



CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

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

Available online via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86507111733>

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Council

Mayor Earls

Councilor Shields – Absent (Excused)

Councilor Morse

Councilor Curtis

Staff

Geoff Wullschalger – City Manager

Ashley Ivans – Finance Director

Jason Wood – Public Works Director

Nick Tierney – Associate Planner

Amanda Metcalf – City Recorder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Morse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

City Manager Wullschlager added an item to the agenda regarding a candidate for Sunriver La Pine Economic Development (SLED) board for consideration of appointment to their vacant seat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Henderson, who lives on Anchor Way, provided public comment regarding issues he had experienced with the installation of his water meter. He stated that he felt the City did not adequately represent its citizens and expressed frustration that he had not received a reasonable response to his concerns. Mr. Henderson also stated that he believed the City had not properly advertised the vacant City Council seat and explained that he would have submitted an application. He further commented that he felt he could effectively represent the citizens of La Pine.

Mayor Earls responded that the application period for the vacant City Council position had already closed. She explained that the vacancy had been advertised on the City's website and that she had also

helped spread the information through word of mouth. Mayor Earls encouraged community members to consider running for office during the upcoming election year.

Stu Martinez, who lives on Morson Street, provided public comment and thanked the Council for recognizing Don Greiner earlier in the meeting. He explained that members of the community had gathered to say their goodbyes and that there had been a small luncheon which included Mayor Earls, City Manager Wullschlager, Colleen Scott and other current and former representatives of the City. He expressed appreciation for the time taken to acknowledge Don and his contributions.

Colleen Scott, who lives on Murray Drive, added to Mr. Martinez's earlier comments and thanked Mayor Earls and City Manager Wullschlager for attending Mr. Greiner's memorial and recognizing his contributions to the development of the City.

Ms. Scott also spoke regarding the City Council appointment and expressed her support for candidate Cathi VanDamme. She explained that she had served with Ms. VanDamme during the COVID period and had always been impressed by how supportive, prepared, and professional she was. Ms. Scott stated that Ms. VanDamme was well informed and that during that time it was important to have a cohesive team. She reiterated her support for Ms. VanDamme and expressed appreciation for the Council and their volunteer service to the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 01.14.2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Public Comment Form – C. Scott
 - b. Public Comment Form – T. Merrill
 - c. Public Comment Form – C. Scott

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Councilor Morse seconded the motion.*

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. City Council Appointment

City Manager Wullschlager presented the associated staff report to the Council regarding the appointment of a new Council member to fill the vacant seat left by Council President Ignazzitto. He stated that there was only one eligible candidate who met the requirements outlined in the La Pine City Charter. The candidate, Cathi VanDamme, had previously served on multiple La Pine boards, including the City Council, where she was elected Council President. Ms. VanDamme was present at the meeting.

Councilor Morse nominated Cathi VanDamme for appointment to the office of City Councilor, for the remainder of the 2025-2028 term. *Councilor Curtis seconded the nomination.*

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

City Recorder Metcalf gave the oath to office for Councilor appoint VanDamme.

2. Election of Council President

City Manager Wullschlager explained that each year the Council elected a Council President to preside over meetings in the absence of the Mayor and to act as Mayor when the Mayor was unable to perform their duties.

The Council decided to postpone the election of the Council President until a full Council was present.

3. City of La Pine Annual Audit

Finance Director Ivans introduced Ms. Brenda Bartlett from Sensiba LLP, the City's auditing firm, to present the fiscal year 2024–2025 audit.

Ms. Bartlett introduced herself to the Council and explained that this was the second year her firm had provided auditing services for the City. She reported that the audit did not identify any significant issues with the City's financial statements, although there were several minor misstatements related to annual closing entries. She stated that management had agreed to correct these errors and had begun implementing new internal controls starting January 1, 2026. The auditors also identified areas for improvement in the City's internal control processes, particularly related to bank reconciliation procedures.

Ms. Bartlett explained that an additional audit was required due to the amount of federal funding the City received for the water and wastewater expansion project. She noted that the City had remained compliant with both state and federal requirements.

She further reviewed the overall audit findings in detail, describing how management was addressing the identified errors and noting that the size of the City's finance department may have contributed to some of the issues. She also stated that the City successfully met the December 31 deadline for the audit submission.

Lastly, Ms. Bartlett read the post-audit letter and explained that most of the points highlighted in the letter had already been addressed within the audit report.

There were no questions from the Council.

4. Urban Renewal Agency Appointment

City Manager Wullschlager explained to the Council that the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) had decided to postpone appointing a citizen member to the Agency until elements of the current Archway Project were finalized. He stated that many years of planning had gone into the project, and the URA preferred to execute a contract before appointing a new member.

He also stated that, following the resignation of Council President Ignazzitto, a new Councilor would need to be assigned to the URA, and that Council assignments would be discussed later in the meeting.

5. TGM IGA

Associate Planner Tierney presented the staff report for the Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant that the City was awarded to update the Transportation System Plan (TSP). He explained that the TGM program is a joint venture with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). With ODOT being the administrator, they require an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between ODOT and the City.

He explained the IGA and stipulated the required responsibilities and actions of each agency in administering the grant award. Additionally, he stated that staff was requesting that a Council member be appointed to serve on the board.

Councilor Morse made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oregon, acting by and through its Department of Transportation, and the City of La Pine, for the purpose of the City's Transportation and Growth Management Grant award for its Transportation System Plan update. *Councilor VanDamme seconded the motion.* Mayor Earls asked for a roll call vote:

Councilor VanDamme – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Councilor Committee Assignments

There was a discussion regarding Councilor committee assignments, and it was decided to wait until all Councilors were present before making committee assignments.

7. La Pine Parks and Recreation District Project Funding Discussion

Finance Director Ivans presented information to the Council regarding a potential funding partnership with the La Pine Parks and Recreation District (LPRD) for the development of a splash pad. She explained that LPRD was requesting two forms of financial assistance from the City: a grant in the amount of \$20,000 and a low-interest loan to be repaid within ten years. She noted that the City had not previously participated in this type of funding arrangement and wanted direction from the Council before inviting LPRD to formally present the request.

The Council discussed the proposed splash pad project and generally expressed support for the concept. They also discussed potential funding sources. Finance Director Ivans explained that the funds would need to come from the General Fund, as Urban Renewal Agency funds have stricter limitations and could not be used for a project of this nature for LPRD.

Mayor Earls requested additional information from LPRD, specifically regarding how the District planned to fund the initial development of the splash pad as well as the ongoing maintenance to ensure the project would be sustainable for future generations.

Finance Director Ivans stated that she would invite representatives from the LPRD Board to attend the next City Council meeting to provide additional information and present their request.

8. SLED Board Vacancy

City Manager Wullschlager presented a recommended application to the Council for appointment to the Sunriver La Pine Economic Development (SLED) Board. He explained that the board member representing the La Pine Community Health Clinic had submitted her resignation, resulting in a vacant seat. He stated that the SLED Board received an application from Marie Mains, who was also affiliated with the La Pine Community Health Clinic, and that the Board recommended her appointment.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to appoint Marie Maines to the position of SLED representative to the City of La Pine. *Councilor Morse seconded the motion.*

Councilor VanDamme – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Recorder Metcalf did not have any comments.

Associate Planner Tierney provided an update on the Planning Department. He explained that there were no updates for long range planning; however, current planning had seen an increase in activity for the year, and four partition applications had been deemed complete. He stated that the Bend-La Pine Schools application for an addition to their bus barn was complete and that the housing development project on Drafter Road was in its second phase.

Finance Director Ivans provided an update on the water and wastewater project. She explained that staff conducted inspections on the installed sewer tanks with Taylor Northwest and Anderson Perry and that she would keep the Council updated as more information became available.

She stated that this year's audit was submitted by the December 31 deadline and noted that it was the first time during her tenure that the audit had been submitted on time, which was a significant accomplishment.

She reiterated that she would request that the Board of the Parks and Recreation District attend the next meeting to present their financial requests to the Council.

Lastly, she reminded the Council that budget season would begin soon, that appointments of citizen members to the Budget Committee would commence in April, and she encouraged community members to apply.

Public Works Director Wood informed the Council that a new boat used at the lagoons at the treatment plant had been acquired.

He also explained that staff conducted inspections on the septic tanks installed during the water and wastewater expansion project.

Lastly, he stated that swale maintenance had been completed in Huntington Meadows and new gravel had been installed to ensure proper water drainage.

City Manager Wullschlager provided an update on the Newberry Lift Station and stated that it was expected to be completed within the next 30 to 40 days.

He highlighted several bills on the legislative short session docket, including HB 4036 regarding the maintenance of affordable housing bonds, HB 4108 concerning annexation of communities into the

City’s Urban Growth Boundary, and SB 1585 which proposed a lower threshold for state funding grants. He explained each bill and how it could impact the City and asked the Council if they supported him submitting testimony on behalf of the City. The Council expressed support for City Manager Wullschlager to provide testimony regarding the proposed legislation.

He also stated that a Council retreat had been scheduled for April 18, 2026.

Lastly, he informed the Council that he and Mayor Earls attended an award ceremony with Taylor Northwest and Anderson Perry for the water and wastewater expansion project, where the City received an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Morse thanked Mayor Earls and City Manager Wullschlager for representing the City at the awards ceremony.

Councilor Curtis thanked staff for their work on the audit.

Councilor VanDamme thanked the Council for appointing her back onto the Council.

Mayor Earls explained that she would be unavailable for the next meeting, and the Council decided to cancel the meeting at the end of the month. She also stated that she would be unavailable in June.

She encouraged the community to be involved in the election this year in Central Oregon and stated that it was important to follow what was happening during the State’s legislative short session.

Lastly, she thanked Mr. Martinez and Ms. Scott for attending Mr. Greiner’s memorial and explained that they had a meaningful conversation about how to encourage younger generations in La Pine to become more involved. She also thanked Finance Director Ivans for her work on the audit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: per ORS 192.660 if necessary

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Earls adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.



Jeannine Earls, Mayor Date: 3-11-2026

ATTEST:



Amanda Metcalf, City Recorder Date: 3-11-2026