presented and concurred with City Manager Wulschlager's assessment, expressing concern about the potential impact of a 6% increase on constituents.

Councilor Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 with the 3% increase to solid waste rates. *Councilor Curtis seconded the motion.* Council President Ignazzitto asked for a roll call vote:

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Courtney Voss from Republic Services explained that Deschutes County was considering implementing curbside recycling in the unincorporated areas of the county at a cost of \$6 per month. She noted that

this would potentially make La Pine the only area in Central Oregon without access to curbside recycling services. The Council discussed potential options for implementing recycling in La Pine, emphasizing the importance of being mindful of the financial impact on residents. Among the considerations was the possibility of allowing customers to downsize their garbage service to help offset the additional cost of recycling.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

STAFF COMMENTS

Associate Planner Tierney provided an update on current planning files. He reported that under Type I applications, there were three completed residential zoning permits and three commercial zoning permits. For Type II applications, five partition requests have been submitted within the Cagle area and Oskenholt Estates subdivisions.

Community Development Director Bybee noted that the Notice of Intent To Award (NOITA) process was nearly complete for the Transportation System Plan (TSP) update consultants. He also stated that the next Council meeting would include public hearings for the comprehensive plan update, which would be followed by consideration of the ordinances.

City Manager Wullschlager provided an update on the Newberry Lift Station project. He reported attending the project's kickoff meeting and noted a delay of approximately 12 weeks for the sewer mainline pipe. This delay stemmed from the need to pretreat the pipe fittings due to exposure to sewage and to prevent corrosion that could lead to leaks. The pretreatment process resulted in a 12- to 20-week lead time for the fittings, further impacting the project timeline. This posed a concern as the lift stations were currently overloaded, requiring Public Works to manually pump them down each night.

He informed the Council that the contractor may have identified a solution to the delay and that he was collaborating with the contract Public Works Director to review the proposed findings. He also mentioned that the industrial lift station, which was nearing completion, could not be activated until the 10-inch mainline was installed, a step dependent on resolving the coating issue.

Lastly, City Manager Wullschlager reminded the Council that the first meeting in July is traditionally canceled due to the holiday and Council availability. He asked them to consider cancellation but emphasized that no decision was necessary at this time.

The Council proceeded to discuss the matter and unanimously agreed to cancel the July 9th meeting.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Curtis thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

Councilor Shields also expressed appreciation to those in attendance.

Councilor Morse did not have any comments.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

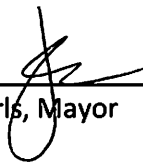
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Council President Ignazzitto thanked the public for attending and commended the staff for being proactive in protecting the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: per ORS 192.660 if necessary

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Ignazzitto adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Jeannine Earls, Mayor

Date: 6-25-2025

ATTEST:



Amanda Metcalf, City Recorder

Date: 6/25/25