



# SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE, SCAPPOOSE, OR 97056**

Disclaimer: These minutes are intended to summarize the conversations that took place in this meeting rather than provide a full transcript. Anyone wishing to view the full conversation can find a recording of this meeting on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUgoOzQhm1Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUgoOzQhm1Q).

## **Call to Order**

Mayor Backus called the January 6, 2025 City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Oath of Office for Mayor Joseph Backus ~ Administered by Judge Todd**

**Oath of Office for Councilor Tyler Miller, Councilor Marisa Jacobs; and Councilor Joel Haugen Administered by Judge Todd**

**Judge Todd & Mayor Backus**



**Judge Todd & Councilor Miller**



**Judge Todd & Councilor Jacobs**



**Judge Todd & Councilor Haugen**



**Congratulations!**

## Elect Council President

Councilor Holmes made a motion, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to nominate Councilor Miller as Council President. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

## Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Benjamin Burgener	City Manager
Tyler Miller	Councilor President	Chris Fluellen	Police Chief
Jeanette Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Kim Holmes	Councilor		
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor		
Joel Haugen	Councilor		

**Excused:** Councilor Andrew Lafrenz

**Remote:** Associate Planner NJ Johnson, and Casey Heiges

## Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Jacobs made a motion, and Councilor Miller seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

## Public Comment

Alicia Heiges, Scappoose, explained she has a couple of concerns tonight. First is the City of Scappoose is in a violation of a public records request. She issued a request December 2, and the first issue is her records request wasn't acknowledged within the time frame by law. She explained she had to send an email to the City Manager and then once records started to come in there were parts missing and there were several records that should have been there that weren't. She reached out about that. Unfortunately, she guesses the Police Department and her are in a disagreement or a misunderstanding of some sort. She believes that if there is a police response or an assumed threat to a school there should be a report. She gave an example and said she is going to respect privacy and try to be vague. She explained she did file a police report on December 9 of her neighbor bullying one of her kids. She spoke with Chief Fluellen, and she did submit an email, and he called her back within five minutes. She said he was super responsive, and it was great. Chief Fluellen explained that he was going to talk to her property manager and neighbor and get back to her. She didn't hear back from him and within three days her son was swatted at the high school. That incident was December 12 and that day there was no police report for that. She stated so both of those days there were no police reports. She finds that extremely concerning. She stated then again, her son was also swatted

December 24 and that is the only police report that there is and there are missing chunks out of it. She then reached out to City Manager and Chief Fluellen, and she disagrees with statements she got back. She felt bullied. She believes that if those other reports would have been there it would have prevented her son from being swatted. She explained her and her husband wanted those fake reports, they wanted justice, because that is a felony to swat somebody like that. She stated in the report it even said that the parent was upset that they didn't raid their house and that the Officer had to explain that that was against their constitutional rights. She explained the police department didn't feel it was necessary to press charges against them and it was justified because the rumors that had been spread about her son was justified in their opinion and these rumors that had been spread had been spread all from the previous school year and the School District, in her opinion, allowed it to happen because they had sent them emails and emails and had meetings with the Superintendent about the issues and asked him what he was going to do to address it and they were never given answers on how the problem was going to be fixed. She explained ultimately after the September 24 fake gun threat the Scappoose School District decided that her son couldn't go to school there anymore. They said he wasn't in any trouble, but he can't attend school here anymore and that it was in the best interest for everyone. She stated there was some serious damages done from this and they are looking for accountability and unfortunately, they can't even get that because there's no reports. She doesn't know if there was just no reports ever made or they are just destroyed, or what happened to them. She explained she has put a lot of trust in the Police Department here. She has been through a lot, which brings back to another point. Her second thing that she wants to bring up...

Mayor Backus explained we will talk with City Manager Burgener and Chief Fluellen on her first concern and see what we can come up with on that one.

Alicia Heiges stated as far as her first concern, they told her that she is not going to get body cam, which she did request. She asked again about the redaction and everything and she's been ghosted, they won't even respond to her about getting the body cam footage of any of that. She stated the City Manager told her that she's going to have to take it to the courthouse. She stated I don't know how you guys would feel about that. She stated her son is not even in trouble, she just wanted to see what happened.

Council President Miller asked Alicia Heiges to explain from her experience what swatted means just so that everybody here understands what she means by that.

Alicia Heiges replied that there's a fake threat and it draws a police response to a location.

Council President Miller stated thank you.

Alicia Heiges explained the other issue is on December 29 she got a text message on her business line at Scappoose Massage of an inappropriate message asking for an illicit massage and she called the non-emergency dispatch to report it and so then because of the issues she was having with the Police Department she requested to speak with Officer Barnes because he

was the officer who had interviewed her son. She stated Officer Barnes seemed like a good officer at the time. She spoke with him on January 3 to give her statement and during that discussion she was telling Officer Barnes that she wanted to press charges for commercial sexual solicitation for what was said in the text message, and she felt that the discussion was kind of combative. She felt like she had to defend the fact that this person was asking for something illegal and asking for her to refer him to somewhere to do something illegal. She felt like she was trying to give a statement and she shouldn't have to....he's not the judge, the jury and that she should be able to just freely give her statement. She stated it is kind of hard to explain, she feels like she would prefer to talk to someone maybe privately a little bit more about it but there was some discussion about the current Asian massage business that's open right now and she was being questioned about the previous Asian massage business that was there and she was being told that the previous Chief Lougal botched the last case and she doesn't even know why he was talking to her about Chief Lougal and the last case and asking her about it but apparently he had no idea about the massage ordinance 910 and he was telling her that they have no power to go in there and close it down or do anything. She is very confused as to why our Police Department isn't informed about ordinance 910 and isn't enforcing it. She personally went through a lot to help make that happen and it was a lot of work for City staff to put that together and she knows that Fluellen was here when they all were working on that so she doesn't understand why Officer Barnes didn't know about.....he actually like almost didn't believe her that it existed. She explained he was well I will need to look that up to make sure we are on the same page, and she was felt like she had to prove to him that sexual solicitation is illegal. She felt like she couldn't believe that she was having to argue this point with him. She stated like she was arguing this with a Police Officer, and he said it's not illegal to do this through text message and she was like am I in the twilight zone, what is happening right now, this is in writing that he is trying to do this. He is texting a business, obviously he's willing to pay for it, it's a business. This is not a mistake, and he said well I don't know who this person is, and she was like I looked them up and I know his name and know where his address is, he's in St. Helens. She stated he replied well it is out of my jurisdiction, and she was like well how about we call St. Helens, how about we send someone over to St. Helens, the Sheriff can do it. She explained he replied well we're going to have to ask the DA if it's actually illegal. She stated it seems crazy to her. She asked is that okay? This is crazy to her. Is that okay for people to get text messages like that and as far as she knows no other massage therapists in town are getting text messages like this. She feels like she is being targeted because she says it is not okay for illicit massages in this town. She guesses she has to be the spokesperson to say that this is not okay.

Mayor Backus stated thank you. He thinks we got the idea there and again he will talk with City Manager Burgener and Chief Fluellen and see if we can come up with something for this.

**Consent Agenda ~ December 16, 2024 City Council work session minutes; December 16, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; Reappointment of Teresa Keller; and Rita Bernhard to the Budget Committee**

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ December 16, 2024 City Council work session minutes; December 16, 2024 City Council meeting minutes; Reappointment of Teresa Keller; and Rita Bernhard to the Budget Committee. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

### **New Business**

#### **Proclamation Declaring January 2025 as Blood Donor Month**

Mayor Backus read the Proclamation Declaring January 2025 as Blood Donor Month.

#### **Scappoose 2025 Heritage Park Events Proposal**

JJ McKay and Jeff Weiss went over their proposal/presentation. She explained this will help explain why they are requesting \$20,000.

## **Funding Proposal for Heritage Park Free Events**

In partnership with the City of Scappoose, the  
Scappoose Library and JJ Duehren, Scappoose Parks

Proposed by: JJ Duehren, Vice Chair, Scappoose Parks, Jeffrey Weiss, Head Librarian,  
Scappoose Library 12/31/2024







SCAPPOOSE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, April 19th, 2025, FREE ELECTRIC BIKE GIVEAWAY, FREE BURGERS and HOT DOGS!!

Earth Day has really taken off and this year's event will celebrate cleaning up our parks and encouraging GREEN practices with entertaining and educational activities for our community. Here's what we have in store for our April 2025 Earth Day!

**GO GREEN and SAVE GREEN!** That's the theme for this year's Earth Day Event at Heritage Park, Saturday, April 19th, 2025, from 8am-3pm at Heritage Park, 52469 SE 2nd St, Scappoose. Our biggest Earth Day ever, with free breakfast for SOLVE trash pickup volunteers from 7:30-10:30am, FREE Hot Dogs, Burgers and Pizza starting at 11am, complements of Grocery Outlet Scappoose, served up by our very own Scappoose Police Department! Electric Vehicle and electric bike demonstrations will be on hand, along with recycling ideas and energy saving tips and giveaways from Columbia River PUD! Learn about all the rebates and savings you can have by GOING GREEN with talks by local experts with our Green Tech Talks in the Scappoose Library meeting room. Live music, lots of green activities for kids and families, free plants and seeds giveaways from Means Nursery and more! FREE Electric Bike giveaway at 2:30pm

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090939309338>



The Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival enriches and educates people enjoying our beautiful Pacific Northwest wild spaces and parks, while encouraging users to become stewards of our Parks and forests. With an almost 300 percent increase in overall park usage during the pandemic and beyond, preserving these wild spaces is more important than ever. The only event of its kind in the Northwest, the Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival also provides an annual summer Keystone event for the city of Scappoose. We had a great turnout for our 1st event last June, with close to a thousand people and families coming out to learn about outdoor activities at this entertaining and engaging event. With opportunities to learn about enjoying the outdoors safely, the Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival highlighted the many outdoor gems and activities Scappoose has to offer.

By partnering with the Department of Forestry on wildfire safety and kids meeting Smokey Bear, birdwatching opportunities at Chapman Landing and beyond with the Oregon Bird Alliance, the Marine Patrol on water safety and exploring our incredible waterways, attendees had lots of options to explore to our beautiful, nature filled community. Our Scappoose Firefighters and Scappoose Police were on hand to engage with kids and families on outdoor safety tips. This event also partnered with the Community Club's Farmers Market, allowing current vendors additional time to sell their wares.

The Oregon Equestrians, Cub Scouts, Scappoose Bay Watershed, Watts House, Scappoose Library and many other nonprofits and outdoor focused vendors provided a variety of outdoor opportunities to explore. Fun and engaging activities included Native American dance demos, a Children's Nature Art Show and Creation station to create outdoor masterpieces the day of the event, a Rockhound "Geode Cracking station, prize giveaways including a Tandem Kayak at the end of the event, Swag bags for families, and of course, the return of the famous "Scappoose Sauerkraut Sandwich" made a welcome appearance at our event. This is an all day event.

The Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival reached nature fans in a rich and meaningful way, at a fraction of the cost of the previous "Adventure Fest". This year on Saturday, June 7th, we are planning to have a "Dance for the Wild things" in the evening along with all the activities from last year. Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559197723241>



The Scappoose Public Library and the City of Scappoose Parks have been producing Movies by Moonlight in Heritage Park to be held each Friday in the month of August at Heritage Park in Scappoose since 2018. A series of five family friendly movies along with thematic activities and events each night. This event is a Scappoose tradition!

By keeping the event free and offering low-cost food, beverages and snacks, including dollar hot dogs and hamburgers grilled up by our Scappoose Police department and movie snacks and beverages from the Scappoose Community Club, Movies in the Park allows families to enjoy a high entertainment, low cost activity with their community. Games like Pizza Bingo, fun contests along with lawn games, our wonderful "Michael Curry" Splash Fountain and live music keeps everyone entertained until "Movie Time!"

Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ScappooseMoviesbyMoonlight>

The Scappoose Library is requesting \$20,000.00 for the City of Scappoose that will be applied to all seven events: The Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival along with our two other popular family events; Earth Day on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Movies in the Park, every Friday in August, (5 weeks, 5 events total for Movie night). Attached are the expenses for all 2025 events. Thank you so much for supporting these important and FUN, FREE community events in Scappoose!

Attached are the spreadsheets for each event for you to review. The City of Scappoose's donation will allow the library to provide services for all events, including use of library restrooms and meeting room, additional staff to support the event and additional foot traffic the day of the event, insurance for events along with planning, setup and teardown of each event. It should also be noted that this amount is fraction of what the City of Scappoose has spent on events in the past. JJ Duehren volunteers all her time for these events. This saves a significant amount of money to put on these high-quality events.

Thank again for your financial support of last year's event. We would be so fortunate to have the City of Scappoose as our partner in 2025!

Regards,

JJ Duehren

Scappoose Parks, Events expert [jjmckay2@gmail.com](mailto:jjmckay2@gmail.com) 503-543-2310, Cell: 503-312-5521

Jeffrey Weiss, Head Librarian, Scappoose Library [jweiss@scappooselibrary.org](mailto:jweiss@scappooselibrary.org) 503-543-7123



**Earth Day News Story:** [https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/its-your-chance-to-connect-with-mother-nature-at-scappoose-earth-day-2024/article\\_7287f15e-f764-11e0-90f1-538fab62e9c1.html](https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/its-your-chance-to-connect-with-mother-nature-at-scappoose-earth-day-2024/article_7287f15e-f764-11e0-90f1-538fab62e9c1.html)

**Outdoor Festival news story:** [https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/retooled-scappoose-outdoor-fun-festival-will-entertain-all-ages-june-8/article\\_b169bd80-0d71-11ef-b85d-efa42532bb38.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHbts1teHRuA2FlbQlwMQABHe868ISc6A1MDCONYknpeYrFOW\\_hcmd4erlh3RglhYqMwWl\\_o1k1tUjDw\\_aem\\_JkcHfHIXTih-N-QWH-p0A](https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/retooled-scappoose-outdoor-fun-festival-will-entertain-all-ages-june-8/article_b169bd80-0d71-11ef-b85d-efa42532bb38.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHbts1teHRuA2FlbQlwMQABHe868ISc6A1MDCONYknpeYrFOW_hcmd4erlh3RglhYqMwWl_o1k1tUjDw_aem_JkcHfHIXTih-N-QWH-p0A)

**Movies in the Park news story:** [https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/beat-summer-heat-with-scappoose-movies-by-moonlight-starting-friday/article\\_261b2388-5031-11ef-a582-8f8cfbc9b6e.html](https://www.columbiacountyspotlight.com/news/beat-summer-heat-with-scappoose-movies-by-moonlight-starting-friday/article_261b2388-5031-11ef-a582-8f8cfbc9b6e.html)



Earth Day Billboard:



Outdoor Festival Billboard

Mayor and Council acknowledged all JJ and Jeff's hard work and all they have done.

Council President Miller explained the reason why JJ offered to take over the event was to save the City money, and she did save the City considerable money, and he thinks that \$20,000 is a good value. He does feel the context and how much money we did save over previous years is important to bring up.

Councilor Holmes talked about bringing people into Scappoose to maybe more directly engage with our parks. To use the event to encourage them to go to different parks or build some other activities around that event during that week so that people are able to really build a



relationship with Scappoose. She thinks that further builds on the economic value to that event and what that could bring. She explained we did earmark that money to support these events, maybe we don't go the full \$20,000 tonight, but she would be comfortable allocating the \$11,500 that Council set aside to support these events.

There was a discussion on the date of the summer fest.

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Haugen seconded the motion that Council consider awarding the \$11,500 that was allocated in the budget to give to the Scappoose Library to support at least the first two events. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

#### **Discussion on rescheduling or cancellation of the January 21, 2025 Council meeting**

City Manager Burgener explained because of the Goal Setting Retreat possibly on January 25, and due to no items for the agenda staff is looking to rescheduling or cancelling the January 21, 2025 Council meeting.

Councilor Jacobs moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to cancel the January 21, 2025 City Council meeting. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Jacobs, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

#### **Announcements – information only**

##### **Calendar**

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

##### **Updates: City Manager; Police Chief; Councilors; and Mayor**

City Manager Burgener went over the proposed dates for the Council Retreat, along with the process for the retreat. He explained January 28 is City Day at the Capitol. He explained to Council they did get an email, but he wanted to formally recognize that we did some additional restructuring, and he did promoted NJ. He explained NJ is doing a hybrid position. He is not fully taking over what Isaac was doing. NJ is now a City Planner and Assistant to City Manager. He explained some of the duties that Isaac did will be split between NJ, Susan, Kathleen and Carol. He stated Kathleen, Carol and Susan have already been doing a great job covering that a lot, so NJ is going to help relieve some of that burden on them but also NJ has a lot of great experience. We're looking at his parks and recreation background. He thinks together he and NJ will be able to help move a recreation program, a parks program further, in addition to other things as well. He stated it is a great career move for NJ, to be able to go toward his goals as he would love to be a city manager one day. He stated NJ has done a great job in his current

position, it is a great way to consolidate what we currently have, and it also opens up a part-time position for a city clerk. He thanked Susan, Kathleen, Carol and all the staff in general, but they really have been putting up a lot for the last, how ever long since Isaac has been gone, they have taken all those responsibilities upon themselves.

Chief Fluellen congratulated Mayor and Council who were elected during the last election. He gave an update on the Police Department. He talked about the public comment and that he believes in transparency and that he has offered to talk to Alicia Heiges and his offer still stands.

Councilor Haugen stated it is really good to be back at this particular juncture. He stated we have an absolutely terrific City Council and Mayor. We have a spectacular City Manager, double thumbs up on our Acting Police Chief, the staff is incredible, Judge Todd is still here, our amazing citizens, Bill Blank who is been here for decades in service to the community and JJ and Jeff. What an amazing time to be apart of this and so he feels really good about that. He is ready for the new year!

Councilor Jacobs echo's what Councilor Haugen says, we are in a good place as a Council with staff as well. There is a lot of positive momentum, really good energy. She saw that come to life at the holiday party, that was so much fun and was amazing just to see that energy and togetherness so thank you everyone. She is looking forward to 2025.

Councilor Holmes stated congratulations to her fellow Councilors and Mayor, and she is looking forward to a nice next two years that she will be serving with all of them. She thanked City Manager Burgener for organizing the visit down to Salem so they have kind of a cohesive instinct message when they are meeting with lawmakers, they can really kind of showcase what makes Scappoose special, what's on their radar and let them understand what our priorities are for the coordination.

Councilor Santiago congratulated NJ. She thanked Ben for thinking outside the box and stated so far, he has exceeded all of her expectations. She thanked Chief Fluellen for all his hard work. She thanked staff for taking on that extra work. She stated Happy New Year everyone!

Council President Miller stated thank you everyone who voted for him. He is looking forward to a great 2025. He thinks that the City of Scappoose is on a really good track both with Council and staff, so he is super excited to see what the next four years brings. Congratulations Joel and Marisa, he looks forward to working with all of the Council. He thinks they have a really good A Team here and looking forward to doing really great things for the City. He stated as far as his liaison position with County Commissioners going to those meetings and relaying information back that is pertinent to the City or could impact the City the County hasn't had any meetings, he thinks, since our last City Council meeting just due to the holiday schedule and their own holiday party as well so he doesn't have anything to report on that. He is looking forward to a great 2025!

Mayor Backus talked about looking the Council liaison list and maybe that is something they will talk about at the goal setting session a little bit. He thanked Whoville, it was another great season. There over 5,000 people who visited and it was on different news channels. He explained there is a meeting this week to discuss next year and where they want to go from here. He explained the City of Scappoose will host the LOC Small City event here on February 7. He explained on March 6 Nate with Regional Solutions would like to meet. Nate is planning on bringing Business Oregon, DEQ, ODOT, DLCD, Col-Pac, etc., to learn more about our projects and our priorities. He will get the invite out to everyone. He said thank you again for a great year!

#### **Executive Session ~ 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions**

Mayor Backus read the statement for the Executive Session and went into Executive Session at 8:28pm.

**Present:** Mayor Backus; Council President Miller; Councilor Santiago; Councilor Holmes; Councilor Jacobs; Councilor Haugen; City Manager Burgener; and City Recorder Reeves.

**Remote:** Associate Planner NJ Johnson

#### **Open Session**


Mayor Backus came out of Executive Session at 9:09pm and into open session.

#### **Adjournment**

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 9:09pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:

  
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City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC