



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

Monday, November 17, 2025

City Council Meeting Agenda

Regular Meeting 7:00pm

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=RoW023fmgd0.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the November 17, 2025 City Council meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Benjamin Burgener	City Manager
Tyler Miller	Council President	Chris Fluellen	Police Chief
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder/HR
Kim Holmes	Councilor	Dave Sukau	Public Works Director
Joel Haugen	Councilor	N.J. Johnson	Assistant to City Manager/City Planner
Marty Marquis	Councilor		
John E. Riutta	Councilor		

Tyler Ferreira Student Representative

Remote: Carol Almer (left at 8:19pm); Alicia Heiges (left at 8:07pm); Nancy Ward (left at 9:07pm); and Frank Stock (left at 7:13pm)

Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add agenda item #2 Purchase of Camera Truck. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Public Comment ~ Items not on the agenda

Alicia Heiges, Scappoose, read her formal written statement (which is scanned in and included below) into the record.

FORMAL WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE OFFICIAL RECORD

Submitted by: Alicia Helges

Date: November 17th, 2025

To: Scappoose City Council

Re: Public Comment -- Misconduct, Retaliation, and False Information Provided by City Officials

INTRODUCTION

Good evening. My name is Alicia Helges, and I am a resident of Scappoose. I am here again as a concerned resident because there is a clear pattern of deflection, misrepresentation, and refusal to accept accountability by city leadership.

For months, I have brought forward documented concerns. Instead of addressing misconduct, several of you nitpick minor details and imply that I am lying. These are not misunderstandings, they are retaliatory tactics intended to undermine my credibility.

Let me begin by reminding you:

I have evidence supporting every claim I have made.

These statements are not characterizations; they are verifiable facts.

For the Council's convenience and transparency, I am attaching the child-abuse hotline report referenced in this statement.

Because the Council repeatedly overlooks this evidence, I am addressing your misleading statements and then revisiting information the city already received.

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Backus

Mayor Backus tried to discredit me by saying he texted, rather than called, Chief Fluellen. During the January 6th meeting, Fluellen responded with, "No, don't break into cars," and together they gave the public the impression that Chief Fluellen assisted him.

The ethical violation occurred the moment the mayor reached out to Fluellen for personal assistance.

If LOC ethics training were taken seriously, he would know this is inappropriate.

Council President Tyler Miller

Council President Miller stated that Officer Barnes "didn't transfer," when "lateral transfer" is the correct and widely used policing term.

He also claimed outside agencies reviewed my concerns.

None have contacted me.

I referenced multiple "meeting requests," omitting that I had no obligation to meet with someone who has already falsified or omitted information. Accusing me of misrepresentations while ignoring the City's own documented inaccuracies is not accountability, it is retaliation.

Councillor Haugen

Councillor Haugen suggested that public commenters should pledge not to lie, a statement clearly directed at me. His comment was not made to seek accountability, but to undermine my credibility despite knowing the evidence.

City Manager Burgener

City Manager Burgener claimed my comment contained inaccuracies.

That statement itself was misleading.

The only correction I made involved call vs. text.

His characterization was an exaggeration meant to discredit me.

Despite submitting multiple complaints to the City Manager, HR, and the City Council, none have been meaningfully acknowledged or addressed.

EVIDENCE OF MISCONDUCT (OTIS REPORT)

I am now revisiting the evidence, specifically the attached child-abuse hotline report submitted by Chief Fluellen on January 25th. This report contains several false or misleading statements that contradict the information I directly provided:

- "It is not known why the teacher would do this."
False. I told him exactly why and provided recordings documenting her behavior.
- "It is not clear how she may have started a wave of bullying."
False. The recordings clearly show how she contributed.
- "Conrad did sketch a gun at school last year."
Completely false. This was a rumor with no evidence. SPD had no basis to present it as fact.
- "It is not known if he has access to weapons at home."
False and misleading.
- "Removed from school, unknown why."
False. He was cc'd on emails documenting the false gun-threat rumors and lack of due process.
- "He currently attends online."
False. I told SPD repeatedly that both children were transferred to Hillsboro SD. Conrad never attended online school.
- Improper redactions
SPD, not me, redacted the DHS screener's name, title, and signature, obstructing accountability.

These inaccuracies created a misleading, retaliatory narrative that does not reflect reality or the information SPD had.

BODY CAMERAS & WITHHELD EVIDENCE

SPD has refused to release body-camera footage from the September 2024 school threat incidents. I was told that to obtain the footage, I would need a court order.

If SPD were following policy, a court order would not be necessary.

Officer Barnes also entered my business under false pretenses with his camera off, only activating it after I said I was recording. A transparent department does not behave this way. SPD has consistently protected SSD over the residents it is supposed to serve.

CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS & CONCLUSION

This misconduct goes far beyond miscommunication. Multiple civil rights have been violated — due process, equal protection, and the right to be free from retaliation. These concerns were raised previously and ignored.

When officials violate civil rights, they lose the immunities they believe they are protected by.

Your continued attempts to discredit me, suppress evidence, and avoid accountability only reinforce why I must keep returning. I will not be intimidated out of exercising my constitutional rights. I will continue to correct the record and hold this city accountable because that is what transparency and public service require.

Respectfully submitted,
Allela Helges
Scappoose, Oregon

****end of public comment****

Mayor Backus presented a plaque to former Councilor Marisa Jacobs. In special recognition of Marisa Jacobs Scappoose City Council for your outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the Citizens of Scappoose October 2023 ~ September 2025. Thank you, Marisa!



Consent Agenda ~ October 20, 2025 City Council meeting minutes; and Reappointment of EDC Members Sean Findon and David Sideras

Councilor Haugen moved, and Council President Miller seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ October 20, 2025 City Council meeting minutes; and Reappointment of EDC Members Sean Findon and David Sideras. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

New Business

Camera Truck Purchase

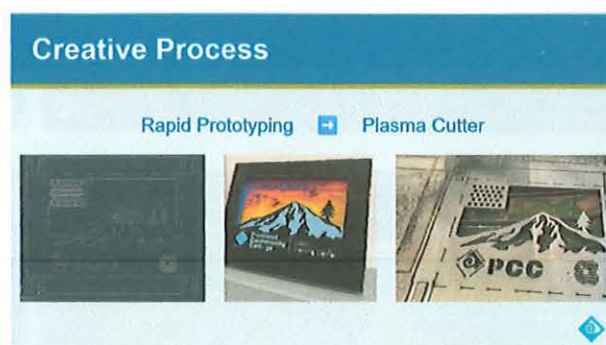
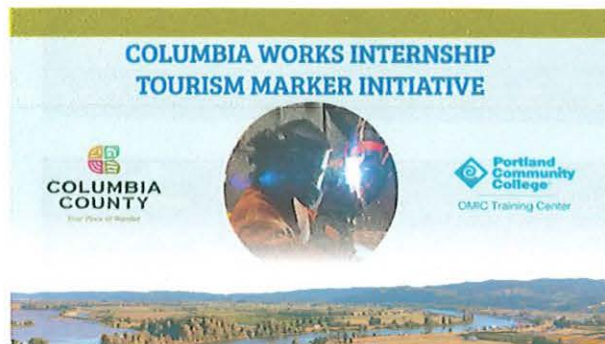
Public Works Director Dave Sukau explained he apologizes for not having a staff report this evening. Recently a vendor reached out to him with an opportunity for the City to capitalize on a very affordable piece of equipment that we use quite regularly through contracted services. What the vendor has is a 2022 camera truck that they have used for demonstration purposes only and it is virtually like new with all the bugs worked out so it is better than new in some ways. Staff is asking for Council approval to make this purchase once he has completed all the procurement criteria. He has reached out to another vendor and has a quote for another brand. The truck that we are looking at is \$218,000 and the other comparable one is a 2023 used demo truck for \$400,000. He stated for the particular truck that we are looking at brand new would be \$380,000 versus the other brand at \$500,000. He stated this is a substantial savings to the City and a great opportunity to capitalize on this. He will be seeking a third quote. The reason why this is also very advantageous for the City is that we pay every year close to \$50,000 for hired services. We are required by DEQ to camera 20% of our sewer system to be compliant with their regulations and so we're paying \$45,000 right now, and that rate is going up almost \$5,000 a year. He explained it would only take about 4 1/2 years for us to cover this expense and then start to profit back on it. However, with those services we do pay for their staffing, not ours, so we would have staff time involved with this. The other thing is where this would be advantageous for us is we're only doing the bare minimums right now and we should be doing more and would like to do more but we're financially constrained due to budget issues and we would like to be able to do more root monitoring, whereas if we had this equipment, we could do that. We do have lines where root intrusion is problematic and so we can monitor after we do a root treatment with our own equipment. The other is our storm system, which we have never tv'd and would like to do that as well. He stated there are many great opportunities for us here and apologized again for the short notice.

Council and staff discussed this agenda item further.

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion that Council approve City Manager Burgener to work with Public Works Director Dave Sukau to procure the camera truck that has been proposed tonight not to exceed \$220,000 pending the warranty details being worked out to the satisfaction of both the Public Works Director and City Manager. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Historic Candle Sign Installation

Vero Reeves, PCC OMIC Internship Coordinator, went over her presentation.



Columbia Works Internship



Between 2024 and 2025
accepted 21 interns.

Instruction included:

- TIG welding
- plasma table
- CNC router
- Grind
- Riveting
- Adobe Illustrator
- 3D modeling
- 3D printing



Industry Partners



6 industry partners hosted tours of their facilities to Columbia Works interns.

- Nike
- OMIC R&D
- Vigor
- Composites Universal
- Amcor
- Acumed



Portfolio Day



- Portfolio
 - Resume
 - Cover Letter
 - Request for Letters of Recommendation
 - Documentation
 - Project Description
- Presentation Skills
- Awareness of Local Opportunities
- Meaningful Public Project
- Interview Ready



Columbia Works Wander Trail



Concept: Historic Markers made by Columbia Works Interns to promote economic tourism in Columbia County.

Results:

- 20 historic markers and 1 sculpture!
- Vernonia, Rainier, Columbia City, Clatskanie, St. Helens, Scappoose



Vernonia

Installed 9/25!



Rainier

Installed 10/29!

2 Historic Trail Markers and Eagle Sculpture



Columbia City

Installed 11/6!



Scappoose Bay Marina

Installed 10/30!



Scappoose Historic Markers

Installation: TBD



Walls Home

Peace Candle

Waterways
Chapman Landing



Interns!



Adrian Weisman - Scappoose High School

Joseph Penwell - Scappoose Academy

Nigel Greenup - Scappoose High School





The consensus of Council is to proceed with these historical markers.

Mayor Backus and Council thanked Vero.

Resolution No. 25-22: Authorizing the City of Scappoose to Apply to Oregon Parks and Recreation for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, Providing for Signers

City Manager Benjamin Burgener explained staff felt this would be a great opportunity to help connect the parks by applying for this grant for a pedestrian bridge.

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Haugen seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution No. 25-22: Authorizing the City of Scappoose to Apply to Oregon Parks and Recreation for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, Providing for Signers. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

City Manager Performance Assessment Tool: Functional areas and performance assessment

Councilor Holmes went over the final changes and updates to the draft City Manager Performance Assessment Tool: Functional areas and performance assessment.

Mayor Backus talked about Council working on a calendar to show when items need to be done for the city manager performance assessment.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion that Council adopt the City Manager Performance Assessment Tool: Functional areas and performance assessment version 3. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Councilor Holmes explained she will update the draft and get the final version to City Manager Burgener.

Discussion on cancelling December 1, 2025 City Council meeting

Councilor Riutta moved, and Councilor Holmes seconded the motion that Council cancel the December 1, 2025 City Council meeting. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Work Session

General Fund Level of Service

Assistant to City Manager/City Planner N.J. Johnson went over the staff report. The City's General Fund houses the Administration, Municipal Court, Parks, Planning, and Police Departments. It is funded by property taxes, interest, franchise fees, licenses & permits, intergovernmental revenue, charges for service, and occasionally revenues from grants and loans when certain projects need to be funded outside our standard funding sources. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the General Fund makes up ~24.6% of the City's overall budget, which can vary significantly year to year based on multi-million-dollar projects in various funds. The City is facing a General Fund operating deficit of ~\$600,000-\$1,000,000. This deficit is expected to increase year over year if no action is taken since the rate of revenue increase is and will continue to be outpaced by the rate of expenditure increases. Staff completed an analysis of the General Fund and provided three different budget scenarios based on constraints and level of service. Each scenario strived to minimize unnecessary buffer that is not historically spent, standardize the general operating budget by eliminating one-time expenses, and improve the accuracy of both the revenue and expense sides of the budget. The following scenarios are for analysis only and do not necessarily represent budget options or recommendations by staff. Below is a description of each scenario:

- Scenario #1, "Bare Bones Operations": Reflects level of service where staff is narrowly focused on providing minimum required services. Includes reduction in force, no capital or consultant projects, moratorium of training and travel, elimination of community contributions, and delayed maintenance on buildings and equipment, etc. This is not, in any scenario, a sustainable way to run a city the size of Scappoose for several years. This would be a one or two-year "get right" measure if the City needed to drastically reduce its spending while other revenue options were pursued.
- Scenario #2, "Quality Operations": Reflects the level of service of a city delivering good, efficient services and the staff and resources necessary to do so. Includes items such as training and developing employees to promote retention and improve service delivery, regular equipment purchases as warranted, and regular building and equipment maintenance.
- Scenario #3, "Aspirational Operations": Reflects level of service of an aspirational city, based on staff feedback for improvements. Includes community contributions, above and beyond programming, and additional staffing.

Analysis

The City must now determine its desired General Fund level of service to determine what the true gap is between the cost of providing the level of service the City sets and the anticipated funding received. From there, staff will provide revenue options the City can pursue to close that gap. Council will instruct staff of the general level of service the City aspires to provide in the next 5-10 years among the three scenarios. Generally speaking, scenario #1 reduces the current level of service, scenario #2 sustains it, and scenario #3 improves it. The scenario chosen will determine the base cost of supporting the General Fund. Beyond the base cost of each scenario (i.e. daily operations of the City), the items below are of particular interest and warrant determining the level of service for each item specifically. During the meeting, Council will advise staff on how extensively to support each item moving forward.

Account	FY 26	Notes
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT - 100		
Nuisance abatement	\$12,000	Haven't exceeded \$7,000 in past 3 fiscal years.
Chamb. of Comm.	\$1,300	
Greater Portland Inc.	\$2,000	
Columbia Economic Team	\$12,000	
EDC lunches	\$1,200	
Annual Town Meeting	\$3,000	
Earth Day	\$1,500	
Outdoor Summer Festival	\$10,000	
Emergency Management	\$9,845	
Community Enhancement Program	\$42,000	
Senior Center	\$20,000	

POLICE DEPARTMENT - 140		
Department FTEs (sworn officer)	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 FTE fully staffed (no officers being recruited, in background, or in the Academy) would provide 24/7 coverage. • 14 FTE would add a full-time detective and school resource officer. • 16 FTE would add 2 corporal positions for more leadership/advancement opportunity
PARKS DEPARTMENT - 160		
Department FTEs	1.4	Public Works Director recommends 2.0 FTE given the acquisition of the Miesner property and the near-term development of north Veterans Park (formerly known as Grabhorn Park). Utility workers currently spend significant time on parks and it would benefit the entire Public Works operation to have 2 employees fully dedicated to parks.

Once staff collects Council feedback on these matters, staff will determine the cost of providing the level of service desired by Council. This will lead to a follow-up discussion in a Council meeting where the City will explore various funding options with more extensive financial details about the extent that each funding option could support the General Fund.

Mayor Backus would like to see the "Quality Operations" maintained.

Council President Miller stated these three scenarios are great, but one key point that he thinks we need to take into consideration when looking at these is the state of the economy and what peoples appetite is for these types of things because these, like bare bones operation, quality operations, aspirational operations like of course, we all what to be a aspirational operations, but we also have to balance that with where we're at currently in the time too. He stated honestly for him, he thinks that is more realistic to look. He stated we are not going to be able to achieve any of these things if we don't take into account what our taxpayers are willing to pay.

City Manager Burgener explained that is a huge part of the conversation as representatives of the public, what is that appetite. He explained we know where we want to be, and we know a couple years ago the public was in support of keeping our police department. He stated what level is appropriate, knowing there is going to be some cost and what's reasonable to achieve that.

Councilor Haugen agrees with the quality operations approach. He talked about looking at a rainy-day approach.

Councilor Santiago would like to look at the impact of not supporting community events.

Assistant to City Manager/City Planner N.J. Johnson discussed with Council the following list of items and how they would like to proceed:

- Nuisance abatement
- Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Portland Ince
- Columbia Economic Team
- EDC lunches
- Annual Town Meeting
- Earth Day
- Outdoor Summer Festival
- Emergency Management
- Community Enhancement Program
- Senior Center

Councilor Holmes explained one thing to look at is some of the reasons why some of these events are so important is because we do not have recreational programming or formal programming for our residents. She asked is that something that we want to look at as we discuss the parks and rec department to get an FTE?

There was a discussion on possibly having volunteers assist with the parks and rec.

Councilor Holmes explained if we are going out to the residents and the taxpayers we should ask what's the priority? Would you rather fund someone who maybe coordinates recreation and other programs in the City or give money to nonprofits that serve a portion of the residents in the City.

Councilor Marquis agrees to getting more information from the community.

There was a discussion on possibly updating the criteria of the CEP applications.

There was a discussion on if Council has enough information to say we need two officers on 24/7 or do we need to get additional information. There was also discussion on a School Resource Officer (SRO), overtime, and overall staffing.

Assistant to City Manager/City Planner N.J. Johnson explained staff has good direction and a lot of this will come back when we do our public outreach. He explained staff might have a follow up on the level of service before we get into the revenue building side.

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Santiago seconded the motion to extend the meeting past 9:00pm. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Councilor President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Council President Miller explained one thing he does want to remind all Councilors about is that if we do get into asking the public for whether there be a public safety fee or a levy situation, it will be Council out in the community that has to carry this, not City staff, as it is not allowed by law. He stated as we are having these conversations make sure you are all asking questions and getting the questions you want answered and voicing your opinion because it is us that has to put our name behind this effort at some point.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

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

City Manager Burgener gave an update on the LOC Strategic Planning session and an update on the Small Cities meeting.

Chief Fluellen explained last week they had the honor to participate and help provide a service for a Columbia County resident who was a Washington County Deputy who passed away. He thanked the Scappoose High School staff for all their assistance with the memorial. He also gave an update on the Police Department.

Student Representative Ferreira explained he will be attending the Happy Valley Youth Town Hall, and his goal is to see how they are reaching their schools and what kind of techniques they are using to get more people involved. He explained he is working on putting together a presentation to present at the High School to explain what they would do with the YAC (Youth Advisory Council) to get a general interest within the school.

Councilor Riutta explained it was a great pleasure over the past few weeks to see just how this community came together in the name of trying to carry those members of our community who are affected by the interruption of the SNAP program and what he saw truly reminded him of why life in a small town in particularly Scappoose was so to be desired. It brought out the best in a lot of people. He stated two local businesses that particularly come to mind, and there are many more who participated in similar activities, but these two particularly came to his attention. One is a single owner, operator business Gordon and Hill Bakery. She not only lowered her prices in order to get more people to buy and donate additional funds, she was putting up fresh baked bread for free no questions asked to anybody who needed it and allowing people to pay forward for the donation of bread to the local food bank. Last week she donated 57 loaves of fresh baked bread to the local food bank. She operates this entire operation by herself. He stated also, Ixtapa not only was offering free meals to people who were affected by the cuts and SNAP benefits, but they also had a very public table where members of the community were encouraged to donate not only nonperishable food items, but

hygiene items, which are often very much overlooked in such drives. He stated these are only two examples of untold that also took place in our community and he thinks that we can all be proud to live in such community when in times of such need the community stands up and rallies around. He was just absolutely as proud as he could be.

Councilor Marquis stated on that same tip, he just wants to remind everybody that these benefits are going to stay disrupted probably for a while as the Federal Government comes back online and with the holidays come up, if there's any opportunities to volunteer to give or to serve especially with Thanksgiving right around the corner, just share opportunities that come across your desk. He doesn't know that there is anything in Scappoose for people to come and get a Thanksgiving meal. He explained he, Mayor Backus and Councilor Holmes showed up at the Wind Phone dedication at Veterans Park, and it was a short and sweet dedication. He explained the High School dance team took first place in Palm in the first competition in Clackamas.

Student Representative Ferreira explained currently at the High School they are doing Thanksgiving baskets.

Councilor Haugen explained he would like to inaugurate in January recognition of the Rotary student of the month from the High School and the information would just be from the School Board meeting to put in our newsletter. He explained a little while back we talked about the civility stewardship pledge and Patty Mulvihill, with LOC, is going to be pitching this at the National Conference in February. He would love to have a unanimous pledge here, even though we are all in that realm. He stated we could be the model of civility and stewardship pledge. He handed out the pledge copies to Council.

Councilor Holmes asked is there a benefit in waiting for what Patty comes up with, so it's universal?

Councilor Haugen replied no, we are trying to move this along and get the ball rolling. He stated if everybody is on board here he will forward it to Patty. He explained Kelly Jo Smith is taking the same form to the County Commission. He stated it would be nice to kind of have the notoriety of being the first Council in Oregon to have this in place.

The consensus was to look into this more and then bring it back to Council.

Councilor Holmes explained she wanted to acknowledge the work of the Public Works Department and the City getting the Wind phone installed. She appreciates when someone can bring an idea to Council, they can provide some feedback and that feedback is integrated. She thinks the site selection of Veterans Park was excellent. She hopes it serves both residents of this community and broader Columbia County, so thanks for making it happen.

Councilor Santiago asked Assistant to City Manager/City Planner N.J. Johnson to give updates from the EDC meeting, which he did.

Councilor Santiago explained she handed out a draft resolution and an exhibit A. She explained before they reviewed the handout she wanted to make a comment. She stated "I want to speak clearly on how a topic that's affecting our residents even if it is not showing up on the local

news. Over the last few weeks, I've heard directly from families in our community who are scared parents who are telling their children. Children are crying, afraid to go to school or unable to concentrate in class. Residents are staying inside, avoiding stores, appointments and everyday routines. Small businesses are seeing fewer customers because some families, especially Latino and immigrant families, do not feel safe leaving their homes. This is happening here in Scappoose across Columbia County. Even if the incidents have not been publicly confirmed. To find answers, I spoke directly to two local leaders Commissioner Magruder and State Representative Darcy Edwards to ask what Community resources exist here in Columbia County for families who are afraid or impacted. Unfortunately, they were not able to identify any local resources for residents. This is exactly why I reached out to organizations including the Programme Hispano EIRC, which stands for the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition, and ECO. These are organizations that provide statewide resources here in Oregon. EIRC hotline is 888-622-1510 and their website is EIRCOREGON.org. Follow them on social media outlets to be part of the Rapid Response program. Echo's hotline is 888-274-7292. I share these numbers in public record because families and our community are scared. They are seeking help, and they don't know where to turn. This lack of local support is real and is a real gap, one that we city leaders cannot ignore. I reached out to Sheriff Pixley and Chief Fluellen, and I wanted to thank them both for their transparency. They were clear Oregon is a long-standing sanctuary State. Local agencies are prohibited from participating in civil immigration enforcement. In the last three years Scappoose PD has never been contacted by ICE for assistance. Columbia County Sheriff's Office is not aware of any ice operations here and both agencies affirm that they cannot and will not participate in ICE activities unless it's a life threatened officer safety situation. I appreciate that clarity, but that does not erase how our community is feeling. Families are afraid, not because of our local police, but because of what they are seeing statewide and nationally. Aggressive detentions, racial profiling and a recent Supreme Court ruling that allows ICE agents to stop individuals based solely on suspicion, and our residents know very well who is being profiled. People that look like me, my family, and many others in our city. Whether someone is here with papers or without, no one deserves to be taken off the street with fear, force and brutality and no child deserves to sit in class wondering if their parents will be there when they get home. As local leaders, we set the tone for safety and unity in our City. We do not need an ORS Statute repeated back to us. We already understand the law. What we need is what our community is asking for is local leadership, local clarity and local commitment. So tonight I'm asking my fellow Council members to take two steps: Adopting formal proclamation acknowledging that our community is being impacted by fear, regardless of whether the ICE activity is occurring within our city or not. Fear itself has consequences on mental health, school attendance, local businesses and public safety. And two, develop a written local level policy affirming that Scappoose is committed to being a safe, inclusive community, where residents can go to school, work and go to the grocery store without fear the fear of being profiled or targeted. This is about protecting our residents and restoring trust. Our community, especially those who feel invisible and unheard, is asking for reassurance. We want to know, do you care; is my family safe here; will our city stand for us? My answer is yes. Now I'm asking the Council to join me in making a commitment clear, not only in words, but in policy. Thank you. And I also want to read something in Spanish to my community."

She read the information in Spanish.

Buenas tardes a todos.

Mi nombre es **Jeannet Santiago**, concejal de la Ciudad de Scappoose y también una mujer latina que ha vivido y criado a su familia aquí por muchos años.

Quiero hablar directamente a mi comunidad latina.

Los estoy escuchando. Sé que muchos de ustedes sienten miedo por lo que está pasando en otras ciudades — en Hillsboro, Woodburn y en otras partes del estado. Y aunque no aparezca en las noticias de Scappoose, **sé que ese miedo también existe aquí.**

He escuchado de familias que tienen temor de salir de la casa, de llevar a sus hijos a la escuela, de ir al trabajo o de simplemente ir a la tienda. Nuestros niños están ansiosos, nuestras familias preocupadas, y muchos no saben a dónde acudir para pedir ayuda.

Quiero que sepan algo muy claro: **no están solos.**

Como su concejal, estoy trabajando para traer claridad, información y recursos. Ya he contactado a organizaciones como El Programa Hispano, PIRC y ECO para buscar apoyo para ustedes, y seguiré buscando más.

Y, más importante que quiero decirles hoy es esto:

Si necesitan información, apoyo o simplemente alguien que los escuche, por favor contáctenme. Estoy aquí para ustedes. Haré todo lo posible para apoyarlos y para que Scappoose sea un lugar donde todas nuestras familias puedan vivir sin miedo.

Gracias.

Jeannet Santiago

Councilor Santiago explained she did review the draft resolution and also administrative guidance. She explained they have already talked to Legal Counsel. She explained this is not something we have to do now but she did want to bring it forward to give to Council to have time to review and give your comments and thoughts.

Councilor Haugen stated thank you to Councilor Santiago for doing this.

Councilor Holmes asked if this is modeled off of anything that other cities in Oregon have done?

Councilor Santiago replied she knows in the City of Hillsboro this has come forward because a lot of their community has been affected. She explained this has already been implemented, she is just asking for affirmation. She said this would just be making a statement that “We hear you, we are behind you”. She explained this is more of not trying to come up with more policies, it is already there. This is just reaffirming what is already there and just saying we get it and we are here for you.

City Manager Burgener explained there would need to be more legal review regarding this.

Council President Miller asked as far as exhibit A goes is there anything in here that we don't already practice or that already isn't part of City policy?

City Manager Burgener explained yes, we are doing the majority of those things in our policy.

There are some areas that Legal Counsel saw some legal liability risks of concerns in there. Legal Counsels recommendation was not to have exhibit A in there, but just to have the resolution by itself and take out #5 and restate it.

Councilor Santiago replied she did change #3 & #5.

Mayor Backus, Council and staff discussed this matter in addition to City, State and Federal laws related to the draft resolution and exhibit and how even a proclamation or resolution could be a risk or interfere with grants and other opportunities when it comes to Federal involvement since this is more against how they are doing things.

Council President Miller asked if there is another way that we can accomplish the support that Councilor Santiago wants to accomplish, and he thinks that probably all of the Council wants to accomplish, without having to get into the risk of not qualifying for Federal grants.

Councilor Santiago replied there is no policy. She is not implementing a new policy; this is already in the ordinances. All this is, is she is bringing it up to light. She would hope that every resident is important to all of us.

Mayor Backus, Council and staff continued to discuss this matter.

Councilor Holmes stated she is going to venture to guess there's maybe ten people who look at our council packets outside of this room on a monthly basis. We probably have a lot more followers on social media. She asked could we accomplish the same thing by making a statement of the City's commitment to protecting citizens and upholding the laws of the State and not targeting people. She asked could that statement be made in English and Spanish and put out on social media which would have a much broader reach in, in her opinion, potentially accomplish what she thinks Councilor Santiago wants, which she is supportive of, but completely eliminate the risk and cost associated with doing something like this and the unknown. She stated also it could unlock potentially disharmony in the community. She stated we don't need something to be potentially divisive. She explained what we want to do is continue to bring the community together to support everybody. She asked so can we accomplish the same thing, perhaps using a different platform?

Mayor Backus stated maybe we can have a work session and discuss this more. He explained we all understand what we're trying to achieve here and we are looking for recommendations of how we can accomplish this.

Councilor Haugen stated maybe even run it past the League of Oregon Cities Council.

Councilor Santiago stated she appreciates everyone listening and she would appreciate their support.

Council President Miller stated to Councilor Santiago that he is in support of her and the community too. He is just trying to keep in mind that we represent 8,200 people and trying to not cause any problems for the City's potential funding in any way. It is what we don't know that is scary and so we're trying to strike the balance.

Mayor Backus explained we're very supportive of the idea of what Councilor Santiago is trying to achieve. He thanked Councilor Santiago.

Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder/HR Susan M. Reeves, MMC