

City of Creswell City Council Meeting

Council Members Present:

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

Audience: 3

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 6:01 pm, after opening the meeting Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

John O'Connell, addressed the Council regarding the war memorial located near the community

PFC Bower, a Creswell resident, was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967, a year before the memorial's construction. Mr. O'Connell highlighted that this request has been presented to the Council approximately fifteen times over the past twelve years, reflecting persistent support both from the community and seemingly from the Council itself. However, to his dismay, no action has been taken to date.

Mr. O'Connell elaborated on the perceived political deadlock associated with this decision, specifically pointing to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), whose membership comprises less than twelve percent of the approximately 450 veterans in the Creswell area. He mentioned a strong sense of community backing and underscored the personal nature of this endeavor by sharing details about his son, Nicholas, who is currently an active-duty Navy servicemember with multiple combat deployments. With Nicholas preparing for yet another deployment, Mr. O'Connell emphasized the time-sensitive nature of the memorial inclusion. He expressed that numerous individuals, including his wife, former marines, and local veterans, have previously advocated for Bowers inclusion, making heartfelt appeals, yet to no avail. Despite offering to personally contribute towards any associated costs, which underscores his commitment to the cause, he lamented that interactions with the Council and the VFW have led to silence and inaction, which he attributed to political dynamics. Mr. O'Connell passionately called upon the Council to take decisive action, asserting that the family is fully prepared to fund the addition themselves.

Mayor Nicholas Smith recognized Mr. O'Connell's fervor and dedication to the cause. Mayor Smith assured Mr. O'Connell that relevant information had come to light and promised to explore potential options, offering hope that a resolution might be attainable.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Smith offered remarks recognizing Judge Palmer for 42 years of service to Creswell, and extended thanks to a departing councilor, Councilor Holt, for her diligence and contributions to the body. Mayor Smith also commended the Public Safety Committee for organizing a successful National Night Out event, noting high community turnout and a positive atmosphere.

Correspondence

Mayor Smith directed that the correspondence, questions, and petition submitted by Molly Nicole regarding speed concerns on F Street be referred to the Public Safety Committee for review. The committee's findings are to be reported back to Mayor Smith for discussion with City Manager Martorello regarding any available remedies.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar included the following items:

- i. July 13, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- ii. July 27, 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 Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously

July 2026 Administrative Report

Finance Expenditures Report

City Manager Martorello Finance Director Jim Piper presented the July finance expenditure report. Councilor Kent and Councilor Kremer raised questions on several line items, which Finance Director Piper addressed:

- Archive Social was identified as the annual cost for archiving social media as required for public records retention.
- Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad represents annual right-of-way fees paid to the railroad for water and sewer lines running beneath the tracks.
- Department of Consumer and Business Services represents state surcharges of twelve percent on building permits, remitted to the state in exchange for services such as the e-permitting system.
- City County Insurance Services was addressed as part of the city's insurance obligations.
- Versal Lift Southwest LLC was a significant expenditure related to the rebuilding of the city's bucket truck.
- Forerunner is software used for flood management, coordinated with a partner system.
- CK Petroleum Equipment covered repairs to air compressors at the water plant.
- Creswell School District payment reflects the construction excise tax collected by the city on behalf of the school district, with the city retaining three percent.
- Community Sharing Program funds are collected through voluntary utility bill donations and used to assist Creswell residents with utility costs.
- Monster Security is the monthly security monitoring fee for a public works facility.
- Swank Motion Picture licensing covers public outdoor movie screenings.
- Elite Truck School covered CDL training for a public works employee.
- MV5 Inc. is an engineering firm engaged in the North Taxi Lane project at the airport.
- The internal check written to the city itself was explained as an inter-fund transfer, specifically to pay for building permits associated with the Second Street bathroom construction project, reimbursable through grant funding.

Lane County Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Alex Speldrich of the Lane County Sheriff's Office reported that July was notably quiet, describing it as one of the most uneventful months he had worked. He highlighted the success of National Night Out, noting strong vendor and community organization participation. The donut-eating contest was opened to the public after some deputies withdrew, which proved to be a well-received change.

Regarding calls for service, Sergeant Speldrich reported no significant departure from typical activity levels. He noted one Measure 11 crime on the report a historical sexual offense that occurred over forty years ago in another state for which a courtesy report was taken and forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Council President Costilla inquired about speed enforcement on F Street in connection with correspondence from a resident. Sergeant Speldrich acknowledged he had not yet reviewed that correspondence but committed to doing so. He noted that while he has personally monitored F Street for speeding, he has not observed vehicles traveling at speeds warranting citation, which he attributed in part to the street being situated between stop signs. He did identify stop sign violations at that location as a recurring issue that the department actively addresses.

On the subject of homelessness, Sergeant Speldrich reported approximately seven to eight individuals camping within city limits. He highlighted a positive outcome through the Lane County Deflection Program, in which a man living under a bridge near Cloverdale and Sears Road just outside city limits was connected with a program navigator and is now housed in an apartment. Sergeant Speldrich briefly explained the deflection program as a tool designed to divert individuals from the criminal justice system by connecting them with resources, noting that it is administered by a retired jail commander. Mayor Smith expressed strong support for the program.

Councilor Joan Morris raised a rumor circulating on social media that the city was planning to establish a homeless camp behind McDonald's. Sergeant Speldrich stated he had no knowledge of any such plan and noted that the property behind McDonald's is owned by Porter Holdings, which has historically been strongly opposed to any camping on that land.

City Attorney Report

City Manager Martorello reported on attorney hours from July, noting that ongoing work involves a billboard near McDonald's. The city's goal is not to compel removal but to formally document the structure's nonconforming use status, ensuring that records reflect applicable DOT permit requirements and establishing that any future damage or replacement would trigger Council or planning review.

Code Enforcement Report

Councilor Morris noted that she had submitted a code complaint through the city's online portal regarding overgrown blackberries encroaching from a neighboring property. She commended the ease of the online submission process and noted that Code Enforcement Officer Pierre followed up with her directly, which she found commendable. City Manager Martorello encouraged residents to use the online portal.

Building Permit Recap Report

No discussion for this agenda item.

Council Action Items

A. Resolution 2026 – 20 A Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to sign the Transportation and Growth Management Grant Support Letter

Planning Technician Fabian Hernandez Gomez presented the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) grant application. He explained that the grant represents a first step in master-planning a specific site area, and would yield proposed code amendments, rezoning recommendations for certain properties, and capital improvement recommendations.

City Manager Martorello added that staff had met with the relevant property owner that day to obtain a letter of support. He noted that the city already holds right-of-way on the property through a prior transaction, which provides the city independent standing to pursue the planning effort regardless of property ownership. The grant would also examine the gateway intersection at the southbound off-ramp and Oregon Avenue. The city's \$22,000 investment is intended to assess the highest and best use of the property, which may involve mixed residential and commercial zoning rather than solely industrial use.

Councilor Kremer expressed concern about committing city funds without a firm commitment from the landowner. City Manager Martorello clarified that the property owner has been engaged and supportive throughout prior conversations, has already conveyed right-of-way to the city, and attended the meeting that day. He further noted that even if the property were to change hands, the planning work product would remain useful for the city and any future owner.

Council President Costilla moved that the City Council pass Resolution 2026-20, a resolution to authorize a master plan application for the Transportation and Growth Management Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Morris. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Authorization for the City Manager to Sign A Grant Agreement for \$30,000 from the Regional Fiber Consortium and Enter Into A Memorandum of Understanding with Douglas Fast Net Regarding Fiber Optic Network Construction and Operation

Finance Director Piper presented a \$30,000 grant from the Regional Fiber Consortium — a governmental entity of which the City of Creswell is a member — to bring fiber-optic internet service to the airport area, which currently relies on cable internet that Airport Manager Shelley Humble confirmed is nearly unusable. Finance Director Piper noted the grant would support economic development at the airport and may spur additional investment. The fiber infrastructure, once installed, would become the maintenance responsibility of Douglas FastNet under an MOU using boilerplate language consistent with a similar project completed by the City of Coburg.

Councilor Kremer asked whether the installation would affect Garder Lake Park. Finance Director Piper indicated the fiber would run from the north, not from the south where prior trenching had occurred near the park.

Councilor Morris moved that the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign a grant agreement for \$30,000 from the Regional Fiber Consortium and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Douglas FastNet regarding fiber optic network construction and operation. The motion was seconded by Council President Costilla. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Authorization for City Manager Vincent Martorello to add two additional phases to the Creswell Butte Transmission Main Project

Public Works Director Cliff Bellew reported that the city has received a second round of FEMA grant funding Obligation 2 providing an additional \$557,010 for the Creswell Butte Transmission Main Project currently under construction. This funding allows the addition of two previously unfunded phases of work:

- Phase A: Replacement of the valve vault, reservoir valves, and yard piping to bring the full reservoir system into seismic compliance, complementing seismic work already completed on the reservoir structures.
- Phase C: Completion of the 12-inch water main, extending it north along 5th Street to connect into Oregon Avenue as originally planned.

Finance Director Piper noted that the additional grant funding also reduces the city's draw on the water capital reserve fund from \$489,000 under the original base bid to approximately \$304,000 meaning the city is getting significantly more work done for less out-of-pocket expenditure. Construction on the additional phases was expected to begin the following week.

Councilor Kent moved that the City Council approve City Manager Martorello to enter into a contract with Monroe's Excavation for construction of the Creswell Butte Transmission Main, additional phases A and C, for the amount of \$372,241.96, added to the original base bid of \$1,417,394.83, with a contingency budget of \$200,000, for a total budget of \$1,989,636.79.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Dukes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 2026-21 A Resolution Appropriating Expenditures Within the General Fund and the Water Fund

Finance Director Piper presented a companion resolution to formally appropriate the expenditures associated with recently approved funding. The resolution encompasses: \$41,200 in donations secured by Airport Manager Humble for the STOL competition (exceeding the \$20,000 budgeted amount); the \$30,000 Regional Fiber Consortium grant approved earlier in the meeting; and the additional \$557,010 in FEMA funding for the transmission main project, with the city's net contribution reduced accordingly.

Councilor Morris moved that the City Council approve Resolution 2026-21, a resolution appropriating expenditures within the General Fund and the Water Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval or Denial of Liquor License Ownership Change

City Recorder Caitlin Born presented a liquor license application reflecting an ownership change at the Dairy Mart, which is operating under a new trade name. City Recorder Born confirmed that the applicant had completed the required process, paid the ownership change fee, and that Sergeant Speldrich had reviewed the application and identified no known concerns.

A public hearing was opened at 6:51 P.M. Resident Debbie Yee inquired whether the new ownership was connected to a separate US Market convenience store and gas station project approved by the Planning Commission at another location in town, which would result in two stores operating under the same trade name. City Recorder Born indicated she did not have information to confirm or deny that connection. The public hearing was closed at 6:53 P.M.

The Council noted that the existing store already holds a liquor license and operates as a convenience store, and that the trade name relationship did not bear directly on the application before them.

Councilor Dukes moved that the City Council recommend approval of the liquor license ownership change application as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kremer. The motion carried unanimously.

City Recorder Born also reminded the Council and public that election filing deadlines are approaching: the deadline for incumbents is August 11, 2026, and the general deadline for new candidates is August 18, 2026.

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 6:53 p.m.

*Signature on file

Nicholas Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Signature on file

Caitlin Born, City Recorder