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**City of Florence  
City Council Regular Session  
Florence City Hall  
250 Hwy 101, Florence, Oregon  
Final Action Minutes  
March 3, 2025**

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Councilors Present: Mayor Ward, Councilors Robert Carp, Jo Beaudreau, Sally Wantz.

Councilors Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Erin Reynolds, City Recorder Lindsey White, Assistant City Manager Megan Messmer, Community Development Director Wendy FarleyCampbell, Police Chief John Pitcher, Public Works Director Mike Miller, and Economic Development and Communications Analyst Chantelle Meyer.

Guests Present: None.

Handout: 3.3.25 City Council Meeting Base Presentation

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Ward recognized that former Mayor Joe Henry, current First Lady Kathy Ward, and Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak was in attendance to the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- New Employee Introduction

Start Time: 5:31 p.m.

Discussion: City Manager Erin Reynolds introduced Camille Griswold as the new Court Clerk. Community Development Director Wendy Farley-Campbell introduced Administrative Assistant

to Community Development Nancy Ervin and Associate Planner Hanna Hutcheson.

## **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This is an opportunity for members of the public to bring to the Council's attention any item not otherwise listed on the agenda.

Start Time: 5:37 p.m.

Commenter 1: Mr. Mike Allen– Florence, OR

Handout: Speaker's Card and Written Comments

Discussion: Mr. Allen discussed...

- Update on climate petition.
- Requesting public/committee input to the Work Plan regarding the climate crisis.

Start Time: 5:42 p.m.

Commenter 2: Mr. Andrew Grzeskowiak and Mr. Anthony Martins– Florence, OR

Handout: Speaker's Cards

Discussion: Mr. Andrew Grzeskowiak and Mr. Anthony Martins discussed...

- Representing the school district, they provided updates on academic and social activities at the high school, including student achievements and new initiatives.

Start Time: 5:45 p.m.

Commenter 3: Ms. Kate McClellan – Florence, OR

Handout: Speaker's Card and Written Comments

Discussion: Ms. McClellan discussed...

- The critical need for affordable housing in Florence and encouraged the council to be creative and brave in implementing policies to increase affordable housing options.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **2. FLORENCE SENIOR AND ACTIVITY CENTER EXPANSION IGA WITH LANE COUNTY FOR THE EPA'S COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM**

Consider authorizing the City Manager to finalize and sign the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Change Subgrant Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County, with the inclusion of legal counsel recommendations.

Start Time: 5:49 p.m.

Discussion: ACM Messmer presented the staff presentation.  
 Handouts: Staff Presentation  
 No Discussion

Action: Authorize the City Manager to finalize and sign the EPA Community Change Subgrant Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County, with the inclusion of legal counsel recommendations.

Motion: Councilor Wantz  
 Second: Councilor Beaudreau  
 Roll Call Vote: Councilor Wantz, 'Aye'  
 Councilor Carp, 'Aye'  
 Councilor Beaudreau, 'Aye'  
 Mayor Ward, 'Aye'  
Motion passed 'Unanimously'

### **3. CITY COUNCIL VACANCY DELIBERATION, VOTE, AND APPOINTMENT**

Consider the applicants for the City Council vacancy and make final determination on City Council vacancy appointment.

Start Time: 6:13 p.m.  
 Discussion: CR Lindsey White presented the staff presentation.  
 Handouts: Staff Presentation  
 Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Mayor Ward began the discussion by further summarizing the interview process, noting that the Council conducted 11 interviews during two work sessions on February 27. He emphasized the importance of an open discussion before making any motions, encouraging Council members to share reflections and additional thoughts on the candidates.
- Councilors shared their initial thoughts and impressions of the candidates, the high quality of applicants, and the difficulty of deciding.
- Council Carp presented his choice, Vanessa Buss, highlighting her lifelong community involvement, including raising three children, working with PeaceHealth, the Boys and Girls Club, coaching sports, and fundraising. He expressed gratitude to all the candidates and encouraged them to apply again in less than two years when the next election opportunity will occur. He addressed community concerns and explained his decision-making process for selecting a candidate, emphasizing his experience in making quick judgments and conducting interviews. He evaluated all 11 candidates individually, scoring each and narrowing the selection down to three before

ultimately choosing one based on qualifications. He acknowledged the strength of the candidate pool and clarified that the selection process required making a final decision without extended deliberation.

- The Mayor noted Council Carp's transition from firefighter to police officer and shared a personal connection to law enforcement.
- Councilor Wantz reflected on her initial decision-making process, feeling she may have acted too hastily during the Thursday Work Session. After taking more time over the weekend to review all 11 applications, she approached the decision from a different perspective. She created a list of questions based on the job description, ranked candidates, and identified four top choices. She emphasized the importance of finding a candidate with experience and understanding of city government, similar to when Mayor Rob Ward was selected. She suggested having a discussion with other Council members about potential candidates and expressed appreciation for taking the time to reevaluate. Councilor Wantz expressed concern that a question regarding employer support was not answered in Vanessa's application, unlike in the other applications. Wantz highlighted Laurie Green as a strong candidate, emphasizing her experience on the Planning Commission and her deep knowledge of the city. She regretted not advocating for Laurie more during the previous discussion. She acknowledged Mike Webb, Liz Diess, and Vanessa Buss as strong candidates but expressed the strongest support for Laurie Green due to her experience and qualifications.
- Councilor Beaudreau shared that she spent extra time meeting with candidates over the weekend, focusing on the top two discussed in the work session, Vanessa Buss and Mike Webb. She stated that they reflected on leadership qualities, emphasizing collaboration, respect, and putting the community first. She acknowledged the difficulty of the decision. Councilor Beaudreau expressed support for Mike Webb, citing his professionalism, community connections, and government experience, believing he could "hit the ground running." She also praised Webb's attitude and outlook, highlighting his commitment to the community's past, present, and future as a community builder.

Comments: Mayor Ward and Councilors Beaudreau, Wantz, Carp

Mayor Ward asked Councilor Beaudreau if she would like to make a motion to appoint Vanessa Buss to the City Council and Councilor Beaudreau declined.

Motion: Councilor Carp made a motion to appoint Vanessa Buss to the City Council.  
Second: Mayor Ward

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Beaudreau, 'Nay'  
Councilor Carp, 'Aye'  
Councilor Wantz, 'Nay'  
Mayor Ward, 'Aye'  
The motion failed, tied at 2-2

Motion: Councilor Wantz made a motion to appoint Laurie Green to the City Council.

Second: Councilor Beaudreau

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Wantz, 'Aye'  
Councilor Carp, 'Nay'  
Councilor Beaudreau, 'Aye'  
Mayor Ward, 'Nay'  
The motion failed, tied at 2-2

Further Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Councilor Beaudreau expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be part of the discussion, noting that it's a difficult but worthwhile process. Emphasized the value of open communication and a healthy dialogue.
- Councilor Carp offered to meet individually with any candidate to explain how they were rated and ranked, acknowledging community concerns about the evaluation process.

Motion: Councilor Wantz made a motion to appoint Mike Webb to the City Council.

Second: Councilor Beaudreau

Further Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Mayor Ward noted his long-standing relationship with Mike Webb and commended his extensive service to the community, including over 20 years with the Western Lane Ambulance District and involvement with the Fire Board. He remarked that serving on the Fire Board is generally well-received, as the fire department is widely appreciated.
- Councilor Carp stated that while he anticipates the outcome of the vote and respects the appointee, his vote should not be taken as a lack of support. He emphasized that his decision reflects his personal evaluation and that he will respect the Council's final decision.
- Councilor Beaudreau expressed appreciation for Councilor Carp's remarks and praised all the candidates, stating she was impressed by their qualifications. She supported the idea, previously mentioned by Mayor Ward, of encouraging candidates to participate in other City

committees and commissions, and suggested including that encouragement in follow-up communications.

Comments: Mayor Ward and Councilors Carp, Beaudreau.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Wantz, 'Aye'  
Councilor Carp, 'Nay'  
Councilor Beaudreau, 'Aye'  
Mayor Ward, 'Aye'  
The motion passed, 3-1

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **4. CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Consider approval of the meeting minutes for the February 20, 2025 City Council Work Session.

Start Time: 6:49 p.m.  
Action: Approve the consent agenda as presented.  
Motion: Councilor Beaudreau  
Second: Councilor Carp  
Roll Call: Councilor Beaudreau, 'Aye'  
Councilor Carp, 'Aye'  
Councilor Wantz, 'Aye'  
Mayor Ward, 'Aye'  
Motion passes 'unanimously'

## **REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **5. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Start Time: 6:51 p.m.  
Discussion: The Department Directors discussed...

- **Siuslaw Estuary Trail:** Parking lot has been striped; Public Works will install cedar split rail fencing this week. Plantings, a bike rack, and signage to prevent trespassing near private property are also planned. Ribbon cutting expected in March, though interpretive signs will not yet be installed.
- **Rolling Dunes Park:** Restroom and picnic shelter areas are under active construction; additional caution tape has been installed to restrict access. Precast restroom facility to arrive next week.
- **Rainfall Report:** Public Works facility recorded 6.93 inches of rain in February—below the historic average of 8.76 inches.

- **Munsel Bike Path Cleanup:** HazMat1 LLC is performing cleanup east of the Goodwill store on Tuesday and Wednesday. Efforts continue to prevent long-term encampments; the City's camping ordinance provides regulated options for overnight shelter.
- **Planning Commission:** Met last Tuesday and will meet again this Tuesday for the Microtel design review. A third meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday to review a proposed text amendment to Old Town Area A. Appreciation expressed for the Commission's commitment to three meetings in a row. A special meeting was required due to quorum issues.
- **Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC):** Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday. Another guest speaker will present at the beginning of the meeting—community members are encouraged to attend or watch the replay. Additional guest speakers are planned for April and May.
- **Home & Garden Show:** City participated Friday and Saturday. Building Permit Tech Jeremy Austin answered questions about permit requirements. EMAC volunteers staffed the booth and shared Flow Grow and recycling information.
- **Criminal Mischief Incident:** Individual involved in previous property damage returned and vandalized the Police Department window early Wednesday morning. The suspect is back in custody and remains in custody. Public Works responded quickly to clean up and secure the site—appreciation was expressed for their support.
- **Training Activity on Spruce Street:** Significant police presence at the old Public Works/Police Department building on Friday was due to confrontation simulation training. Exercises included building searches, jail scenarios, and high-risk traffic stops. Signs were posted, but the activity may have prompted questions from the public.
- **Corrections Officer Update:** Officer Dalton Singer began academy training today. He is expected to return in six weeks.
- **City Recorder Update:** Working on drafting a letter to the City Council applicants and collecting necessary signatures.
- **Florence Events Center:** Home and Garden Show was well attended. Rotary Auction set for this weekend. FACE indoor yard sale scheduled for end of March to support Event Center grants and upgrades. Elementary School Choir Concert on March 13—community encouraged to attend. FEC continues to host trainings for local and state agencies, including Central Lincoln and the Forestry Department. Staff are actively responding to conference RFPs, including recent submissions to the State Chamber and City Manager associations.
- **Budget Information:** The City's budget details are available on the Finance page of the City Hall website. Key resources include the budget calendar, local government budget information, and urban renewal budget details. Upcoming updates will include links to the budget committee and proposed budget.



- **Lane County IGA:** The IGA with Lane County will be processed tomorrow. Additional requested information will be submitted, and meetings with the Senior Center Board will be scheduled to discuss the process and gather updates.

Comments: PWD Miller, CDD FarleyCampbell, Police Chief Pitcher, CR White, and ACM Messmer.

## 6. CITY MANAGER REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEM

Start Time: 7:04 p.m.

Discussion: The City Manager discussed...

- **Council Vacancy & Training:** Council vacancy updates will be shared with the new body, including meeting plans and training. Communication regarding budget committee meeting dates will be sent this week.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Next council meeting will be on March 17. February was a short month, so regular meetings will resume afterward.
- **Newsletter & Community Engagement:** The latest newsletter was published over the weekend. Staff were thanked for their efforts. Community members can subscribe to the newsletter and meeting agendas via the City's website.
- **Rotary Auction:** Encouraged participation in the upcoming Rotary Auction, with funds supporting student scholarships.
- **Project Graduation Fundraiser at Mo's Seafood & Chowder:**  
This Wednesday (5-7 PM) at Mo's Seafood & Chowder—\$20 for all-you-can-eat fish and chips, chicken strips, Marionberry cobbler, and raffle prizes. Proceeds support graduating seniors. Tickets at the door. Thanks to Mo's for the support!

## 7. CITY COUNCIL REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Start Time: 7:34 p.m.

Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Councilor Beaudreau expressed pride in the council's work and appreciation for Councilor Carp's dedication to the city and process. Thanked Councilor Wantz and Mayor Ward for their inspiration and service to the community. Looking forward to welcoming the new councilor.



- The Mayor announced he will attend the LCOG Appreciation Dinner in Cottage Grove on Friday, representing the city. The event honors those involved with LCOG, especially in senior and disabled services and food share.

Comments: Councilor Beaudreau, Mayor Ward.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Rob Ward, Mayor

  
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Lindsey White, City Recorder