

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free),
<https://www.youtube.com/live/Grb4Tnk337c?si=-yrMip49GkdwlYyq>**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Councilor Christine Lewis

Excused: 1 - Councilor Ashton Simpson

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 **Resolution No. 25-5480** For The Purpose Of Confirming The Reappointment Of One Member And Appointment Of One New Member To The Metro Audit Committee

3.2 **Consideration of the February 27, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

3.3 **Consideration of the March 4, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes**

No discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Resolutions

4.1 **Resolution No. 25-5474** For the Purpose of Approving the Purchase of Certain Real Property in Washington Park for Use By the Oregon Zoo

Staff presented the opportunity to purchase the property under consideration and described possible future uses of the property.

Councilor Lewis acknowledged challenges to improving the property but shared strong support for the purchase, citing community engagement, animal welfare, and a good working environment.

Councilor Gonzalez thanked City of Portland and Metro staff for smart financial planning and good faith negotiations.

Staff clarified for Councilor Hwang that the lease-back would provide room for storage, vehicles, snow equipment and more for both the zoo and the City.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, and Councilor Lewis

Excused: 1 - Councilor Simpson

5. Presentations

5.1 Proposed FY 2025-26 and Budget Message

Staff reviewed the budget process, key themes from the budget message, federal policy and budget impacts, approaches to balancing the budget and proposed significant changes.

President Peterson emphasized that potential applicants need transparent information about bidding on procurement projects.

Councilor Hwang asked staff to clarify amounts of reserves and contingencies. Staff acknowledged reserves supported operations a few times in recent years but emphasized that contingencies are restricted. Councilor Lewis asked a follow-up about construction at Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts using operations funds; staff confirmed that was a unique instance during the pandemic.

Staff explained in response to Councilor Lewis that non-GO bond debt is limited to full faith and credit obligations for Metro Regional Center and for Oregon Convention Center Hotel bonds, backed by transient lodging taxes.

Councilor Gonzalez thanked staff for incorporating feedback from recent community engagements into their presentation.

5.1.1 Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget

There was no testimony.

6. Ordinances (Second Reading and Vote)

6.1 **Ordinance No. 25-1529** For The Purpose Of Annexing To The Metro District Boundary Approximately 13.92 Acres Located in Wilsonville Along SW Frog Pond Lane

No discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, and Councilor Lewis

Excused: 1 - Councilor Simpson

7. Ordinances (Second Reading and Consideration of Amendments)

7.1 **Ordinance No. 25-1530** For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Section 11.01.130 (Administrative Cost Recovery) Concerning Use of Administrative Funds and Declaring an Emergency

Staff described the need for more strategic deployment of funds, particularly as laid forth by the City of Portland at a recent Metro Council meeting.

Staff described a proposed amendment to the ordinance, distributed at the meeting as Version A, that refined the

ordinance language in Exhibit A to limit eligible recipients of funds to “local implementation partners” to be used for one-time, specific uses.

President Peterson read the amendment into the record and confirmed that the ordinance enables distribution of funds but transfer of funds would require additional action by Metro Council, by ordinance, to be taken up at a future meeting.

Metro Council received public testimony (see below).

In response to testimony, Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren clarified that Council must use an open public process to distribute funds, by resolution or ordinance. She also noted that “local implementation partners” is the terminology used in Metro Code, which refers to the three existing partners (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties). She confirmed that creating a new local implementation partner would require following a specific process set out in code.

Councilor Gonzalez asked Chair Harrington to clarify the County’s concerns; she noted that she had not reviewed the distributed Version A amendment and commented on the lack of specificity caused by using the term “local implementation partners.” Councilor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of trust and partnership.

Councilor Hwang spoke in favor of the ordinance, noting that the system has no surplus and that strategic deployment to impactful programs will drive progress.

Councilor Lewis asked if distributing funds would be a one-time event. Staff agreed that it would be unlikely to exercise this authority frequently, and that future distributions may be at a much smaller scale. COO Madrigal

added that volatility in the stock and job markets could have compounding impacts on incoming revenues.

Councilor Rosenthal noted that “regional collaboration” is open to interpretation, and that distribution of administrative funds for strategic purposes could be fairly considered “regional collaboration.” Staff agreed the proposed ordinance would help the agency err on the side of clarity.

A motion was made by Councilor Hwang, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be amended. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, and Councilor Lewis

Excused: 1 - Councilor Simpson

7.1.1 Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 25-1530

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington spoke on behalf of her commission in opposition to the ordinance. She appreciated that the proposed amendment limited recipients to local implementation partners but asked that the Council consider distributing all revenues according to the existing distribution split between counties.

Metro Auditor Brian Evans commented that the proposed amendment did not specify that Metro Council would pass a resolution to distribute funds as the original did.

President Peterson concluded the discussion by reiterating the desire to better meet the public’s expectations for transparency and clarity.

8. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal shared updates about free parking days and workshops at Metro Parks.

9. Councilor Communication

President Peterson acknowledged the impact of tariffs on local businesses.

Councilor Lewis updated Council on the Tri-County Planning Body, which received presentations about the Oversight Committee's annual report, aligning healthcare with services, and the Regional Investment Fund.

Councilor Gonzalez shared that he attended Community Action's Impact Gala and the Region 1 Area Committee on Transportation, which reviewed the Rose Quarter project and more transit options for Clackamas County.

President Peterson asked staff to be sure to incorporate changes in anticipated federal funding for a depackager in upcoming conversations about solid waste rates.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor