



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026
City Council Meeting
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=W0Ay8ysu6RQ.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the February 17, 2026 City Council meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Benjamin Burgener	City Manager
Kim Holmes	Councilor	Chris Fluellen	Police Chief
Joel Haugen	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder/HR
Marty Marquis	Councilor		
John E. Riutta	Councilor		

Student Representative Tyler Ferreira (arrived at 7:29pm)

Remote: Council President Tyler Miller; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; Public Works Director Dave Sukua (left at 7:20pm); Legal Counsel Nancy Werner (left at 7:43pm); Alicia Heiges (left at 7:31pm); Sarah Lu Heath (left at 8:07pm); and an unknown number (left at 7:30pm).

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Backus amended the agenda under old business Resolution No. 26-01 and explained we don't typically have public hearings on resolutions; we might just public comment; and it is the same under new business for Resolution No. 26-02, it will be just public comment. It will be the same for Ordinance No. 926, just public comment, not a public hearing. He explained on Resolution No. 26-03 they have not been assigned a measure number yet.

Councilor Haugen moved, and Councilor Riutta seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council 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

Professor Don Land, Scappoose, explained he is from Scappoose but for the last 30 years he has been working internationally with United Nations, the US Kingdom of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar; Malaysia and Indonesia. For that time his profession expanded greatly from simple sustainability to sustainability plus momentum and profit. He explained right now he represents as Administrator to the Grand Monk of the Buddhism for the walk for peace. This is another phase of it and what they are going to be doing because President Trump came to them last year in September, and he organized for them to make a \$15 billion trade deal with the State of Oregon, dealing with sustainability products and other kinds of advanced technologies and things like that. So, the Grand Monk has authorized him to come here to do business and that's why he is not here on a diplomatic visa because on a diplomatic visa you can't do business. He stated why here in Scappoose; the reason why is because you have the special economic zone. He wants to get involved with that, he wants to get involved with you guys about the developments that you got in mind and maybe they can expand your horizons. They we're thinking about installing a freeze dry plant for organic herbs and medicines and berries and all kinds of things. They want two places on the coast and one here as a transit hub to the PDX. Like he said, he has been gone from Scappoose for 30 years now, but this is his home, his family lives here. So, he wants to try to make an effort to bring some trade, some economics to you and that is why he is here.

Mayor Backus explained he will get with City Manager Burgener, and they will be in contact with Mr. Land.

Lelah Vaga, explained she works for the Wireless Policy Group and is here today on behalf of Verizon. She explained she wanted to just comment on a couple items having to do with agenda item number 2 and the amendments to Title 3 and 13. Verizon did submit a detailed comment letter on February 10th, and she understands that Council has received that. She explained just to clarify a detail that was asked at the previous hearing that the privilege tax would show up as a surcharge on customer bills. She knows that was a question that she wanted to make sure they answered. Aside from that, she just wanted to explain really briefly that Verizon's position on this is essentially that applying a privilege tax of this nature that is tied to use of the right of way to wireless facilities that are not in the right of way, because those facilities utility services to utility operate is something that we consider a new privilege tax on the wireless industry and it is their position that is preempted by Oregon State law. That is detailed in the comment letter and she won't go into detail on that. She will just say that drawing wireless investment into the communities drawing investment in that infrastructure is an important part of evolving our economy and keeping up with just really how people are living and working today, especially with remote school and remote work, you know just

how many devices, especially health devices, are now connected online and the federal government over the past few decades has consistently been passing policies to try to reduce the costs and the amount of administration involved in bringing more wireless infrastructure into our communities. In a town like Scappoose, it is unlikely that there would be a clamor for sites in the right of way anytime soon. They do put small wireless infrastructure in the right-of-way in some places, like in Portland, they put larger communications facilities in the right-of-way. That's not common in a community that's more rural in nature, like this one. What they do is serve the community through sites on private property and those sites are subject to private property leases and traditionally wireless is not considered a utility, at least under Oregon State law, it's regulated separately, regulated differently. So that wireless macro facility on private property does utilize power service and fiber optic connectivity from third party providers and pays for those services, but it has just not been typical for those to be considered utilities and subject to privileged taxes when those taxes are specific to use of the right-of-way. So that's in a nutshell. Verizon's position is that wireless is a very technical topic, and she is a subject matter expert with more than 20 years of experience in citing policy in the wireless industry.

Mayor Backus explained they did receive the letter from Troy that they will submit into public comment. He will talk with City Manager Burgener to make sure we are doing everything properly and correctly.

Jason Moon, Columbia City, thanked the City for their support over the years. As some of you know he was the Director of the Columbia County Small Business Resource Center and another small business program called GRO and unfortunately with the dissolution of Columbia Economic team the staff was left without those positions and programs. They have been working really hard behind the scenes with Ben and staff here to ensure that all those programs find homes. Again, he just wants to thank the City of Scappoose for being really great partners and allowing the opportunity for those programs to live on. He is very fortunate because one of those grants was the Northwest Innovation Hub, it was the newest grant that we were awarded, and that's a regional grant that covers Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties and he was able to successfully transfer that to the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, and with that they offered him employment to come over and run that program. He is not going anywhere, he is still here in the county, he is still serving Columbia County and still great partners with the City of Scappoose. He just wanted to say that he shows his support for the City of Scappoose carrying on the ROIBRE Grant and the Growing Rural Oregon for Family Foundation Grant as well.

Mayor Backus thanked Jason for all his service with this and stated it'll be interesting to see going forward how the innovation hub can help and how we can team up and work together some more.

Alicia Heiges, Scappoose, read her public comment submission (which is included below).

Scappoose City Council – Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: Alicia Heiges, Resident of Scappoose, OR
Date: February 17, 2026
To: Mayor and City Council, City of Scappoose
Re: Written Public Comment - General Fund Clarification and Flock Camera Policy Concerns

Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Alicia Heiges, and I am a resident of Scappoose. I want to briefly clarify two comments made at the last meeting so the public record is accurate, before raising new questions about the proposed use of Flock cameras.

First, regarding the General Fund.

At the prior meeting, my comments were described as incorrect because the City has a positive fund balance. To clarify, I was talking about current-year spending, not cash on hand. A fund can still have money in the bank while spending more than it brings in during the year, with the difference covered by reserves. I'm clarifying that so the record is accurate.

Second, regarding my public records request for employment agreements for both police and certain city employees.

My request was accepted, paid for, and processed by the City. While employment agreements were produced for some city management positions, no salary information was disclosed for any current police officers, and only two prior police chiefs or acting chiefs were included.

My concern was never about what a document is called. It was about transparency. Even when someone is a city employee or covered by a union agreement, their pay and employment terms are still set through appointments, council actions, or salary schedules. The public has a right to understand how those decisions are made, especially when personnel costs are a major driver of the General Fund. I'm clarifying this because that distinction was missed last meeting.

With those clarifications, I want to turn to a new issue: Flock cameras.

It is my understanding that Chief Fluellen has already applied for a grant for Flock cameras and that the City is now waiting to hear whether that application is approved. Based on recent statements, it appears that meaningful discussion is being deferred until after grant approval, in other words, apply first, discuss later.

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That sequence matters.

Applying for a grant is not a neutral step. It signals intent and positions the City to move forward before the community has had an opportunity to discuss whether this technology should be used, under what conditions, and with what safeguards.

I also want to be clear about the nature of this technology. These are not just license plate readers. Flock Safety's own materials describe this as an AI-driven surveillance platform with audio detection capabilities, including gunshot and other sound-based detection. That significantly expands the scope of what is being proposed and makes clear policies and safeguards even more important before deployment.

Grants typically cover initial equipment costs, but they often do not cover ongoing monthly subscription, data storage, or maintenance fees. That raises a critical funding concern.

The Police Department is funded through the General Fund, and Flock cameras involve ongoing monthly service costs. Unless the City has identified a separate funding source, those recurring expenses would fall on the General Fund, the same fund that is already operating with an ongoing imbalance between revenues and expenditures.

Before adding new recurring obligations, residents deserve clear answers:

- What is the monthly cost of the Flock contract once grant funding ends?
- Which fund will pay for that ongoing expense?
- Has this cost been incorporated into long-term budget planning?

I also understand that potential camera locations may already be under consideration. If so, that suggests planning is occurring before policies, safeguards, and community input have been established.

That raises additional questions:

- What policies will govern data retention, access, and permissible use?
- Who will have access to the data, and under what circumstances?
- What safeguards will prevent misuse or expansion beyond the original intent?

Finally, the Mayor stated that the City intends to move quickly once grant approval is received. That statement needs clarification.

- Does "move quickly" include time for public discussion and council-adopted policies?

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- Or does it mean implementation before residents have had a meaningful opportunity to weigh in?

I'm not asking the City to reject technology outright. I'm asking that process, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and community input come before commitment, not after.

Because once surveillance infrastructure is installed, the decision is no longer theoretical — it becomes permanent.

Benjamin Franklin warned that *"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."*

Public safety and civil liberties are not opposing values, but protecting both requires deliberation, transparency, and restraint.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Heiges
Resident, Scappoose, Oregon

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end of public comment

Consent Agenda ~ January 20, 2026 City Council meeting minutes; February 7, 2026 City Council Retreat minutes; and Bid Criteria Authorization – Design-Build Services Veterans Park Inclusive Playground

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ January 20, 2026 City Council meeting minutes; February 7, 2026 City Council Retreat minutes; and Bid Criteria Authorization – Design-Build Services Veterans Park Inclusive Playground. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 925: An Ordinance Amending Title 3 & 13 of the Scappoose Municipal Code to add Chapter 13.36, Utility Use of Public Rights-of-Way, and to Amend Chapter 3.08, Public Utility Taxes

City Manager Burgener explained that Verizon submitted their comments, which are in the Council packet. He explained the actual ordinance that we are looking at amending today is not quite what the comments were directed at. He explained this ordinance is creating a consistent franchise agreement process.

Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Mayor Backus read the title for a second time ~ Ordinance No. 925: An Ordinance Amending Title 3 & 13 of the Scappoose Municipal Code to add Chapter 13.36, Utility Use of Public Rights-of-Way, and to Amend Chapter 3.08, Public Utility Taxes

Resolution No. 26-01: A Resolution Amending the Fees and Charges for the City of Scappoose Adopted by Resolution No. 25-10

City Manager Burgener explained this resolution is amending our fee schedule to accommodate the new things in the ordinance.

Councilor Haugen moved, and Councilor Riutta seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution No. 26-01: A Resolution Amending the Fees and Charges for the City of Scappoose Adopted by Resolution No. 25-10.

Councilor Santiago asked Nancy Werner about the possibility of double charging the consumer.

Nancy Werner explained that the fees that are set up in this resolution there are only three of them. The first one we're calling a right of way fee and as City Manager Burgener explained that's a fee that would apply to an entity that owns facilities in your rights of way like fiber pipeline, whatever it might be, but doesn't have any revenue. So, the privilege tax, which is based on a percentage of revenue, wouldn't yield any payment, so this would set up a per foot fee for those entities. The other two fees that are set up in this resolution are a registration fee which correlates to the registration requirement of the new ordinance that was just adopted. That is for entities that use facilities in the rights of way but don't own any facilities and so that was designed to just cover the city's costs of putting together the application and just the management that it takes to get people to fill out that form and do whatever needs to be done on the administrative side and same with the third fee it's the application fee for the license.

City Manager Burgener explained for those people who have infrastructure in a right away, if they have customers they will be charged one way and if they don't have customers, it's a different way. You don't get both, so you're not going to get charged for having infrastructure in

the right of way and have to pay a percentage on users. It's one or the other is the way it's set up.

Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

New Business

Ordinance No. 926: An Ordinance Relating to Solid Waste Management and Collection Within the City of Scappoose and Granting an Exclusive Franchise to Waste Management of Oregon, Inc. Therefore; Defining the Terms Thereof; Repealing All Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Declaring an Emergency

City Manager Benjamin Burgener went over the staff report. The City's solid waste franchise with Waste Management for garbage and recycling service in the City expires on February 18, 2026. Staff have been working with Waste Management to update the current franchise and ensure it is consistent with the City's Solid Waste Management Ordinance, SMC Chapter 8.16. Staff and Waste Management have agreed on the terms of a renewed franchise. SMC Chapter 8.16 establishes a solid waste advisory committee that must, among other things, review the franchise at the time of renewal and review any rate increases requested by the franchised garbage hauler. For this item, the Council will designate itself as the solid waste advisory committee for purposes of reviewing the proposed new franchise and rate, which will then be considered by the Council. Analysis ~ The proposed renewed franchise is similar to the current franchise, with minor updates for clarity and consistency with Chapter 8.16. The significant changes in the renewed franchise are:

- (1) Removing the rate schedule from the franchise and instead enacting it by Council resolution, which allows the City to more easily revisit the rates as needed.
- (2) Increasing the franchise fee from 5% to 7% of gross revenues and allowing the City to further increase the franchise fee rate by Council resolution.
- (3) Retaining the 5 year term of the franchise, but with automatic 5 year renewals unless either party opts to terminate, and with the ability for the City or Waste Management to renegotiate the franchise at any time after the first 5 year term.

Request for Council Action

- (4) Clarifying that Waste Management will empty all garbage cans on City property and rights-of-way.
- (5) Explicitly stating the current practice that Waste Management will help the City comply with state recycling regulations.

This item includes a resolution to approve Waste Management's service rates, which have been set by using the current rates and increasing them to cover the increased franchise fee. The resolution also approves the franchise fee increase set forth in the franchise agreement.

Because the current franchise will expire on February 18, to ensure there is no disruption in garbage or recycling collection in the City and for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the residents of the City, staff recommend declaring an emergency and providing that the franchise shall be effective upon the date of its adoption.

Fiscal Impact ~ The increased franchise fee will generate additional revenue to the City.

Recommendation

1. Staff recommend that Council, acting as the solid waste advisory committee, review the proposed franchise and new rates and recommend the Council adopt both.
2. Staff recommend that Council adopt Ordinance 926 as written, and declare that the franchise ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the residents of the City and, therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and the ordinance shall be effective upon the date of its adoption.
3. Staff recommend that Council adopt Resolution 26-02, A Resolution Establishing the Rate Schedule and Franchise Fees for Solid Waste Management and Collection Services in the City, as written.

Councilor Holmes recused herself for agenda items 4 and 5, as stated previously, the organization she works with holds a number of funding agreements and contracts with Waste Management around the State, so she will not be weighing in on either of these decisions tonight.

Mayor Backus explained normally when we have time, we would have a first reading and then a next meeting a second reading and then normally ordinances go in to effect 30 days after that, but because our contract expires tomorrow we're asking to declare an emergency to do first and second reading and approval all in one night. He explained this was discussed a month ago at a previous Council meeting.

Mayor Backus opened the public comment and closed due to no one wanting to speak on this matter.

Nancy Werner explained in the solid waste management ordinance it states that the City has set up a Solid Waste Advisory Committee that is suppose to consider and recommend a new franchise or renewed franchise agreements and changes in the rate and the Council is allowed to act as a Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Acting as a Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member, they recommend that the Council move forward on the renewed franchise and rate increase with Waste Management. Joel Haugen moved, and John Marquis seconded the motion. Motion Passed (6-0). Joseph A. Backus, aye; Tyler Miller, aye; Jeannet Santiago, aye; Joel Haugen, aye; Marty Marquis, aye; and John Riutta, aye. Kim Holmes, abstained.

Councilor Marquis moved, and Councilor Riutta seconded the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 926: An Ordinance Relating to Solid Waste Management and Collection Within

the City of Scappoose and Granting an Exclusive Franchise to Waste Management of Oregon, Inc. Therefore; Defining the Terms Thereof; Repealing All Ordinances or Part of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Declaring an Emergency. Motion Passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye. Councilor Holmes, abstained.

Mayor Backus read the title for a first and second time ~ Ordinance No. 926: An Ordinance Relating to Solid Waste Management and Collection Within the City of Scappoose and Granting an Exclusive Franchise to Waste Management of Oregon, Inc. Therefore; Defining the Terms Thereof; Repealing All Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Declaring an Emergency.

Councilor Haugen moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 926: An Ordinance Relating to Solid Waste Management and Collection Within the City of Scappoose and Granting an Exclusive Franchise to Waste Management of Oregon, Inc. Therefore; Defining the Terms Thereof; Repealing All Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Declaring an Emergency. Motion Passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye. Councilor Holmes, abstained.

Resolution No. 26-02: A Resolution Establishing the Rate Schedule and Franchise Fees for Solid Waste Management and Collection Services in the City

City Manager Benjamin Burgener explained this is basically just an update as we move from 5% to 7%.

Councilor Riutta moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion that Council adopt Resolution No. 26-02: A Resolution Establishing the Rate Schedule and Franchise Fees for Solid Waste Management and Collection Services in the City. Motion Passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye. Councilor Holmes, abstained.

Mayor Backus thanked Nancy.

ColPac's Regional Economic Development Programs

Sarah Lu Heath, Executive Director, ColPac, went over her presentation.



The District serves Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties and the western part of Washington County.

ColPac was established in 1994 to assist in diversifying and strengthening the economy and livability of Northwest Oregon.

Regional role:

- Facilitate regional partnerships and collaboration
- Maintain strong federal relationships
- Provide tailored, on the ground services



ColPac Projects and Programs:

- ◆ Grant Writing & Administration
- ◆ EDA Revolving Loan Fund (Small Biz)
- ◆ Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy
- ◆ Brownfield Redevelopment Program
- ◆ Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance
- ◆ Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



St. Helens Food Bank Structure Construction

Community Development Block Grant Administration

- St. Helens Food Bank
- Vernonia Sewer System
- Clatskanie Wastewater
- St. Helens Sewer Capacity
- CDBG – Disaster Recovery

Economic Development Administration: Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for Small Businesses

- \$700,000 in funding available through ColPac
- Non-traditional flexible financing
- 20% Match
- Complements traditional financing (doesn't compete)

Who/what is eligible for financing?

- Small Businesses (Clatsop/Columbia/Tillamook/W. Washington)
- Business and industrial acquisition and modernization
- Purchase of equipment, machinery, and supplies
- Working capital

C-PACE
Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy

Highly flexible financing tool available for commercial property owners that covers up to 100% of the project costs for:

- Energy efficiency improvements
- Water conservation
- Renewable energy generation
- Seismic resiliency upgrades

Covers direct/indirect costs and is all *private funding*, no public dollars are used.



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
Program launch in 2026

Objectives:

- Promote Commute Options & Vanpooling
- Implement the 'Get There' Challenge
- Outreach & Travel Training
- Construction Mitigation Outreach
- Improve Walkability & Last Mile Transportation Options



Brownfield Land
Redevelopment
Program

Clatsop County Assessment Grant
\$500,000

ColPac Assessment Grant \$1.2m

ColPac Brownfield Cleanup
Revolving Loan Fund
\$1m

The Scappoose Historical Society
Whoville!
 2025
 Success & Highlights

TOTAL VISITORS	TOP NIGHTS
2023: 3,339	19 Nights Open
2024: 4,294	Opening Night (570)
2025: 6,330	Grinch & Cindy Lou Visits
*Near Double	Christmas Ships
	Spirit of Christmas Parade
SPECIAL GUESTS	NEAR & FAR
Kohr Explores	Kuait, Texas, Colorado,
Abe Lincoln	Idaho, Ryderville, Wa.,
Mayor Baekus	Eugene, Ore. Salem, Ore.
Scappoose Police	
VOLUNTEERS:	MEDIA:
60 members	15 Clips
Scappoose Community Club	Newspaper, TV, Radio, Online
	KGW, KOIN, & KATU
FACEBOOK	
255,000 Organic Views	
Reshared by Keep-Portland Weird (890K Followers)	

Janet Williams stated "Good evening, Mayor and members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight. My name is Janet Williams, and I serve as president of the Scappoose Historical Society. We are creators of Whoville at the Watts House, now entering our 4th year. Each year Whoville has grown bigger and better thanks to our dedicated volunteers who bring the unique Seuss inspired designs to life with remarkable creativity and heart. This event has become a true point of pride, not only for our volunteers but for our entire community. That is why I'm here this evening to share the results from 2025 and that includes the typos on the results from 2025. We do know how to spell Kuwait. The most powerful results cannot be measured on a spreadsheet. They come from guests who say things like I came all the way from California to see this. We hear this a lot, I've lived here my entire life, and I've never been in the Watts house. I think we probably hear that every night that we're open. Through Whoville, we're fulfilling our mission, bringing Scappoose past and present together in a way that welcomes, engages, and inspires our community. As you can see up there (on the flyer), we started out with actually Christmas of 2022 was not Whoville, and we probably had 100 visitors and we had the house shut down for three months to decorate it.

When we switched to Whoville in 2023, we had over 3000 visitors, 2024 over 4000, and last year 6300 visitors came through. We had a lot of special guests. We had core explorers from I believe, Channel 6. We had Mayor Backus dressed as a Mayor. The Scappoose police showed up on opening night chasing the grinch, which was a lot of fun. And we've had visitors from all over. We have family from Kuwait who times their visit here now to see Whoville, they went through three or four times. All different states, all different counties, cities and people just seem to really love it. I want to let you know we had more volunteers this year, about 60 volunteers that helped put it all together. It takes about eight weeks to put it together and then we're open. Then they were open the month of December and part of January actually this year. We had a huge presence on social media with 255,000 Facebook views. We had three media or three news stations, radio, we had news coverage in Seattle, like partner stations in all different states across the US that showed Whoville and Scappoose. So, as we look ahead, we see tremendous opportunity for continued growth, but we can't do it alone. Whoville has proven that when volunteers, nonprofits and the City work together, we create something far greater than an event. We create connection, economic activity and community pride. We're asking for your continued partnership and support so that we can build on this momentum, expand our reach and ensure that the Watts House remains a vibrant gathering place for generations to come. Together, we can continue bringing history to life in a way that reflects the heart and spirit of Scappoose. Thank you."

Mayor Backus stated thank you to Janet.

Lindsey Wilson stated "my name is Lindsey Wilson and I'm with the Port but I'm here as a citizen and volunteer of the Historical Society. It's funny, we had dinner before we came over here and I saw a friend and he said, oh, what are you doing, having a mother daughter dinner? And I said, oh, we're going to City Council to talk about Whoville, and I turned to his daughter and her eyes lit up. It was a lovely moment and that's what I saw working the front entrance at Whoville over the course of the month and I just thank you guys so much for your support. She thanked Mayor Backus, for showing up with the eyebrows and all of the support we've gained from Scappoose. Thank you."

Mayor Backus stated thank you Lindsay.

Mayor Backus stated he has heard a lot of good things and seen it on TV. His family has come in and gone through several times. Every room is different and you need to go through them a couple of times, because there's so many things you miss. He really appreciates it and hopefully he can do more as we move forward. It's a busy time of year, but it always is a busy time of year, so we'll try to do more next year.

Resolution 26-03: A Resolution in Support of Measure 6-Pending, A Measure Brought by the Elected Board of the Scappoose Public Library for a 5-Year Option Tax Levy

Mayor Backus went over the Resolution. He explained we are entertaining Resolution 26-03: A Resolution in support of Measure Tax Levy Measure as filed, which is a measure brought by the

elected board of the Scappoose Public Library for a five-year option levy tax levy. He explained we've been waiting for an assigned number by the County so we can be specific in the resolution.

Mayor Backus and Council discussed Resolution 26-03, specially the section where it doesn't have assigned measure number.

Councilor Haugen moved, and Councilor Riutta seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 26-03: A Resolution in Support of Measure 6-Pending, A Measure Brought by the Elected Board of the Scappoose Public Library for a 5-Year Option Tax Levy, with the number to be assigned by the Columbia County Elections Office. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

2026 City Council Liaisons

Mayor Backus went over the list of liaisons.

2026 CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Columbia County: Council President Tyler Miller

Economic Development Committee: Councilor Jeannet Santiago & Mayor Joseph Backus

Historical Society/Watts House: Councilor Marty Marquis

Parks and Recreation: Councilor Kim Holmes

Schools: Councilor Joel Haugen

Senior Center: City Manager Benjamin Burgener

Traffic Safety: Council President Tyler Miller

CERT Committee: Councilor Kim Holmes

There was a discussion on finding a committee that Councilor Riutta can be assigned to.

ROI/BRE Grant

City Manager Benjamin Burgener went over the staff report. In December 2025 Columbia Economic Team (CET) announced their intent to dissolve their organization. With their dissolution, several important local economic programs were set to dissolve with the organization including the ROI/BRE, GRO, Keep it Local, and SBRC programs; unless another organization was able to acquire the grant funding and support to keep them going. Through many conversations with stakeholders, partner organizations within the county, CET, and Business Oregon; it was determined that the City of Scappoose was best positioned to take on these programs. As discussed in prior meetings, Business Oregon has sent out an official award announcement that we were awarded the outstanding CET ROI/BRE Grant, and we have also come to an agreement with St. Helens staff and county stake holders to navigate the GRO program and grant. These two program grants will allow us to hire 1 Full Time Employee to

fulfill the requirements of the grants which also have a positive impact for the businesses in Scappoose. In addition to the ROI/BRE and GRO programs, CET is providing the City of Scappoose with the Keep it Local and SBRC assets. Keep it Local is part of the ROI/BRE program; and the SBRC program is still being evaluated on pathways forward with financing and staffing. We are seeking to get the 1 FTE hired as soon as possible. Business Oregon has already committed to providing the Grant to Scappoose, but their timeline for an agreement will be slightly after this Council Meeting. The GRO agreement, is included in this packet and will also be brought to St. Helens on Wednesday Feb 18th for recommended approval. The goal would be to hire the ROI/BRE and GRO coordinator on Feb 19th, pending approval of the GRO agreement by both cities. Staff will work with Business Oregon to finalize and sign their agreement with Council's approval to proceed. Business Oregon's agreement will be reviewed by our attorney before signing and should be a fairly standard agreement with them. There are also additional positive impacts to the City of Scappoose in housing these county wide positions and programs, including but not limited to; additional local expertise, increased economic team contributions, focus, and collaboration in the City, increased relationships and outside support, local presence, career advancement opportunities, internal efficiencies, and an increase in skills and talent to our team that will reflect in the services we provide locally to name a few.

Fiscal impact:

Revenue:

ROI/BRE Grant through Business Oregon - \$105,000 over a two-year period

GRO Grant through the Ford Family Foundation and St. Helens - \$100,000 a year for 1-3 years.

Other potential partnerships and Grants for SBRC and other economic related programs.

Expenses:

1-2 FTE as paid through the grants and partnerships.

There may be some initial additional costs beyond the grants. These costs will be for startup materials and supplies, crossover staff time outside of these programs, and are estimated to be around the same cost as we were contributing to CET. Continuing long term, expenses beyond grant funding and other stakeholder funding will be for Scappoose specific economic development items and/or Scappoose's equal contribution to these programs. County wide programs will be funded almost entirely by grants or stakeholder contributions.

Staff recommends that Council approve City Manager Burgener to work with Business Oregon to finalize and sign their grant agreement for the ROI/BRE Program and approve City Manager Burgener to sign the included subgrant agreement with the City of St. Helens.

Mayor Backus, Council, and staff discussed this further around the budget related to this, along with the GRO Subgrant agreement.

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Marquis seconded the motion that Council approve City Manager Burgener to work with Business Oregon to finalize and sign their grant

agreement for the ROI/BRE Program and approve City Manager Burgener to sign the included subgrant agreement with the City of St. Helens.

Councilor Santiago asked what are the deliverables for the FORD grant?

City Manager Burgener replied just fulfilling the GRO program that St. Helens and CET put together, which was working with local businesses to help them find technical assistance grants and to help them find opportunities to build their business through optional lending. It is actually super vague. It is just really working with businesses to find ways to help them grow.

Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

GRO Subgrant Agreement

This was covered this in the previous agenda items.

Cancel March 2, 2026 City Council Meeting

Councilor Marquis moved, and Councilor Hauge seconded the motion that Council cancel the March 2, 2026 City Council meeting. Motion Passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Haugen, aye; Councilor Marquis, aye; and Councilor Riutta, aye.

Calendar

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

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

(This tab includes Department reports)

City Manager Burgener talked about going after a grant for radios. He explained he has been working with Council President Miller and Chief Fluellen regarding purchasing radios. He explained sometimes grants require Council support and he just wants to make sure to get a motion that Council supports them going after these grants because there is a time window on the current grant.

Council President Miller explained the grant is called the Oregon Innovation and Intervention Fund, and it's through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. So that is the actual grant that Lexipol has identified as meeting the criteria. For the new radio equipment that the various agencies need to include Scappoose Police Department and the due date was extended just recently to March 15, 2026. This grant has a max award per application of \$400,000. The Scappoose Police Department and all the other law enforcement agencies have the initial goal

for new radio equipment, but that exceeded over \$1 million to be able to do that and so what we did was we looked at the different agencies and what their radio quantity needs were. Through that, that is where Scappoose, City of Vernonia, Vernonia Police Department and Columbia City were included in this first phase because their radio total is basically just under \$400,000 which is the max that we can apply for. If we didn't have or we don't get grant funds for this, the cost of the City to replace the police department radios would be in excess of \$250,000 alone. One thing He will add is these radios are actually multi band radios, which means they will work on any future system that the County ends up going to so we are future proofed.

The consensus of Council was to have City Manager Burgener moved forward with this.

City Manager Burgener stated for clarification under the General Fund, there is a positive trained earnings that is in this year to date, that is a positive and not negative and does not include any cash carryover, and reserves, that is our operation budget year to date and it is positive, not negative.

City Manager Burgener talked about the requirements for the FORD Grant.

Police Chief Fluellen gave an update on the Police Department.

Student Representative Tyler Ferreira gave an update on Youth Council. He is planning a trip to the State Capital.

Councilor Riutta explained with February half over now and the weather having been somewhat mild until this evening we're starting to see the migratory birds begin to move and he has been spending a bit of time out on the east end of the Crown Zellerbach Trail, which is a very popular Oregon/Washington location for local bird watchers. Also at the water treatment plant, where there's a lovely platform that overlooks upon and it's clear that the some of the ducks are beginning to go out for the winter and some are coming in for the summer, so he hopes that the citizens of Scappoose take advantage of these wonderful wildlife viewing recreational opportunities that our City and surrounding area affords.

Councilor Haugen explained they are still working out the wrinkles for the Rotary Student recognition. He shared the information on February's Rotary student Kenna Hoag, Scappoose High school senior.

Councilor Holmes gave an update of the CERT group.

Councilor Santiago stated we had a great Council Retreat and she is looking forward to the upcoming year.

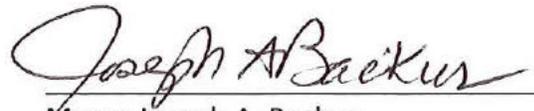
Council President Miller addressed the public records comment earlier. He stated he thinks City Manager Burgener already discussed a little bit about the budget topic. He explained Oregon

public records law does require that the requests provide detailed scripture. The records being requested and the reason for that is because the custodian of the record needs to know what they're looking for. Related to that is the fact that the city or any government entity can charge for the time that it takes to locate those records and so without a detailed description of what the record is that somebody's requesting that of course the amount of money or the charges to the person requesting those records rather is going to go up and staff also of course cannot read the minds of what records that some is looking for so it is important that if a citizen or whoever is requesting a public record that they do specify and describe exactly what records they are looking for, especially with all the various different file systems and custody systems that we have of records in city government.

Mayor Backus thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 8:59pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder/HR Susan M. Reeves, MMC