



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Shaney Starr, Council President
Soraida Cross, Council Vice
President
Kyle Juran, Councilor
Daniel Kohler, Councilor via Zoom
Marlene Parsons, Councilor
Lore Christopher, Councilor
Felicia Guptill, Youth Councilor

Staff:

Adam Brown, City Manager
Tim Wood, Assistant City Manager
Shane Witham, Planning Director
Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney
Keare Blaylock, Public Works Director
Andrew Copeland, Police Chief
Garrett Klever, Human Resources
Director
Melissa Bisset, City Recorder

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Keare Blaylock, was introduced as the new Public Works Director. Ms. Blaylock expressed her excitement to return to the City of Keizer team.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Matt Lawyer, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Planning Commission, shared about the recent meetings, the 2026 Work Plan that included the Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities Rules text amendments, amendments to the Master Plan Application, floodplain Code, and Gold Star Memorial Monument. The annual Civic Center clean up would be March 14th. The official dedication of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument would be February 7th.

Elaine Wilson, Member of the Community Diversity Engagement Committee, shared the recent

meeting with an update on the All Nations Day. They were planning to have the event on October 4, 2026.

Tammy Kunz, Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Associations, shared about their most recent meeting and the feedback they had received regarding the Pilot Pedestrian Flag Program. There were questions about the meeting location and agendas being noticed. City Attorney Lindsay would follow up with the Council regarding the requirements.

Rhonda Rich, West Keizer Neighborhood Association, shared that they recently had their election of officers. She introduced Mandy Hanson, Vice President. Ms. Rich summarized their most recent meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Philbrick, Keizer, was troubled by the characterization of collector and arterial streets in the article. He said most of them were lined by residences, and they were the streets on the Multi-Modal Committee where they get the most complaints about speeding and crossing the road. He commented on the costs that were proposed for the program and felt that it would hurt those who lived on the busier streets. He felt that sidewalks and safe pedestrian crossings should be the priority. He thought pedestrian safety should be a valid investment.

Mr. Philbrick commented on the proposed Community Survey. One of the recommendations from the Multi-Modal Safety Committee was to reduce residential speed limits from 25 to 20. He noted that the Council also had wanted more feedback from the community whether such a change to proceed would be perceived as beneficial and requested that a question soliciting that input on the proposed survey. He felt there should be a question in the citizen survey about the residential speed limits.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council President Starr moved that the Keizer City Council approve the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Kohler seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Clark, Starr, Cross, Kohler, Juran, Christopher, and Parsons (7)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

- a. **RESOLUTION - Authorizing the Finance Director to Enter Into Agreement with Path Point for Merchant Services**
- b. **Recognizing National Observances and Commemorative/Heritage Months**
- c. **Approval of January 5, 2026 Regular Session Minutes**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- a. **Regional Scenario Plan**

Planning Director Shane Witham summarized the staff report. Discussion followed regarding funding and including improvements in plans so they would be eligible for potential grant funding. There were comments about the Regional Scenario Plan (RSP) being aspirational, and it was not fiscally constrained. There was discussion about the number of I-5 lanes in the Plan. It was noted that the RSP was incorporated with all three entities as the RSP.

Councilors Kohler and Christopher shared that they did not agree with much in the plan. Councilor Christopher explained that she would be a no vote as she disagreed with the RSP.

There was a question about whether the Council voted no on the RSP. Mr. Witham explained the potential consequences for not submitting the RSP, such as the City being in violation. There would possibly be a compliance hearing with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) that could jeopardize the Transportation System Plan (TSP) update, and the DLCD would need to seek Legal Counsel.

City Attorney Lindsay shared that the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) lawsuit that the City participated in stated that they couldn't invalidate the City's TSP, but it also didn't indicate whether the City could recognize a new TSP. He explained that receiving funding would be questionable.

There was discussion about bringing the item to the Council as it was not going to all the other governing entities. Mr. Witham explained that he had authorization to submit the RSP, but felt that it was wise to bring it to the Council. Mr. Lindsay suggested the Council look at it like an intergovernmental agreement and actively participate even though Keizer has separate priorities and aspirations from Salem and the other entity in the RSP.

Mayor Clark commented that she felt it would be important to build out the sidewalk system for pedestrian safety for stronger ties around the community, so she would be a yes vote for the RSP.

Council President Starr moved that City Council authorize staff to submit the Salem-Keizer Regional Scenario Plan to the State Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as required by the State's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rules. Councilor Kohler seconded.

Council President Starr shared that she was not a fan but understood that it was required and appreciated the time that everyone spent on it.

Motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Clark, Cross, Kohler, Starr, Juran, and Parsons (6)

NAYS: Christopher (1)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

b. Parks Master Plan Update on Next Steps Discussion

City Manager Adam Brown provided an update on the next steps to update the Parks Master Plan, noting that there would be an additional Town Hall meeting. There would be at least a month's notice before the meeting was set. There was a suggestion to have the Town Hall on a Monday. There would be larger font text on the promotional material. The Town Hall could be

recorded so it could be reposted. By consensus, the Town Hall would be held on Monday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

c. 2026 Keizer Community Survey

City Manager Adam Brown provided an overview of the 2026 Community Survey.

It was noted that there needed to be responses from about 2,000 households to get a statistically valid response. There could only be one response per household, but there would be another opportunity to participate from those who did not get selected to participate.

Mr. Brown would send the updated version of the survey to the Council. There was discussion about the length of the survey.

The discretionary questions that were specific to Keizer were discussed, and suggested changes were as follows:

Question 1 - Would be reworded to eliminate fire and include Emergency Planning. It was requested to change the local businesses downtown vitality wording to economic vitality.

Question 2 - Would be rewritten to only ask for support for continuing fluoride treatment in the drinking water.

Question 3 - There were suggestions to pause on this question until the Police Fee Task Force meets again.

Question 4 - There was a suggestion to add newspapers (e.g. Keizertimes, Salem Reporter, and Statesman Journal).

It was requested to remove County Commissioners and Homeowners Associations (HOA's) under survey question number 8.

It was suggested to use the live platform for the residential speed limit.

There was a question about if the survey would also be in Russian. Mr. Brown would ask Polco.

The item would be brought back to Council in February.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

STAFF UPDATES

Adam Brown, City Manager, the Welcome Signs approved by Council were now up.

Tim Wood, Assistant City Manager/ Finance Director reminded the community to conserve water to save on their bills later.

Andrew Copeland, Chief of Police, mentioned that the Police Department ran Oregon Physical

Abilities Test (ORPAT) today.

Shane Witham, Planning Director, shared that the TSP was getting close to being implemented.

Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney, would be providing refresher training to the Planning Commission on Quasi-Judicial Hearings.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Christopher asked about incorporating the new Welcome Sign into other areas.

Mayor Clark and the Councilors each reviewed the events and meetings that they had attended as well as upcoming events.

AGENDA INPUT

Monday, January 26, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

City Council Work Session - Strategic Plan Work Session/ Goal Review

Monday, February 2, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

City Council Regular Session

Monday, February 9, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

City Council Work Session - Police Fee Task Force

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

MAYOR:

APPROVED:

Cathy Clark

Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

Minutes approved: _____

"Agenda Management Services are being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.019 awarded to City of Keizer by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."