

MEMO

MEETING DATE: May 12, 2026

STAFF: Nancy Bell, Mayor



City Council

Dear Council Members, while I'm not with you physically tonight you are still in my thoughts, so I'm writing this note.

I probably don't tell you enough how much I appreciate your dedication, preparation and willingness to address the challenges facing Coburg. Each of us brings different perspectives, ideas and possible solutions to each issue. You are not afraid to disagree respectfully in work sessions and Council meetings so that a plan is developed to maintain service levels in the community we love.

The last Council meeting was hard on several levels. It was difficult to move forward with the plan we had discussed for at least a year and that both staff and each of you had dedicated time and energy to making sure community members were aware of the need for the Public Safety Support Fee. I always enjoy having the community attend and voice concerns, but it can make it tough to remember that those in attendance don't always reflect the opinion of the entire community. It can be difficult to vote in favor when opposing opinions are shared. As we had discussed previously, the Local Option Levy has always been on the table, but it is a longer process, and we needed a budget boost now. I must admit it surprised me that you had forgotten that.

As I look ahead, there are many decisions that will come to us that will require deliberation, frank discussion, creative solutions, understanding of the issue and a united front to move forward. Some of these will require cash infusions (fees) to complete. As hard as it is, we are elected to do what is best to keep Coburg safe, clean and livable. I hope on these issues we will have the hard conversations, so we are ready to move forward by the time we get to the second reading of an ordinance and public hearing on a resolution.

I know I can count on all of you to always keep the best interest of the entire community in mind as we grapple with the challenges ahead. I look forward to hearing your ideas about how to improve communication with the community.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share my comments, observations and thoughts with you tonight. Thanks to Councilor Engebretson for serving as Council President and running the meeting in my absence. I'll see you in a couple of weeks.

Your Mayor,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Bell".

Nancy Bell
