



# SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE  
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 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=frgwJFQoxYY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frgwJFQoxYY).

## **Call to Order**

Mayor Backus called the May 19, 2025 City Council meeting to order at 7:00pm.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Roll Call**

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Benjamin Burgener	City Manager
Tyler Miller	Councilor President	Chris Fluellen	Police Chief
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder/HR
Kim Holmes	Councilor	N.J. Johnson	Assistant to City Manager/City Planner
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor		(left at 7:27pm)
Joel Haugen	Councilor		

**Excused:** Councilor Marisa Jacobs

**Remote:** Susan Knudsen (left at 7:13pm); Craig Knudsen (left at 7:27pm) and Joe (joined at 7:28pm)

## **Approval of the Agenda**

Councilor Haugen moved, and Council President Miller seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

## **Public Comment ~ Items not on the agenda**

Pat Kessi, Scappoose School Board Member, gave an update on their bond process. He explained one of the reasons why he is here and giving an update is because one of their options that is the middle school might be available and they want to keep it in the community, and it might be available for the City to do something with it. He explained this year they looked at the long-term plan for the school and the student population growth is not increasing, believe it or not. It looks like for the next 20 years it will be about the same, so they looked at just doing a seventh and eighth grade, not six, seven and eight grade. He explained they really looked at what they can do for bare bones but something that is going to last a long time. He explained they came up with four options and each of those options are around \$40 million. He explained they are going to get community feedback on what they think is going to be the best option.

Mayor Backus explained in the past we did sign a memorandum of understanding in regards to looking into possibly helping and doing something with the middle school. He said, speaking for himself, that we would be interested in seeing again what opportunities we as a City may have as a community center, or office space and we would like to keep that building up if we can. He would like to see what the options are.

Council President Miller asked if there was a study done on what it would cost the School District to bring the middle school up to code?

Pat Kessi replied yes, there was a study and a full renovation was about \$70 million to bring it up to school standards, not office standards. He explained if the City were to use it, they could use it as office standards.

Council President Miller asked if there was anything in the study that would exclude the City from obtaining that report and using it?

Pat Kessi replied not at all.

Mayor Backus and Council thanked Pat Kessi.

## **Consent Agenda ~ May 5, 2025 City Council meeting minutes**

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Haugen seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ May 5, 2025 City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Haugen, aye.

## **Oath of Office ~ Sergeant Jacob Anderson**

Mayor Backus reaffirmed the oath of office for Sergeant Jacob Anderson.

Congratulations, Sergeant Anderson!

## **Continuation of Work Session (If needed) ~ 2025 Community Enhancement Program Presentations**

Heather Arnis and Wanda Bauer gave an overview of the Scappoose Historical Society application.

Amanda Longtain & Mary McNabb gave an overview of the Scappoose Kiwanis Youth Rec Center application.

Jeff Weiss gave an overview of the Scappoose Public Library application.

Judy Dughman and Sherry Quarry gave an overview of the Scappoose Senior Center application.

Clair Catt gave an overview of the United Way of Columbia County application.

Mayor Backus and the Council thanked all the applicants. He explained at the next Council meeting they will discuss eligibility and how much money they have to divide.

## **Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District Annual Report**

Fire Chief Pricher handed out the 2024 Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District Annual Report and gave an overview of the report.

After some discussion Mayor and Council thanked Chief Pricher for the presentation.

## **Announcements – information only**

### **Calendar**

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

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

City Manager Burgener gave some updates. He explained last week he had the opportunity to meet with the County Commissioners. He has been asked to serve on the Crown Zellerbach Trail Advisory Committee. He explained conversations continue around Luma Vista. He talked

to the Council about an individual asking about additional restrictions regarding back yard burning. He would like to know how the Council would like to proceed.

Mayor Backus explained he liked what Chief Pricher said about educating the community.

Council and staff discussed the burning complaint issue more and discussed maybe offering other opportunities like a yard debris day without changing our code. The general consensus was to have the community member come before Council during public comment.

City Manager Burgener talked about the upcoming Scappoose Outdoor Fun Festival event.

Police Chief Fluellen gave updates on the Police Department. He explained last week he attended the Homeland Security Emergency Management Commission and is now a voting member. He explained the Scappoose Police Department will be participating in the Outdoor Fun Festival.

Councilor Haugen gave an update on the School District meeting that he attended. He explained the 2025 Valedictorian set an all-time GPA record and is graduating with 28 college credits and then her brother is the salutatorian and also a State wrestling champion. He would like to recognize the standout graduates.

Councilor Holmes wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that the high school community did tragically lose one of their own. She wants to recognize that there are a lot of families that are hurting in many different ways so be kind to each other out there because it will take time to heal. She went over some budget items and asked if we have earmarked money for the Earth Day event and the Summer Fest event, and in addition the Senior Center?

City Manager Burgener replied it is in the budget with similar allocations.

Councilor Holmes explained in looking at the Department Heads in the budget she wants to make sure we have looked at their wages.

City Manager Burgener explained we are going through a current salary study for those positions.

Councilor Holmes stated to City Manager Burgener that he is coming up on a one-year anniversary. She thanked him and said it has been great having him here. She explained when they had his compensation discussion a few months ago there was the talk, and she doesn't know if we ever resolved it about if they want to do a 360 review or not. She thinks the agreement was to not do it tied to a compensation. She stated if we want to do something like that coming up on a year would probably make sense. She stated if there is a conversation we want to have, we should get that on the calendar so that doesn't get missed.

City Manager Burgener explained the last conversation we had on that was more aligned that we would be doing that as he works with ICMA and that could be shared through the Council. ICMA has that every so often and they already have a mechanism to do the 360. He explained the conversation they had when he was reviewed was the official review would be a year from that review so it would be in March.

The general consensus was to have a work session sometime in July to discuss the city manager review process.

Councilor Santiago explained she attended the LOC Conference. She explained the next LOC Conference is the 100<sup>th</sup> year and it will be in Portland. She gave an overview of the EDC meeting. She explained the LOC finally heard from the Economic Forecast Budget and she looked at the budget and how it is going to affect Scappoose. She explained for Scappoose the economic forecast impacts would be manufacturing vulnerability. She explained other effects would be slower growth; growth recession; and there is less funding available for local infrastructure projects, education and other services that benefit other communities like ours. She stated what she would like to emphasize what she is saying is not blue, red, it is very bipartisan ~ regarding the political affiliations, she wanted to share her concerns for the well-being of this community. The economic forecast presents challenges that effect all Scappoose residents, businesses and families. She stated according to the State's economic forecast, both increasing trade tariffs and cut to Federal programs will directly slow growth Oregon's communities like ours. To prepare for these challenges in Scappoose we must do three concrete actions: Build up our city's rainy-day fund; support wider variety of local businesses rather than depending on single industry and focus on limited resource investments that help withstand economic pressure. She explained we should be looking for opportunities to collaborate with State and Local partners and maximize our funding remaining available. Community partnership is important more than ever. That is what she got out of the Economic Forecast.

Council President Miller talked about schedule time for staffing the Council tent for the Summer Outdoor Fun Festival. He asked City Manager Burgener if there is any staff that wants to be at the event to help out.

City Manager Burgener replied he will ask staff to see if anyone is interested.

Mayor Backus talked about information he received from "Just serve". He explained his heart goes out to all the families involved in the incident the other night. He stated Scappoose we are all one big family and so when this happened it hurts all of us because it's a family member, whether they are from the School District, or the City of Scappoose, we are one big family.

## Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph A. Backus", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Susan M. Reeves", written over a horizontal line.

City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC