

City of Creswell City Council Meeting

Council Members Present:

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

Audience: 5

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

Anne O'Connell, addressed the Council regarding the war memorial located near the community center. She shared that during a visit to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., she discovered the name of William Lyle Bower a U.S. Marine with a home of record in Creswell, Oregon listed on Panel 7E, Line 15. Corporal Bauer was killed in action in Quang Nam Province on May 1, 1966. Ms. O'Connell noted that his name is not inscribed on the Creswell War Memorial and acknowledged that the memorial falls under the jurisdiction of the Creswell VFW, not the City. She respectfully requested that the Council and Mayor apply pressure on the VFW to add his name to the memorial in recognition of his service.

Mayor Nicholas Smith thanked Ms. O'Connell for bringing the matter forward and expressed support for honoring local veterans. He indicated that he had already talked with Monica and Debbie and was considering organizing a day to honor Creswell's war heroes, ensuring that fallen soldiers with ties to the community are properly recognized.

Monica Knight, Creswell resident, addressed the Council to express her disappointment regarding the outcome of the city's facade grant program. She explained that 13 applicants, including the Creswell Grange, applied for grant funding, and that 7 were selected. The Creswell Grange was not among the recipients. Ms. Knight emphasized the Grange's extensive community contributions — including delivering gift baskets to Meals on Wheels recipients, collecting food donations for the local food bank, supporting veterans through the Lane County Stand Down event, and hosting free community dinners — and argued these activities made the Grange a highly qualified candidate. She noted that the Grange's smallest eligible project was only \$1,200, meaning the city's share would have been just \$600 out of the \$30,000 available, and encouraged the Council to consider the Grange in future grant cycles.

Following Ms. Knight's comments, Councilor Holt inquired whether the grant award decisions were public record and asked about the composition of the selection committee. City Manager Vincent Martorello explained that a three-member community review committee not city staff evaluated the applications, consistent with the administrative function outlined by the grant program. Councilor Holt questioned whether such committees should require Council approval. City Manager Martorello clarified that this body was a task force for grant review purposes and did not rise to the level of a formal committee requiring Council oversight under existing policy.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Nicholas Smith extended thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, including Kelly, Mandy, and the board, for organizing the Fourth of July celebration. He noted that the event drew a significantly larger crowd than in prior years and that the parade was well-received. Regarding the fireworks display, Mayor Smith acknowledged that malfunctions occurred and a safety officer halted the show before its intended conclusion, though the display had been planned to be more extensive. He encouraged residents who were disappointed to understand the circumstances and praised the many volunteers and community members who made the day a success.

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

The Consent Calendar included the following items:

i. June 08, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes ii. June 22, 2026, City Council Work Session Minutes

No items were pulled for separate discussion.

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

June 2026 Administrative Report

Finance Expenditures Report

City Manager Martorello introduced the Finance Expenditures Report and indicated staff was available to answer questions.

Councilor Kent asked about a line item for a "Paynter" (Check No. 36709, Page 20 of the PDF). Finance Director Piper clarified that this was payment to a local window painter who created the seasonal artwork displayed on the front of City Hall.

Mayor Smith inquired about the "TextMyGov" line item, asking whether the service was billed annually, what volume of activity it generated, and whether it had proven effective. Finance Director Piper confirmed the charge covers a full year and includes a cell phone plan. He noted that the service fields incoming public texts, routes unanswered queries to staff via email for follow-up, and also distributes outbound emergency alerts — citing the recent sewer line incident as an example of the system working as intended. Mayor Smith requested that usage data be presented at a future session to validate the expenditure. Councilor Holt suggested the data summary be brought to a Work Session.

Lane County Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Speldrich presented the June report. He noted that call volume was consistent with normal levels, though the month involved several significant cases. He indicated that summer typically brings an increase in calls for service.

Regarding the Fourth of July, Sergeant Speldrich reported that seven deputies including reserve officers were deployed in Creswell, the largest staffing level he had seen for that event. The parade proceeded without major incident, though numerous illegal fireworks complaints were received. Deputies remained busy throughout the day responding to disputes and DUIs.

Sergeant Speldrich highlighted two major Measure 11 cases. The first, included in the Council packet via a published Facebook post, involved both a present and a historical crime disclosed in the same call. Both subjects remain in custody and are facing significant prison sentences, with one potentially facing life in prison. A second, more recent case resulted in an arrest on 19 Measure 11 sex crime charges against a disabled family member. Sergeant Speldrich expressed pride in his team's work in securing accountability for vulnerable members of the community.

Councilor Holt raised a concern about a prior case involving an elderly woman who was attacked on Creswood Drive. She noted that community members had reported the perpetrator was no longer incarcerated, contrary to prior indications. Sergeant Speldrich acknowledged the frustration,

explaining that a plea deal had resulted in a different outcome than anticipated and that he did not have full visibility into the prosecutorial reasoning. He noted that the individual convicted of felonies appeared to no longer be in the local area.

Council President Costilla raised concerns about ongoing criminal activity at a known problem property at 469 Morse Street, noting that residents had reported an increase in activity in recent months. Sergeant Speldrich confirmed that the property is one of the most persistent challenges in the area, characterized by a revolving cast of residents and an owner situation that complicates enforcement. He noted that code enforcement and building inspections have been employed as supplemental tools, but that the situation continues to be difficult to resolve permanently.

Councilor Holt followed up on the theft problem more broadly, questioning why individuals known to be stealing continue to operate without consequence. Sergeant Speldrich explained the evidentiary challenges involved particularly in establishing who, among multiple residents of a property, is responsible for a specific theft and encouraged residents to call dispatch whenever suspicious activity is observed, including late at night, as deputies are available. He also confirmed that the city's municipal court lacks the authority to jail individuals without the city paying for jail beds, and that criminal charges therefore proceed through circuit court and Lane County.

Mayor Nicholas Smith inquired about the resolution of a prior dog attack case involving a woman and her daughter. Sergeant Speldrich reported that the municipal court found the dog owner guilty, and that ongoing requirements including restitution and fines are in place and will be monitored for compliance.

Mayor Smith thanked Sergeant Speldrich and the deputies for working through the holiday weekend.

City Attorney Report

City Manager Martorello reported that the city attorney billed a total of 13 hours for June. Councilor Holt asked about a line related to public participation at city meetings. City Manager Martorello explained that the inquiry involved questions about meeting decorum and whether the Council's rules which permit public comment during work sessions extend to the Planning Commission, or whether the Commission may adopt its own public comment structure for work sessions.

Code Enforcement Report

No discussion for this agenda item.

Building Permit Recap Report

No discussion for this agenda item.

Council Action Items

A. Resolution 2026 – 18 A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the City Attorney Contract

City Manager Martorello presented Resolution 2026-18, which authorizes the Mayor to execute a new contract for city attorney services with the Local Government Law Group. He explained that the contract is substantively similar to prior years, with one notable amendment: the performance evaluation process was revised to allow for more frequent Council interaction with the city attorney throughout the year, rather than a single end-of-year evaluation. Two firms responded to the solicitation. The Local Government Law Group was recommended as the preferred candidate based on their Oregon presence, their established history with the city, and their capacity to assign additional attorneys for specialized legal needs.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with the Local Government Law Group for an initial three-year term, thereafter extendable for additional two-year terms upon written consent of both parties, was made by Councilor Morris and seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 2026 – 19 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign settlement agreement with Meadowbrook, LLC

City Manager Martorello presented Resolution 2026-19, which authorizes the Mayor to sign a settlement agreement with Meadowbrook LLC. He noted that the settlement had been reached through mediation and negotiation, but that the agreement remains technically open until it has been signed by both parties. The Mayor was expected to sign the agreement within the week, and the other party was anticipated to sign within a week thereafter. Councilor Kent expressed concerns over a typographical error in the case number that appeared in the suggested motion, pointing out that it did not match the case number in the resolution. City Manager Martorello acknowledged the discrepancy and directed that the motion be amended to address this issue, removing any reference to the incorrect numbers from the suggested motion. The City Recorder then confirmed the correct case number as 24CV61064. To ensure the amendment was handled properly, there was a need for procedural clarification. Following this, a corrected motion was reintroduced. Councilor Dukes moved to amend and authorize the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement with Meadowbrook, LLC, using the correct case number. Councilor Morris seconded the motion. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Motion to amend and move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement with Meadowbrook LLC regarding litigation case number 24CV61064 was made by Councilor Dukes and seconded by Councilor Morris. The amended motion carried unanimously.

C. City Council approval to apply for the 2026 UGB Expansion Area Planning Grant

Planning Technician Fabian Hernandez Gomez presented the agenda item, noting it was the same grant proposal previously discussed at a Council work session. The grant relates to a wetland delineation study for a property located between Creswell Court and the Campus Mobile Home Park on North Mill Street. The property has been identified as having housing development

potential but has stalled due to the presence of wetlands. The grant would fund a study to determine what development, if any, is feasible on the property and what steps could be taken to mitigate the wetland constraints.

Mayor Nicholas Smith initially sought clarification distinguishing this grant from the Urban Growth Boundary expansion process, as both are housing-related. City Manager Martorello clarified that the UGB expansion process is receiving applications separately, while this grant is specifically a wetland boundary delineation study for a parcel already within the UGB that has been unable to move forward due to development constraints.

Councilor Dukes asked about property access and whether the landowner or the city was the applicant. Planning Technician Hernandez Gomez confirmed that the City of Creswell is the applicant and that the grant is intended to help advance the city's broader housing goals. City Manager Martorello added that the cost of the wetland delineation had been identified as the primary obstacle for the developer, and that conversations between the developer and the city led to the decision to pursue the grant.

Councilor Holt questioned whether it was the property owner's responsibility to conduct their own due diligence. City Manager Martorello explained that the state is actively promoting this type of grant to identify and unlock parcels with development potential that have been stalled for external reasons, and that this grant is consistent with that policy intent.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the North Mill Street Wetlands Plan was made by Council President Costilla and seconded by Councilor Kent. The motion carried, with Councilor Holt voting in opposition.

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 6:51 p.m.

*Signature on File

Nicholas Smith, Mayor

Attest:

*Signature on File

Caitlin Born, City Recorder