This document is supplemented by agenda packet materials, meeting materials distributed and electronic audio/video recordings of the meeting and may be reviewed upon request to the City Recorder.

City of Creswell City Council Meeting

Council Members Present: **Audience: 5**

Press: 0

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

Staff Present

- City Manager Vincent Martorello
- Finance Director Jim Piper
- Public Works Director Cliff Bellew
- City Recorder Caitlin Born
- Airport Manager Shelley Humble
- Sergeant Alex Speldrich
- Code Enforcement Officer Pierre Francia

Opening of the Meeting

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for coming to the City Council Meeting on January 12, 2026, opening the meeting at 6:01 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elect Council President

Mayor Smith asked for nominations for City Council President. Councilor Kent nominated Alonzo Costilla to continue serving as Council President, there were no other nominations. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Five citizens addressed the Council during public forum:

Patti Scott, a resident of North Fifth Street, expressed opposition to potentially changing the city logo to a bulldog. She stated the bulldog belongs to the high school, not the entire city, and suggested the city could instead add "home of the bulldogs" underneath the Creswell name. She felt the matter should be put to a vote by city residents.

Monica Knight, a resident of North Third Street, expressed concerns about the proposed logo change mentioned in the November 10, 2025, council minutes. She felt changing the logo from the historical museum was too important to be determined primarily by employee input rather than community input. She requested public participation in the process.

Mayor Smith responded that while the initial proposal was based on staff suggestions, the Council would seek input from the entire community before making any decision about changing the city logo.

Donald Jones, a resident of Creswood Drive, voiced concerns about the public safety fee on water bills. He inquired about the fee's origin and authorization. Finance Director Piper explained it was established by Council vote after public outreach indicated citizens preferred a fee over a property tax. Mr. Jones then shared his frustration with response times from law enforcement, citing five instances when he called for service and received no response. Mayor Smith acknowledged the concerns and offered to have Sergeant Speldrich follow up with him directly.

Cher Woltman, a resident of South Second Street, described a severe rat infestation problem affecting multiple homes in her neighborhood. She explained that the rats had damaged heating ducts, forcing residents to implement costly pest control programs. She requested Council assistance with the problem, which she believed was exacerbated by construction work and poor practices at a local bakery. Mayor Smith stated he would follow up with Public Works Director Bellew on the matter.

Staci Holt, stated her opposition to changing the city logo, noting that the museum was an appropriate representative of Creswell. She also expressed concerns about the cost involved in rebranding.

Mayor's Report

Committee Openings and Appointments

Mayor Smith announced two openings on the Budget Committee, noting that applicants must reside within city limits. He appointed William Kent and Normajean Osborn to the Parks and Tree Committee, and reappointed Dr. Bahen to the Water Advisory Board. Mayor Smith encouraged citizens to consider volunteering for the Budget Committee, which meets for just two sessions in May each year.

Committee Charges

Mayor Smith stated that the mayor's charges were included in the meeting packet for review.

Correspondence

Council President Costilla commented favorably on the article submitted by Monica Knight.

Consent Calendar

Mayor Smith asked if all councilors had been able to review the minutes. He noted all items are considered routine and would be enacted unless pulled for correction. After confirming everyone had a chance to view the minutes, he entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

> Council President Costilla moved to accept the council meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dukes. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

December 2025 Administrative Report

Finance Expenditures Report

Finance Director Piper presented the December expenditure report. Councilor Holt inquired about a check to Creswell First, questioning if it was for the current fiscal year (2025-26). Director Piper confirmed it was. Council President Costilla asked about three large checks to Wildish asking if they were related to the Second Street project. Director Piper confirmed these were the final payments for the current construction cycle.

Lane County Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Speldrich presented the monthly report, highlighting the annual report page showing calls for service throughout the year. He noted that December's calls had returned to typical levels after a busy November. The welfare check category showed higher numbers due to 27 calls from a single individual.

Sergeant Speldrich reported that the Creswell bank robber had been sentenced to five years in the Department of Corrections. He also reported two Measure 11 crimes from a single incident involving retaliatory assaults and announced that Deputy Adam Nell has started in Creswell.

Councilor Kent and Councilor Costilla both commended the nine speeding citations issued in December, noting this addressed a common citizen complaint. Sergeant Speldrich mentioned he was working on a new system to better track and report traffic enforcement efforts in response to citizen complaints.

City Attorney Report

Finance Director Piper reported the City Attorney spent 17 hours during the month working on audit completion, franchise fees with Lumen, and planning issues.

Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer Francia presented his monthly report, explaining he was catching up on pending matters. He encouraged residents to resubmit any unaddressed complaints. He noted that he had added a "no code violation" category to his tracking document to better document when complaints were investigated but found to be unfounded.

Building Permit Recap Report

Finance Director Piper presented the building permit summary comparing current activity to previous periods. Councilor Holt asked if future reports could present the data in spreadsheet format with visual displays like the law enforcement report.

Council Action Items

Resolution 2026-01, A Resolution Appropriating Expenditures Within the General Fund

Finance Director Piper presented Resolution 2026-01, which would appropriate $15,000 from the General Fund contingency for a basketball court at the Cobalt Activity Center. He explained the amendment was less than 10% of the Cultural Recreation Department appropriations and therefore did not require a public hearing. The contingency fund has $388,625 available, and the project already had donated items.

Mayor Smith explained that this project was a priority in the 2018 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. He noted that the court would be designed for younger children with 8.5-foot hoops rather than regulation 10-foot hoops, providing a safer alternative to the existing courts where younger children must compete with high schoolers for space. He anticipated the final cost would be closer to $10,000 after accounting for donations.

Councilor Holt moved that the City Council approve Resolution 2026-01, a resolution appropriating expenditure within the general fund. Councilor Dukes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Contract Proposal for Priority 1 Sewer Collection System I/I Improvements, Engineering Services

Public Works Director Cliff Bellew presented a contract proposal with Westech Engineering for sewer collection system improvements. He explained that the city currently has a moratorium on sewer connections due to a mutual agreement and order with DEQ that requires specific improvements. The city completed TV scoping of the entire wastewater collection system last summer, which identified priority projects.

The contract would provide engineering, surveying, design work, drawings, final plan sets, and bidding services for the highest priority repairs at a cost not to exceed $175,000. Public Works Director Cliff Bellew clarified that Westech is the city's engineer of record, selected through a previous RFP process, which means they can be awarded contracts without additional bidding for each project.

Public Works Director Cliff Bellew estimated the total cost for Priority 1 repairs at approximately $2.5 million, with an additional $2-2.5 million for Priority 2 and 3 projects. He explained these repairs are needed to address broken, cracked, and separated areas where stormwater infiltrates the system. Mayor Smith confirmed these repairs would be required regardless of whether the city secured a pipe to Springfield.

Councilor Kent moved that the City Council approves City Manager Vincent Martorello to enter into a contract with Westech Engineering for Priority 1 sewer collection system improvements I/I project engineering services for a total not to exceed $175,000. Councilor Costilla seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mayor Smith directed everyone to review the city website calendar for upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission, Parks and Tree Advisory Board, and other meetings.

Adjournment

With no further business Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

*Signature on File

Nicholas Smith, Mayor

Attest:
*Signature on File

Caitlin Born, City Recorder