



**CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON**  
**JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**&**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM**

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

**Available online via Zoom : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778624724>**

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**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Earls called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ESTABLISH A QUORUM**

Council

Mayor Earls

Council President Ignazzitto

Councilor Shields

Councilor Morse

Councilor Curtis

Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner DeBone

Commissioner Adair

Commissioner Chang

County Staff

Nick Lelack – County Administrator

Peter Gutowsky – Community Development Director

Kristie Bollinger – Property Manager

Jeff Merwin – Infrastructure Manager

Chris Doty – Road Department Director

Staff

Geoff Wullschlager – City Manager

Brent Bybee – Community Development Director

Nick Tierney – Associate Planner

Amanda Metcalf – City Recorder

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner DeBone led the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**JOINT BoCC AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING****BUSINESS:****1. Newberry Neighborhood Master Planning**

Community Development Director Bybee presented the topic of the Newberry neighborhood and the potential for creating a new master plan as a joint effort with Deschutes County. He announced that the City had been awarded two housing grants, one for the Cagle Infill Project and another for City Code Amendments. He stated that staff would also pursue an additional housing grant for the Newberry Master Plan project. Director Bybee explained that the goal for the master plan was to plan for the City's future growth and emphasized that the Newberry area required renewed attention from the planning department.

Property Manager Bollinger noted that the 40 acres owned by Deschutes County had been on the market for over a year with little to no interest from buyers. City Manager Wulschlager clarified that each quadrant contained a mix of residential lots, including both high- and low-density properties. He stated that creating a new master plan would make the area more attractive to developers.

Community Development Director Gutowsky added that this type of project would require significant discussion before proceeding, such as determining whether the City would take the lead in facilitating it. He stated that the project warranted further conversation and that County staff would need direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

Councilor Curtis arrived at 5:15 p.m.

City Manager Wulschlager stated that the City was prepared to begin the project and that community input similar to the input gathered during the comprehensive plan update would need to be conducted. He said that the City is prepared to take the lead on the project, but the County's involvement was necessary as the property owner. The City Council agreed that the effort should be a joint project between the City and the County.

There was discussion about the amount of buildable land available in La Pine. Commissioner Chang asked why there was an urgency to create a new master plan for the neighborhood and expressed concern that the land might remain on the market for several more years even after planning efforts.

Community Development Director Bybee explained that the current master plan allowed developers to purchase only the higher-density sections, leaving the lower-density portions undeveloped, which discouraged interest. A new master plan, he said, could be structured to allow smaller portions of the quadrants to be purchased and developed with a balanced mix of high- and low-density housing.

There was also discussion about the cost of updating the master plan and how it would be funded. Director Bybee stated that the housing grant awarded for the Cagle Infill Project would fully fund that project, and the City planned to apply for another housing grant to hopefully also fully fund the master plan update.

Both the City Council and the County Commissioners discussed the workload impact on staff, noting that both City and County departments were already at capacity. Despite this, both entities agreed to move forward with the master plan update, with City staff taking the lead on the project.

## **2. Law Enforcement Discussion (Klamath County)**

City Manager Wullschlager started the discussion regarding Klamath County and law enforcement by explaining to the City Council and BoCC the amount of effort and resources that the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) had been providing to North Klamath County. He stated that there was no Klamath County police presence in North Klamath County and that Deschutes County resources were being diverted to enforce the law in that area.

He explained that representatives from the City and DCSO had attempted to reach out to Klamath County without success and requested that the BoCC contact Klamath County's Board of Commissioners regarding the issue. Commissioner DeBone shared that he had recently attended a meeting with representatives from 11 other counties but was also unsuccessful in speaking with Klamath County officials since they attended via Zoom.

Mayor Earls emphasized that she would like Klamath County to share the responsibility for law enforcement in the area. Lieutenant Josh Spano explained that Oregon State Police (OSP) handled most of the police enforcement, but with low staffing, there was only one trooper per county. He stated that while DCSO assisted through mutual aid, it could not continue to send deputies from Deschutes County to respond to calls in Klamath County. He also noted that 50% of Deschutes County's mental health caseload consisted of Klamath County residents.

Mayor Earls added that the Deschutes County Fire District faced similar challenges and questioned the safety of the County and the City if officers continued to spend a significant portion of their time responding to calls in Klamath County. She again asked the Commission to reach out to Klamath County for assistance.

There was discussion about an upcoming convention that the BoCC planned to attend, where they would attempt to speak with Klamath County officials. Commissioner Chang mentioned that the BoCC might not have as much influence with Klamath County Commissioners as Klamath County residents themselves would. There was further discussion about the information that is already being shared with Klamath County citizens and the encouragement to contact their BoCC directly.

## **3. Land Fill Siting Update**

Infrastructure Manager Merwin gave an update on the landfill siting project. He provided background information on the previous potential location, explaining that negotiations had stalled, causing the project to start over. He highlighted the role of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members, noting that they were responsible for the progress of the project and the heavy lifting involved in identifying a new location. He stated that there were two sites that SWAC would compare once the

geotechnical study was completed. He added that recent data showed the Knott Landfill had plateaued, with capacity expected to be reached by September 2031.

Infrastructure Manager Merwin responded to a question from the Council, explaining that if the landfill reached capacity before the new site was built, the County had contingency plans in place and would likely contract with other landfills.

#### **4. BoCC Districting Update**

County Administrator Lelak provided an update on the BoCC districting process involving the addition of two new seats on the Commission. He stated that the election for the new seats would take place in the spring of 2026. He explained that a district advisory committee was currently meeting to determine how Deschutes County would be redistricted. He invited the community to attend a listening session scheduled for the following Thursday, where the committee would gather public input.

County Administrator Lelak noted that the committee's goal was to submit a finalized map to the BoCC in December, allowing it to be ready by the end of February for the spring election. He presented to the Council and BoCC two draft maps currently available online for public review, emphasizing that South County would remain one district in both scenarios. There was discussion regarding the two maps that the committee was considering.

#### **5. Traffic Safety- Burgess Rd. (Rosland Elementary School)**

City Manager Wulschlager stated that there had been safety concerns from citizens regarding Burgess Road near Rosland Elementary School.

Road Department Director Doty explained that a consultant was currently reviewing school safety on Burgess Road and that a crosswalk would most likely need to be added. He outlined the process for adding a crosswalk, noting that it would require a joint effort between the City, the School District, and the County. He also mentioned that one of the main challenges would be ensuring pedestrian connectivity and addressing the speed reduction from 45 mph to 20 mph on a major roadway.

There was a discussion about possible grants that could be pursued to help fund the construction of the needed sidewalks and crosswalk.

#### **6. Economic Development Update**

City Manager Wulschlager gave an update on the City-owned spec building in the industrial park and stated that the projected date for breaking ground would be before the first snowfall this year, with completion anticipated in July or August 2026. He said that the City was very pleased with the builders and that there had already been interest from potential tenants. He also reported that the project was on budget and moving forward.

He provided an update from Sunriver La Pine Economic Development (SLED), noting that there was a potential tech development company considering relocating to La Pine.

#### **7. La Pine DSL Land Transfer Update**

Community Development Director Bybee stated that he had met with members of DSL regarding the BLM land that had been transferred to them. He explained that any development on that property would need to go through the same process as any other developer. He emphasized to the DSL

members that while the City was pleased the state wanted to develop in La Pine, the failed ODOT project on the north side of the City needed to be addressed. He noted that the intent was to keep the development as single-story residential and that a builder or contractor would be utilized for construction.

Commissioner Chang provided insight on the process of ODOT projects, explaining that they were directed by legislation. He stated that while voicing concerns to the ODOT Commission was worthwhile, gaining traction would require legislative approval. He suggested forming a coalition of counties along Highway 97 to advocate safety improvements and help move projects forward. He emphasized the importance of presenting a unified voice to the legislature.

**OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

Councilor Shields stated that the City of La Pine needed to address transportation issues within the City. He did not elaborate further but asked the BoCC and City Council to keep the matter in mind for future discussions.

Mayor Earls adjourned the work session at 6:50 p.m.

**REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION**

Mayor Earls called the regular City Council meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no added agenda items.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. 09.17.2025 Joint City Council/Planning Commission Workshop and City Council Minutes
2. 09.24.2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Council President Ignazzitto made a motion to approve the consent agenda. *Councilor Shields seconded the motion.*

Council President Ignazzitto – Aye

Councilor Shields – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Proclamation 2025-03, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary USPO

City Manager Wullschlager presented to the Council Proclamation 2025-3, recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States Postal Office. He explained that the draft reflected the amendments requested by the Council at the previous meeting. The Council reviewed the proclamation and approved the amendments as presented.

Councilor Morse made a motion to approve Proclamation 2025-03. *Council President Ignazzitto seconded the motion.* Mayor Earls asked for a roll call vote:

Council President Ignazzitto – Aye

Councilor Shields – Aye

Councilor Morse – Aye

Councilor Curtis – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

City Manager Wullschlager stated that there had not been any major changes since the last meeting; however, he provided an update on the Urban Renewal Agency's archway project and explained the newly proposed location. He reported that a recent meeting was held with Open Architecture, the project consultant, who also provided the URA with ideas for future improvement projects at the Transfer Center.

Lastly, he shared that he had attended the annual LOC conference with some Council members and the mayor. He stated that it was a productive conference and noted that La Pine was beginning to be recognized by other cities, which had not been the case in the past.

#### **MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Morse stated that she would like to see a cleanup effort to remove knapweed at the transfer center.

Councilor Shields did not have any comments.

Council President Ignazzitto thanked the City for allowing the Councilors to attend the recent LOC conference. She also expressed her appreciation to Lieutenant Josh Spano for his continued service and dedication.

Councilor Curtis echoed her thanks for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Mayor Earls agreed that the LOC conference had been very beneficial. She informed the Council that she had several upcoming meetings and wanted them to be aware of her schedule. She mentioned that a local citizen group regularly walked around picking up trash and had invited her to participate in a community cleanup. Councilor Morse expressed interest in joining the effort as well.

Mayor Earls also stated that she and City Manager Wullschlager would be touring the property that Western Rivers intended to sell to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). She noted that while she was not in favor of the sale, she believed it was important to hear the group's proposal for the planned project on the land. There was a discussion regarding the potential property transfer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Earls adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

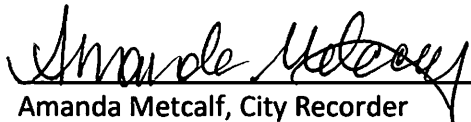
**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Per ORS 192.660 if necessary**

None

  
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Jeannine Earls, Mayor

Date: 10-22-2023

ATTEST:

  
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Amanda Metcalf, City Recorder

Date: 10-22-25