

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026

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/watch?  
v=gyNYvJE8k-olt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyNYvJE8k-olt)

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

**Excused:** 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

**2. Public Communication**

Ron Bunch expressed disappointment in the decision for Metro Councilors to endorse Senate Bill 1586 (SB 1586).

Nellie McAdams, Portland, expressed disappointment in the decision for Metro Councilors to endorse Senate Bill 1586 (SB 1586) and shared concern about public meetings law.

Aaron Nichols, Hillsboro, shared disappointment in Metro Councilor's endorsement of Senate Bill 1586 (SB 1586) and noted concerns about public trust.

**3. Presentations****3.1 Presentation of the results of Accountability Hotline Case 507 Audit**

Presenter(s): Brian Evans (he/him), Metro Auditor

Attachments: [Accountability Hotline Case 507 Audit Highlights](#)  
[Accountability Hotline Case 507 Audit](#)

Auditor Evans shared details of Accountability Hotline Case 507. Auditor Evans found that an employee violated Metro's conflict of interest disclosure policy and may have violated Metro Code and the employee ethics policy. Auditor Evans recommended that they remedy the conflict-of-interest form submission process.

Deputy COO Holly Calhoun shared the management response, stating that they agree with the recommendations of the audit. She noted that they will update their employee ethics policy and enhance requirements to document actions taken to remedy potential conflicts of interest. She added that they will improve the conflict-of-interest process.

Councilor Gonzalez left the meeting at 10:56am.

Councilor Lewis asked if there is a culture of corrective remedy at the Oregon Zoo other than the hotline audit, expressing concern that people may feel unequipped to go to their manager to report these issues.

Auditor Evans shared that the hotline is intended to provide an outside resource and another line of communication where information can surface.

Councilor Lewis asked if the hotline was used due to a lack of an accountability structure with management at the Zoo, or because the hotline is an easier way to call in a coworker.

Auditor Evans shared that their office receives complaints anonymously and non-anonymously, and that he presumes the auditor's office was used because they did not feel like their concern was addressed.

DCCO Calhoun shared that they want to have plenty of avenues for employees to come forward. She noted a desire to create a more transparent and accountability-driven culture.

Councilor Lewis stated that it should be easier for employees to speak with their managers and believe that their managers will support them.

Auditor Evans shared that the Zoo was not using the disclosure agreements properly in some instances.

DCCO Calhoun agreed that they did not have accurate protocols.

Councilor Lewis requested the documents to be stored with HR, departments, and the legal team, adding a desire for them to be filled out promptly.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if the timeline is appropriate.

Auditor Evans shared that many of the suppliers in the system are more than 25 years old and recommended proactively deactivating suppliers.

Councilor Hwang asked about what kind of civil recourse or accountability they have.

Carrie MacLaren shared that she would provide a legal perspective after the meeting.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

##### **4.1 Consideration of the February 5th, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [February 5, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

##### **4.2 Consideration of the February 12th, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [February 12, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

DCCO Calhoun shared they had a successful Pacific NW Sportsman Show. She added that there are upcoming Parks and Nature activities, including fly fishing lessons at Blue Lake Regional Park and an event tomorrow at Glendoveer Nature Trail.

#### **6. Councilor Communication**

Councilor Rosenthal noted that there is a letter to be signed to fund the Boone Bridge and requested an update on the first Zoo Bond Oversight Committee meeting.

Councilor Lewis shared the work of the Parks department's community choice grants, noting that they had great participation at an engagement session the day before. She added that Representative Bynum is bringing home some funds to the Kellogg Dam Project.

Councilor Hwang shared that they successfully kicked off their Zoo Bond Oversight Committee.

7. **Adjourn to Executive Session**

Deputy Council President Hwang adjourned the Council meeting into an executive session at 11:15am.

*Georgia Langer*

Georgia Langer, Legislative Coordinator  
February 19, 2026