



CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 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/85250882619>

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Council

Mayor Earls

Council President Ignazzitto

Councilor Shields

Councilor Morse

Councilor Curtis-Thompson

Student Councilor Marston

Staff

Geoff Wullschlager – City Manager

Brent Bybee – Community Development Director

Amanda Metcalf – City Recorder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Shields led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

City Manager Wullschlager added to the agenda a draft letter regarding the Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map to the office of the Governor, Tina Kotek.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Shirk, a resident of 52374 Pine Forest Road, commented on the proposed transfer of National Forest lands to Deschutes County. He submitted for the record an email from Commissioner DeBone stating that the County will no longer pursue the transfer.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 01.22.2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Public Comment Form – A. Shirk
 - b. Public Comment Form – R. Harp

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Transfer of National Forest Lands to Deschutes County
 - a. Staff Report
 - b. County Commissioner Tony DeBone Letter Packet
 - c. City of La Pine Council – Draft Letter

City Manager Wullschlager stated that the request for the letter of support is no longer needed as Congressman Bentz's office decided to not move forward with the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Planning – Joint Workshop Deschutes County BoCC
 - a. Staff Report

City Manager Wullschlager presented a staff report regarding the joint workshop BoCC workshop. He listed the topics of discussion submitted by the BoCC and remarked that the first subject, regarding homelessness solutions post-Darlene Fire, had been tabled from the previous joint workshop. He asked the Council to discuss matters of interest and importance so they could be placed on the agenda for the upcoming session on February 26th.

The Council discussed the topics proposed by the BoCC and had no comments.

OTHER MATTERS

City Manager Wullschlager discussed the added agenda item regarding the Wildfire Hazard Map and included, for the record, a draft letter to Governor Kotek, which contained an attachment that Community Director Bybee had submitted during the public comment period in August of 2024.

He stated that multiple factors had not been taken into account when drafting the map. He listed the new fire hydrants that had been installed during the water/wastewater expansion and the expansion of the treatment plant, which enabled the U.S. Forest Service to access water for firefighting, in addition to the looping and redundancy of water throughout the community and new defenses along the eastern perimeter of the City.

He read the draft letter aloud to the Council and asked them to consider supporting the letter to send the Governor's office.

The Council voiced their support, Mayor Earls asked for a motion.

Councilor Ignazzitto moved to approve and distribute the letter to Governor Kotek. *Councilor Morse seconded the motion.* Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rich Harp, a resident of 51981 Campfire Drive, provided public comment regarding the recent Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting on the Wildfire Hazard Fire Map.

He also said that the community would like a more transparent process for appointing members to the Planning Commission and hopes the Council is making progress on improving the appointment process for future selections.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager Wullschlager provided an update on public works, noting that pumping between the lagoons has been successful. He also discussed the matters surrounding distribution from the new pivot system and explained that the capacity issues of the lagoons due to the inability to distribute treated wastewater since the start of the expansion project.

He also provided an update on the Newberry Lift Station, stating that the city is in the process of obtaining approval to tunnel under Highway 97.

City Manager Wullschlager introduced Sergeant Spano, who will soon be promoted to Lieutenant and will replace Lieutenant Deluca as the South County officer in charge.

Lastly, he announced that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the spec building has been issued, and builders are now able to submit.

City Recorder Metcalf did not have any comments.

Community Development Director Bybee provided an update on long-range planning. He outlined the schedule for upcoming joint meetings with the Planning Commission and reviewed the timeline for the comprehensive plan update, noting that the adoption deadline is May 31st.

Director Bybee informed the Council that the County had reached out to discuss the comprehensive plan update as it relates to the Newberry Master Plan. He then read aloud an email he sent to the County in response.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Student Councilor Marston informed the Council of an increase in the high school graduation rate, attributing the improvement to the success of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.

He also reported that the wrestling team is preparing for the state competition and that the school is transitioning into the spring sports season.

Councilor Morse thanked everyone for their community participation.

Council President Ignazzitto did not have any comments.

Councilor Shields did not have any comments.

Councilor Curtis did not have any comments.

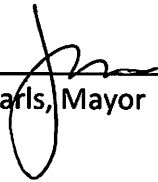
Mayor Earls expressed her appreciation for the additional educational efforts being presented to the Council by staff. She noted that she has been dedicating significant time to learning the responsibilities of her role as mayor.

She also thanked the community for holding her accountable and extended her gratitude to Mr. Shirk for the information he provided regarding the land transfer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: per ORS 192.660 if necessary

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Earls adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.



Jeannine Earls, Mayor

Date: 2-26-2025

ATTEST:



Amanda Metcalf, City Recorder

Date: 2-26-25