

City of Creswell City Council Meeting

Council Members Present:

- Mayor Smith
- Councilor Costilla, Council President
- Councilor Holt – excused absence
- Councilor Kent
- Councilor Kremer
- Councilor Morris
- Councilor Dukes

Audience: 9

Press: 0

Staff Present

- City Manager Vincent Martorello
- Finance Director Jim Piper
- Public Works Director Cliff Bellew
- Assistant to City Manager Angela Keppler
- City Recorder Caitlin Born
- Airport Manager Shelley Humble
- Sergeant Alex Speldrich

Opening of the Meeting

Mayor Smith opened the meeting at 6:06 pm, he noted that the pledge had already been done in the urban renewal agency meeting. Mayor Smith noted that Councilor Holt had an excused absence.

Public Forum

Mayor Smith opened the Public Forum, noting that two members of the public had signed up to speak.

Monica Knight addressed the Council as a citizen of Creswell, clarifying she was not speaking on behalf of the Creswell Area Historical Society. She raised three concerns:

First, she expressed confusion regarding Resolution 2025-07, passed unanimously in April 2025, which she understood to authorize the City Manager and department heads to expend up to \$100,000 in discretionary funds without Council approval. She found this amount inconsistent with instances where the Council had

questioned expenditures of less than \$5,000, and suggested the limit be reduced to \$20,000–\$25,000. She was not alleging any current abuse of the resolution but noted the potential for misuse in the future.

Second, she questioned a proposal she had read about in the City Manager's updates regarding rotating themed banners on light poles, characterizing it as a "want" rather than a "need" at a time when finances are constrained.

Third, she described a reported mouse and rat infestation at Emerald Valley Storage, relaying that a renter had found severe odors of urine and feces upon visiting their unit. She asked whether Code Enforcement could address the situation given its potential as a public health hazard, noting that hantavirus cases had occurred in Oregon in 2025.

Mayor Smith acknowledged that City Manager Martorello and Public Works Director Bellew had already looked into the matter and noted that some of the issue involved private property. He committed to getting a follow-up to Ms. Knight.

Council Member Mark Kremer stepped down from the dais and addressed the Council on behalf of a constituent regarding Wind Rose Excavation's operations in the city. He presented three concerns:

First, temporary no-parking signs were not being filled out with proper dates and were not being posted the required 24 hours in advance, causing disruption to residents who returned from work to find they could not park;

Second, road closures were creating hazardous conditions during school hours when children were walking and biking; and

Third, heavy equipment was being operated as early as 6:40 AM, in violation of Creswell's quiet hours ordinance, which he understood to begin at 7:00 AM.

Mark Kremer also noted a broader pattern of constituents reporting that emails to the City regarding code compliance issues were going unanswered and asked that City staff improve communication and ensure compliance terms are written clearly into future contracts with excavation companies.

Mayor Smith directed City Manager Martorello and Public Works Director Bellew to follow up with an email addressing whether Wind Rose Excavation had been out of compliance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Smith announced the appointment of Nyla Keller to the Parks and Tree Advisory Committee, subject to Council consent. He noted that Ms. Keller had submitted a well-written statement describing her interest and approach. The Council consented, and with her appointment, the board will be at full membership.

Mayor Smith also took time outside the formal agenda items to recognize recent achievements of Creswell High School students, including over 20 scholarship signings for collegiate athletics, the baseball team's third-place finish at state, and the girls' track team's fourth-place finish. He offered personal congratulations to individual students, including valedictorian students and scholarship athletes.

Correspondence

Mayor Smith noted that a letter had been sent to all Council members and the City Manager but had not been included in the agenda packet, as it had not been explicitly requested to be added to the correspondence section. He clarified for the public that letters sent to the Council do not automatically appear in the agenda citizens wishing their correspondence to be included in the public packet must make that request. City Recorder Caitlin Born would be posting the letter online later that evening.

Consent Calendar

- May 11, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- May 26, 2026, City Council Work Session Minutes

Councilor Dukes identified a correction to one of the minutes documents, noting that an incorrect name had been attributed to a statement. City Recorder Born acknowledged the correction.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Dukes. The motion carried unanimously.

May 2026 Administrative Report

Finance Expenditures Report

Finance Director Piper presented the May expenditure report, noting it appeared lighter than usual because staff had consolidated to a single check run rather than the typical weekly batches, eliminating extra white space from the report. In response to a question about a higher-than-usual invoice from Step It Up Services, Finance Director Piper clarified that the amount reflected several IT projects completed in May, including a new server room switch and a migration to a cloud-based phone system, in addition to the standard monthly software licensing and managed services charges.

Lane County Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Speldrich reported that overall call volumes remained consistent with prior months, without any significant spikes. He praised his deputies for maintaining high performance despite unanticipated staffing gaps due to injuries and departures at the main office, which had required overtime coverage.

Sergeant Speldrich noted two Measure 11 crimes in the reporting period: one was a child-on-child incident handled primarily as a documentation matter, and the other involved a crime against a disabled adult, which is under active investigation with a known suspect and anticipated adjudication within the week.

Sergeant Speldrich addressed the growing issue of electric bikes, e-scooters, and electric dirt bikes being operated unsafely in Creswell. Sergeant Speldrich explained that upon researching the applicable laws, there were many regulations including a minimum age of 16 to operate electric scooters that many residents and even deputies were unaware of. He had prepared a pocket guide

summarizing the rules and published it on his Creswell Facebook page. He indicated his preference for an education-first approach over immediate enforcement but acknowledged that enforcement would become necessary given that some individuals, particularly repeated contacts, had not responded to education efforts.

Council President Costilla commended Sergeant Speldrich for addressing the issue and noted that groups of six or seven riders racing down North First Street past Ragged Willies had been a long-standing concern. Councilor Kremer suggested the issue could be addressed at the upcoming National Night Out event, proposing that flyers or informational materials be distributed at the city booth. Mayor Smith seconded the idea, suggesting Sergeant Speldrich present an educational booth at the event. Sergeant Speldrich agreed the event would be a good platform for outreach.

On the subject of homelessness, Mayor Smith asked for an update. Sergeant Speldrich reported that the situation had improved visibility, with most individuals currently involved in couch-surfing arrangements rather than street camping. He estimated approximately 10 to 12 individuals could be considered truly homeless on any given night. He credited the City's 72-hour ordinance as a contributing factor in preventing Creswell from becoming a permanent landing spot and also noted that community members who had previously been providing significant support to homeless individuals had become less willing to do so after negative experiences.

City Attorney Report

City Manager Martorello noted the City Attorney had logged 12 hours in May, with details included in the packet. In response to a question from Council President Costilla regarding a service animal matter, City Manager Martorello explained that a resident had come to the counter requesting a permit for a service animal while asserting they did not need one. Staff consulted the City Attorney to clarify applicable state rules, and records from Lane County were transferred to confirm the animal's status. The resident ultimately received the permit at no charge and left satisfied.

Code Enforcement Report

City Manager Martorello noted that Code Enforcement Officer Pierre was not present and that he had inadvertently left the officer's notes in his office. Councilor Kremer raised a specific open case at 525, described as a vegetation or obstruction creating a hazard. City Manager Martorello stated he would follow up via email.

Mayor Smith also asked about the timeline for noxious vegetation enforcement and whether the overpass area was within the City's jurisdiction. City Manager Martorello indicated that much of the overpass area likely falls under the Oregon Department of Transportation's jurisdiction.

Building Permit Recap Report

No discussion was recorded on this item.

Council Action Items

Public Hearings for Budget Approval for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – Finance Director James Piper

Finance Director James Piper provided an overview of the budget-related agenda items, noting that the FY 2026-2027 budget had been approved by the Budget Committee at its May 19th meeting and that the evening's agenda represented the formal Council adoption process. The items covered included sewer rate changes, a public safety fee increase, state revenue sharing, and the overall budget appropriation.

Mayor Smith opened a consolidated public hearing at 6:41 p.m., to receive comment on the following:

- Resolution 2026-08: Proposed sewer user fee and service charge changes
- Resolution 2026-09: Proposed public safety fee increase
- Resolution 2026-11: Proposed election to receive state shared revenues
- Resolution 2026-15: Proposed budget adoption, appropriations, and ad valorem tax levy

Finance Director Piper noted that one follow-up question had been received in writing from a Budget Committee member regarding the status of second-floor construction, and that he had confirmed the project remains on schedule. No members of the public appeared to offer oral testimony.

Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at 6:42 with no public comment.

Resolution No. 2026-08 - A Resolution Establishing Sewer User Fees, Sewer Service Fees and Charges for the Users of the Creswell Municipal Sewer Works Facilities and Rescinding Resolution No. 2025-10 – Jim Piper

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-08, a resolution establishing sewer user fees, sewer service fees, and charges for users of the Creswell Municipal Sewer Works Facilities, and rescinding Resolution No. 2025-10, was made by Councilor Kremer and seconded by Council President Costilla. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-09 – A Resolution Rescinding Resolution No. 2025-11 and Establishing a Public Safety Fee and Charges In Accordance with the Provisions of Creswell Municipal Code (CMC) Chapter 13.30 – Jim Piper

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-09, a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2025-11 and establishing a public safety fee and charges in accordance with CMC Chapter 13.30, was made by Councilor Dukes and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-10 - A Resolution Adjusting the Basic Rental Fees Set Forth in Existing Airport Leases Between the City of Creswell and Individual Lessees of Property located on Hobby Field Airport – Shelley Humble/Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper explained that all airport lease agreements include a CPI adjustment clause effective each January. For the current year, the western region CPI adjustment as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Industries was 2.7 percent. Councilor Kremer asked about the source of the percentage, and Finance Director Piper clarified that while older contracts referenced the Portland CPI index, the Bureau of Labor and Industries had recommended a switch to the western region index several years prior, which is now used as the default.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-10, a resolution adjusting basic rental fees in existing airport leases between the City of Creswell and individual lessees of property located on Hobby Field Airport, was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Dukes. The motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, Budget Resolutions – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper introduced the remaining budget-related resolutions, which together constitute the

formal adoption of the FY 2026-27 budget. He noted no changes had been made between the proposed budget and the version approved by the Budget Committee.

Resolution No. 2026-11- A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper explained that state law requires the City to formally declare its election to receive state shared revenues including tobacco, cigarette, liquor, and gas taxes—through resolution, after which the declaration is transmitted to the Oregon Department of Revenue to initiate distributions.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-11, a resolution declaring the City's election to receive state revenues, was made by Councilor Morris and seconded by Council President Costilla. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-12 - A Resolution Regarding State Revenue Sharing Funds – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper noted that this companion resolution formally documents that the City provides six of the seven services required under state law to qualify for state revenue sharing, with fire protection being the one service the City does not provide.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-12, a resolution regarding state revenue sharing funds, was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-13 – A Resolution Extending the City of Creswell's Worker's Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of the City of Creswell – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper explained that this resolution extends workers' compensation coverage to volunteers participating in city-sponsored events, including the citywide cleanup, Arbor Day, National Night Out, Movies in the Park, the Fall Festival, and Farm to Table. Coverage also applies to City Council members and Planning Commission members while conducting official city business. A brief numbering discrepancy between the agenda and the packet was noted and clarified on the record.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-13, a resolution extending the City of Creswell's workers' compensation coverage to volunteers of the City of Creswell, was made by Councilor Kremer and seconded by Councilor Dukes. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026 –14 A Resolution Adopting the Pay Scales for Fiscal Year 2025-26 for the City of Creswell – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper noted that the resolution adopts the pay scale for FY 2026-27, which includes a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment consistent with the budget approved by the Budget Committee.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-14, a resolution adopting the pay scales for fiscal year 2026-2027, was made by Councilor Dukes and seconded by Council President Costilla. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-15 Adopting Budget, Making Appropriation and Categorizing and Levying Ad Valorem Taxes – Jim Piper

Finance Director Piper presented the budget adoption resolution, which appropriates funds by fund and by category, totaling \$37,228,754 as approved by the Budget Committee. He confirmed that the required LB-1 notice had been published in the local newspaper and that no changes had been made between the proposed and approved budget.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-15, a resolution adopting the budget, making appropriations, and categorizing and levying ad valorem taxes, was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on 2026/27 Liquor License Renewals and Recommendation to Oregon Liquor Control Commission – City Recorder Caitlin Born

City Recorder Caitlin Born reported that background reviews had been completed on all establishments seeking liquor license renewals and that no issues or concerns were identified. Mayor Smith opened a public hearing on the renewals at 6:50 p.m. No public testimony was offered, and the hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m.

Council President Costilla noted a formatting question about the renewal list, observing that business names appeared to be listed twice under different column headers. City Recorder Born explained this was a result of the new Camp Portal online system generating slightly different report formats and offered to modify the report layout in future years.

Motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2027 liquor license renewals to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission was made by Councilor Dukes and seconded by Councilor Morris. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-16 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Engineer of Record Contract – City Manager Vincent Martorello

City Manager Martorello reported that the City had issued a Request for Proposals for engineer of record services, noting the solicitation was not driven by dissatisfaction with the prior firm but was simply time for a routine competitive process. Two firms responded: Westech Engineering and Oregon Water Rights Solutions and Planning (OWRSP). The review committee scored Westech significantly higher, citing greater staff experience in Creswell and with other municipalities generally.

Mayor Smith asked whether the 3-year initial contract term was standard for engineering services and whether it locked the City into using Westech for all projects. City Manager Martorello clarified that having an engineer of record does not preclude the City from issuing separate RFPs for specific projects, and that the arrangement primarily provides vetted access and pre-negotiated rates for routine engineering needs. He also confirmed that if issues arose, there would likely be a contractual settlement process for early termination, but that the engineer of record relationship does not bind the City to that firm exclusively for all work. The Council found this clarification satisfactory.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for engineering services with Westech Engineering for the year beginning July 1, 2026, with an initial term of three years, was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Morris. The motion carried unanimously.

Garden Lake Park Master Plan Grant Support – Planning Technician Fabian Gomez Hernandez

City Manager Martorello presented this item, explaining that staff is pursuing a grant from the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation to fund a consulting study of Garden Lake Park. The grant request is for \$80,000 with a 40 percent City match of \$32,000, which has been budgeted in the current fiscal year. The primary focus of the study would be water quality and stormwater management, with the possibility of also addressing recreational uses of the park.

Council President Costilla asked whether this grant would conflict with ongoing agency conversations about potentially filling in the lakes to create wetlands and pursue wetland banking as a revenue source. City Manager Martorello explained that those exploratory conversations with DEQ, the Department of State Lands, and the Oregon Water Resources Board are continuing in parallel. He noted that he had informed those agencies of the grant application, and they responded positively, indicating they would hold off on further grant-related conversations until the outcome of this application is known. They also noted

alternative technical assistance grants may be available if this application is unsuccessful. The grant and the agency conversations are not in conflict.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-16, a resolution authorizing a Garden Lake Park application for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department local government grant, was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

Development Moratorium – City Manager Vincent Martorello

City Manager Martorello presented the standard six-month renewal of the development moratorium, explaining that this is a recurring action required to maintain the moratorium while the City continues to work within the constraints imposed by DEQ on sanitary sewer capacity.

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.. No public testimony was offered. Mayor Smith closed the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-17, a resolution continuing the moratorium on development pursuant to ORS 197.505 to 197.540, based on limited sanitary sewer capacity as ordered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, was made by Councilor Morris and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Upcoming Meetings

Council was directed to visit the Creswell City Calander to review the upcoming meetings

Adjournment

With no further business Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

*Signature on File

Nicholas Smith, Mayor

Attest:

*Signature on File

Caitlin Born, City Recorder