



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL
Monday, July 27, 2026
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Shaney Starr, Council President
Kyle Juran, Councilor
Daniel Kohler, Councilor
Marlene Parsons, Councilor
Lore Christopher, Councilor
Michael De Blasi, Chair (MMSC)
Michael Welsh (MMSC)
David Dempster (MMSC)
David Philbrick (MMSC)
Trevor Lewis (MMSC)
Lazlo Montoya Mendoza, Youth
Liaison (MMSC)

Staff:

Adam Brown, City Manager
Tim Wood, Assistant City Manager
Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney
Keare Blaylock, Public Works Director
Tim Hein, Police Lieutenant
Melissa Bisset, City Recorder
Mike Griffin, Streets Division Manager
Martin Powell, Traffic Officer

Absent:

Soraida Cross, Council Vice
President
Hersch Sangster, Vice Chair (MMSC)
Matt Myers (MMSC)

DISCUSSION

a. Topics from the Multi-Modal Safety Committee and Feedback from the Neighborhood Associations

City Manager Brown reviewed the topics for the meeting as described in the Staff Report.

Chair De Blasi introduced the Safety and Livability topic.

Committee Member Dempster commented on constraints with the current infrastructure and future development. He thought that if traffic was not improved, people would turn to public transit. There was discussion about educating the public about using transit.

Mayor Clark suggested focusing on what the City could control, such as transportation infrastructure.

Councilor Parsons commented on the increase in electronic bikes, electronic scooters, and motorcycles. Concern was expressed for safety. Discussion ensued regarding enforcement and education.

Chair De Blasi stated that the City could choose to have lower speed limits.

Committee Member Philbrick commented that Public Works and the Police Department were working together to give the Council guidance. There were comments about the flag program not being approved by the Council. Mr. Philbrick expressed frustration about speed limits. Discussion ensued regarding rapid flashing beacons, highlighting a recent project on Lockhaven Drive near Keizer Elementary School.

It was noted that a traffic study identified an appropriate location for a flashing beacon, which was later installed and activated, providing a safer pedestrian crossing along a lengthy stretch without a crosswalk. Discussion ensued on the potential for identifying additional locations where traffic engineering could support similar projects to improve pedestrian safety.

Public Works Director Keare Blaylock explained how poorly placed crosswalks sometimes make a situation more dangerous.

Scott Mansur, Traffic Engineer, DKS Associates, explained the types of locations where crosswalks were appropriate and where other measures were appropriate. He spoke about the various opinions and how they collect data to find the estimated location. He noted that placing rectangular rapid flashing beacons could cost around \$150,000.

Public Works Director Blaylock shared that crosswalks were currently placed on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Philbrick expressed his hope that recommendations from the Multi-Modal Safety Committee (MMSC) would come from working together with Public Works and the Police Department. He spoke about speed limits and citations in Keizer. He commented on speed limits and their impact on bicyclists, particularly along Verda Lane. Mr. Philbrick commented that the narrow bike lanes provided limited clearance when Cherriots buses pass bicyclists at higher speeds and suggested that lower vehicle speeds could improve safety for bicyclists and other road users.

There were comments about considering speed limits as the City becomes denser.

Pedestrian fatalities in Keizer were discussed.

It was noted that if traffic engineers studied every intersection in Keizer and made

recommendations, the cost would be astronomical. The typical process was to evaluate from a risk standpoint. There were comments about the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and its focus on arterials and collectors. There was a suggestion to determine the cost of evaluating intersections, along arterials and collectors, as they would already be collecting data during the TSP update.

Chair De Blasi shared the recent update to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) and noted that there had been frustration with the number of hurdles residents had to overcome to obtain a study. There was also concern about a recommendation to do nothing when an issue did not meet the criteria. He suggested adding temporary measures or pilot tests to the NTMP to evaluate their effectiveness.

Public Works Director Blaylock commented on the speed and volume criteria and that those must be met in order to move to an engineering study, because that's what the engineers would look at. Education in the sense of neighborhood outreach was discussed. Discussion ensued regarding education being paired with enforcement.

Council President Starr suggested that the MMSC come up with the top ten educational ideas and partner with the Police Department to do educational videos.

There was a request to have a conversation about:

- the 75 percent threshold;
- under Section 3.1, if there was not a neighborhood association to represent the applicant, the City would send a QR code to the affected people around the issue. There was a question about what if 75 percent do not respond; and
- the signature requirement to ask residents to knock on doors.

Council President Starr wanted a different way of responding to verbal complaints at meetings. She suggested adding a date on the application and improving the NTMP application process to provide a more user-friendly way for residents to submit concerns. She recommended documenting when applications that do not meet Level 2 thresholds were brought back to the Multi-Modal Safety Committee, along with the results of any further studies or temporary measures, so the MMSC could consider recommendations to Council.

It was noted that all public comments and complaints that had been brought forward would be gathered to track trends.

Discussion ensued regarding the 75 percent threshold and whether it was necessary. There were suggestions from the Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association advocating neighborhood traffic safety by allowing renters to sign petitions, lowering the threshold for safety improvements, creating a neighborhood safety fund for small, quick improvements, and providing easier online access to traffic information. The Committee was asked to consider whether any of the recommendations should be pursued.

Committee Member Philbrick felt that the NTMP had been good about bringing issues forward, but it had not been good for resolving issues. He suggested having an annual amount in the budget to

address neighborhood issues. He felt there could be something simpler and more responsive than the current NTMP.

There was discussion about education, perceived speeding, and the costs of traffic-calming measures.

Mayor Clark commented that she had been lobbying with the League of Oregon Cities regarding the requirement for driver education.

Youth Liaison Lazlo Montoya Mendoza shared his thoughts about traffic speeds.

Discussion ensued regarding when engineers needed to be consulted.

Councilor Kohler suggested using McNary Youth to help with the production of the suggested educational videos.

There was a conversation about various traffic-calming measures and temporary measures to collect data.

There was a suggestion to have a cache of temporary tools that could be readily available.

Council President Starr asked for a one-page infographic on the steps for the NTMP to post with the application to make the process easier.

The MMSC would work on reviewing the NTMP and bring back a draft to Council for their review in November. Public Works Director Blaylock would prepare an initial draft for the MMSC to review.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

MAYOR:

APPROVED:

Cathy Clark

Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

Minutes approved: _____