

Metro

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oregonmetro.gov



Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free)
[https://www.youtube.com/live/xziAdbE_-hE?
si=yqprl1OV39KDyCLN](https://www.youtube.com/live/xziAdbE_-hE?si=yqprl1OV39KDyCLN)
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 Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Public Communication

Dana West, Portland: As a stagehand at the Keller Auditorium, West expressed concerns over the effects of the shutdown during the potential renovation. Instead they recommended the construction of a new theater elsewhere.

Kate Mura, Portland: Mura, another stagehand, reiterated Dana West's testimony and noted the lack of inclusion of the voices of the stagehands and theater staff in this decision process.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

Public comment may be submitted in writing. It will also be heard in person and by electronic communication (video conference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by emailing legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Written comments received by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting will be provided to the council prior to the meeting. Testimony on non-agenda items will be taken at the beginning of the meeting. Testimony on agenda items generally will take place during that item, after staff presents, but also may be taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the legislative coordinator by phone at 503-813-7591 and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify to legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Those wishing to testify in person should fill out a blue card found in the back of the Council Chamber.

Those requesting to comment virtually during the meeting can do so by joining the meeting using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or 888-475-4499 (toll free) and using the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom or emailing the legislative coordinator at legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Simpson, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

3.1

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5395](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

- 3.2 **Resolution No. 24-5401** For the Purpose of Confirming the Reappointment of One Member and Appointment of One New Member to the Metro Audit Committee

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5401](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

4. **Ordinances (Second Reading and Vote)**

- 4.1 Ordinance No 24-1509 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 7.04 to Expand Eligible Recipients of 2040 Planning and Development Grants and Allow Allocation of CET Funds to Community Placemaking Grant Program

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 24-1509](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 24-1509 took place on March 21st, 2024 .

Council President Peterson called on Eryn Kehe, Urban Policy & Development Manager, and Serah Breakstone, 2040 Grants Manager, to present to Council.

Staff was available for questions about Ordinance No 24-1509 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code to Implement 2040 Planning & Development Grants Program Refinements, but there were none.

Council President Peterson called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 24-1509.

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

passed by the following vote:

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

4.2 Ordinance No. 24-1508 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Section 5.05.055 to Allow the Disposal of Cleanup Material at a Limited Capacity Landfill Under Certain Conditions

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 24-1508](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No 24-1508 took place on March 21st, 2024.

Council President Peterson called on Will Ennis, Senior Solid Waste Planner, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Ordinance No. 24-1508 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Section 5.05.055 to Allow the Disposal of Cleanup Material at a Limited Capacity Landfill Under Certain Conditions PowerPoint to present to Council. Council President Peterson called for a motion to approve the Ordinance No 24-1508.

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

5. Other Business

5.1 Presentation of the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Budget Message

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her), COO, Metro, Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO,

Metro, Brian Evans (he/him), Metro Auditor, to present the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Budget Message.

Staff pulled up the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Budget Message PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the public-facing portion of the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget process. Madrigal delivered the budget message, discussed the budget environment, and significant changes. The message included support for strategic investments in housing, the economy, and the environment, with a focus on sustaining existing initiatives and preparing for economic uncertainties. The presentation also addressed the challenges posed by national reputational damage and ongoing safety concerns impacting convention bookings in the Portland region.

Moreover, the presenters emphasized the importance of honoring commitments to voter-approved programs, with a notable increase in the proposed budget size compared to ten years ago. They highlighted the allocation of funds toward housing initiatives, technological advancements, and agency performance measures, underscoring Metro's commitment to accountability, transparency, and efficiency. The presentation concluded with an overview of the budget adoption key milestones, including public hearings, budget amendments, and the final adoption process slated for June, aimed at ensuring financial resilience and alignment with strategic goals.

Council Discussion

Councilor Hwang asked about a difference between Metro's staffing level and an increase in the budget, and presenters explained that those extra funds are actually under the control of the counties, so it makes the Metro budget appear artificially larger than usual.

5.1.1 5.1.1 Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget

Deputy Council President Hwang opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Budget Message.

Council Discussion:

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy Council President Hwang moved on to the next agenda item.

5.2 Break

5.3 Department Budget Presentations: Housing, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Patricia Rojas, Housing Director, Liam Frost, Emily Leib, and Rachael Lembo to present the Housing Department Budget Presentation. Staff pulled up the Housing Department Budget Presentation PowerPoint to present to Council. Presenters outlined the housing department's budget proposal for FY 2025, covering progress on investments from the current fiscal year, the budget for the upcoming year, performance measures, and equity metrics. They emphasized the department's efforts to build a regional system for affordable housing, highlighting collaboration among jurisdictions, nonprofits, and impacted community members. The presentation showcased achievements in affordable housing bond implementation, including surpassing production goals and creating economic opportunities. The department's growth plan for FY 2024 focused on establishing foundational infrastructure and leadership capacity, with a particular emphasis on technical assistance and organizational support. They discussed the FY 2024 work plan, recruitment efforts, and internal processes to support staff stability and efficiency. The presentation also detailed progress on SHS investments and

performance measures, such as units completed or under construction and households served. Equity metrics showed a focus on serving BIPOC communities. The proposed budget for FY 2025 included resources for SHS and the affordable housing bond, with allocations for administration, program costs, reserves, and partner implementation. Budget modifications included additional general fund support for the affordable housing bond and funding for a regional housing strategy, along with adjustments to staffing positions. Overall, the presentation highlighted the department's commitment to advancing Metro's strategic goals related to housing, climate, and the economy.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan requested clarification on the number of additional positions for this fiscal year, and presenters explained there was only one position added, the others were being moved over from another department.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about the organization of the housing communications team, and presenters described the structure.

Councilor Lewis thanked the Housing team for all their work, and noted how much of Metro's budget is allocated to this relatively small team. She also asked if the \$150,000 planning budget is enough. Presenters explained that is just for initial planning efforts, and it is being matched by the Planning department.

Councilor Hwang inquired about capacity building for counties, and presenters described the different funding mechanisms available. Councilors and presenters discussed a number of elements of the SHS tax further.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about moving some data positions from the Planning Department over to the Housing department, and presenters explained the trajectory of the data and research portion of the department.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next presentation.

Council President Peterson introduced Marta McGuire, Director of Waste Prevention and Environmental Services, Patrick Dennis, Finance Manager, and Cary Stacey, Deputy Director, to present the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Department Budget Presentations. Staff pulled up the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Department Budget Presentation PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the proposed budget for the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services department for FY 2024-2025. It includes allocations for operating expenses, capital outlay, and contingency reserves. Key areas of investment include personnel services, solid waste operations contracts, and central services support. The department's strategic priorities align with the regional waste plan and focus on inclusive prosperity, trash reduction, and greenhouse gas emissions. Engagement efforts with stakeholders informed targeted investments in household hazardous waste management, local government partnerships, waste prevention education, and community cleanup initiatives. Plans for the future involve expanding opportunities for reuse, reducing food waste, and implementing priority policy projects. Budget modifications for FY 2025 include positions to address audit recommendations, staffing gaps, and service level restoration.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the pre-pandemic reserves, and presenters stated it was almost \$56 million, and that they are working to reestablish the reserves that were depleted during the pandemic.

Councilor Nolan requested clarification on the staffing and organization of WPES, and presenters detailed that structure.

Councilor Lewis wanted to know why Metro Central needed a new Point of Sale system, but Metro South did not, and presenters confirmed that both transfer stations were upgraded. She also asked about the aim to reduce variable hour employees, and presenters detailed the ways they are hoping to do that.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired about new projects in the capital improvement plan and how they would be funded if they came up part way through the year, and presenters explained the process of asking for a budget amendment.

Councilor Hwang asked if the RID patrol is serving the whole region, what their response time is like, and if they are meeting the needs of the whole region. Presenters described the tools they use to track this information and offered to share them with the council.

Council President Peterson wondered about programs that could help identify illegal dumping and reduce the quantity.

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

There were none.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and

events:

- Councilor Rosenthal updated the council on his attendance of a Zoo Bond meeting and some of the details discussed in that meeting, like the Animal Ambassador program.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant