

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
888-475-4499 (toll free)**

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

2. Public Communication

Veronica Freisen, a contracted prep cook at Oregon Convention Center, shared experiences of event-based workers related to new import of pre-made items and loss of days of work, impacting health insurance eligibility.

Alex Hanson, hot cook at Oregon Convention Center, expressed frustration and confusion about new food items that are not made in-house, resulting in loss of unemployment benefits and sick hours for employees missing shifts.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3.1 **Resolution No. 25-5470** For the Purpose of Providing 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Funds to Oregon State University to Acquire Property in the Multnomah Channel Headwaters Target Area

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5470](#)
[Staff Report](#)

No discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

- 3.2 **Resolution No. 25-5476** For the Purpose of Appointing New Public Engagement Review Committee Members

Attachments: [Resolution 25-5476](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - New Member Biographies](#)

No discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

3.3 Resolution No. 25-5477 For the Purpose of Re-Appointing Members to the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5477](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5477](#)
[Staff Report](#)

No discussion.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

4. Resolutions

4.1 **Resolution No. 25-5471** For the Purpose of Amending the FY 2024-25 Budget and Appropriations Schedule and FY 2024-25 Through FY 2028-29 Capital Improvement Plan to Provide for Changes in Operations

Presenter(s): Cinnamon Williams (she/her), Financial Planning Director
Amanda Akers (she/her), Budget Manager

Attachments: [Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5471](#)
[Exhibit B to Resolution No. 25-5471](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Summary of March 2025 Amendments](#)
[Attachments 2-5 - Capital Improvement Plan Changes](#)
[Resolution No. 25-5471](#)

Councilor Rosenthal asked about future improvements at the Oregon Zoo; staff confirmed that those costs are covered by bond funds.

Staff confirmed for Councilor Hwang that the proposed amendments provided necessary flexibility for closing costs and shifting property values.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

4.2 **Resolution No. 25-5472** For the Purpose of Approving Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding for a Grant Funded with Construction Excise Tax

Presenter(s): Serah Breakstone, Principal Regional Planner

Attachments: [Resolution 25-5472](#)
[Exhibit A to Resolution No. 25-5472](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - 25Q1 Grant Applications Summary](#)

Staff reviewed the 2040 Planning and Development Grant application process and criteria and recommended one project for funding, Tom McCall Waterfront Park Bowl Redevelopment.

Councilor Rosenthal asked for a timeline and whether river access would increase or impact existing functions. Staff replied it is a 2-year process and that river access is a

priority.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about Clackamas County's application, and staff replied that the review committee lacked specificity in terms of project elements, timeline, engagement and support. Staff noted the County is engaging in additional planning, and President Peterson asked staff to support County efforts for a more successful application in the future.

Councilor Hwang hoped for more applications that center housing in future rounds.

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

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

4.3 **Resolution No. 25-5459** For the Purpose of Adopting the Regional System Facilities Plan

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire (she/her), Director, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services
Estee Segal (she/her), Principal Planner

Attachments: [Resolution no. 25-5459](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Exhibit A -Regional System Facilities Plan](#)
[Attachment 1 - Phase 4 Draft Plan Engagement Report](#)
[Attachment 2 - RWAC meeting minutes draft](#)

Staff reviewed the process for developing the proposed plan, including engagement with stakeholders. Presenters shared experiences from the Community Advisory Group and the demonstrated need for new resources.

Councilors Lewis and Simpson clarified with staff their

interpretation of descriptions and visuals in the plan related to recycling and reuse depots.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about increased costs and the future of the Cornelius property. Staff responded that costs can be structured with reliability and will be reviewed by the Regional Waste Advisory Committee, and that there is flexibility in the use of the Cornelius property.

Councilor Nolan stressed the importance of utilizing existing facilities in our system and reported that RWAC that organics were a priority for the committee. They also asked for clarity about how the plan will impact fees.

Council heard public comment on the resolution (see below) before deliberation.

Councilor Rosenthal asked for information about RWAC's recommendation; Councilor Lewis replied that the Council liaisons have shared that information.

Councilor Nolan related the plan's proposals to the advantages of the region's unique public-private waste system and appreciated RWAC's partnership.

Councilor Gonzalez highlighted the engagement necessary to implement the plan moving forward, and Councilor Lewis highlighted the importance of community benefits and access to services.

President Peterson recalled the adoption of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, rising costs and changing needs since, and the balance between service and cost to residents.

A motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by

the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Lewis, and Simpson

4.3.1

Public Hearing for Resolution No. 25-5459

Kristin Leichner, Pride Disposal and Pride Recycling, shared concern about the rate increases to ratepayers and local governments and whether the proposed investments result in meaningful diversion of waste from the landfill.

Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, supported funding for existing facilities and expansion of the existing collection system, and opposed the proposed reuse mall.

Cindy Rogers, Republic Services, supported more household hazardous waste collection and new options for curbside recycling and opposed the proposed reuse mall and the total cost of the plan.

AJ Simpson, City of Roses Disposal, supported a private, public, and philanthropic partnership to strengthen the waste system.

Peter Brandom, City of Cornelius, spoke on behalf of City Council to support the plan and emphasized the importance of self-haul options for rural communities.

Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, appreciated the opportunities for stakeholder input during plan development.

Milka Mendez, Community Advisory Group member, emphasized the importance of protecting the environment when disposing of waste.

5. Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal announced recruitment for the Committee on Racial Equity.

6. Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis, legislative liaison, reported on the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session.

Councilor Gonzalez, JPACT chair, reported on committee votes on Rose Quarter and the Regional Flexible Funding Allocation.

Councilor Rosenthal shared findings from EcoNorthwest on the future of homelessness. President Peterson added data from that presentation about visible and invisible homelessness, and she announced the opening of a new housing project in Tigard.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor