



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 03, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Sandy City Hall and via Zoom

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Kathleen Walker
Council President Don Hokanson
Councilor Chris Mayton
Councilor Laurie Smallwood
Councilor Rich Sheldon
Councilor Kristina Ramseyer
Councilor Lindy Hanley

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(none)

PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute limit)

Art O'Leary: asked what the City is doing to assist low income people with high utility bills, and asked whether it is possible to do more; asked for the City to respond to allegations that the consultants used for the water and wastewater infrastructure projects have conflicts of interest.

In response, the City Manager provided an overview of the City's utility assistance program and the plans underway to update the program. He also stated that the staff is unaware of any conflicts of interest for the consultants, and asked anyone with specific concerns or information to bring forward details. Council President Hokanson added that the consultants under contract are the best in the industry, are providing value engineering saving the City money, and are following state contracting law with transparency. The Mayor added that information about the City projects, as well as the assistance program, is available on the City's website. The City Manager summarized plans for public involvement and communications about the wastewater facilities plan over the coming months.

Linda Malone: asked questions about City procedures for picking up leaves and whether a regular schedule exists; suggested that assistance from the City would be helpful. Staff responded that leaves should be bagged by residents so they do not wash down the storm drains. Information was also provided about the City's street sweeper operations.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMENTS

(none)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Council Minutes: October 20, 2025

MOTION: Adopt the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilor Ramseyer, Seconded by Councilor Sheldon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Walker, Councilor Mayton, Councilor Sheldon, Councilor Ramseyer, Councilor Hanley

Voting Abstaining: Council President Hokanson, Councilor Smallwood

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-2

ORDINANCES

2. PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 2025-36 - Outdoor Burning Code Amendments

Abstentions

(none)

Conflicts of Interest

(none)

Staff Report

The Public Works Director provided an update to the Council on the new neighborhood chipping program that has begun to be implemented in replacement of the previous program. Statistics were provided on the difference in overhead demand between the old and new programs. Advertisement of the new program was also discussed.

The Development Services Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet, and provided a summary of the code edits and changes since the past work session.

Public Testimony

(none)

MOTION: Close the public hearing

Motion made by Councilor Sheldon, Seconded by Councilor Hanley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Walker, Council President Hokanson, Councilor Mayton, Councilor Smallwood, Councilor Sheldon, Councilor Ramseyer, Councilor Hanley

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Council Discussion

Councilor Smallwood suggested several edits to the proposed code. After discussion and input from staff and the City Attorney, the Council agreed with the modifications. The modifications were:

- Add the words “contained within a ring” after the fire pit reference in 8.36.010(1)
- Add the words “the fire district having jurisdiction” after the reference to applicable law and regulations in 8.36.010(1)
- Clarify that the reference should be to DEQ’s authority and not the fire district in 8.36.010(4)(f) and (5)(e)
- Clarify that burn restrictions should be verified with DEQ and the fire district in 8.36.010(4)(g) and (5)(f)

The Council emphasized that changes in Sandy’s burning regulations should be advertised widely. Clarification was also provided regarding City assistance with limbs and debris provided after significant storms.

MOTION: Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-36 as amended

Motion made by Council President Hokanson, Seconded by Councilor Ramseyer.

Voting Yea: Mayor Walker, Council President Hokanson, Councilor Mayton, Councilor Smallwood, Councilor Sheldon, Councilor Ramseyer, Councilor Hanley

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION: Approve the second reading of Ordinance 2025-36 as amended

Motion made by Councilor Sheldon, Seconded by Councilor Mayton.

Voting Yea: Mayor Walker, Council President Hokanson, Councilor Mayton, Councilor Smallwood, Councilor Sheldon, Councilor Ramseyer, Councilor Hanley

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

3. Plan Adoption: Library Strategic Plan 2025-2028

The Library Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet, and explained that the strategic planning process typically followed by libraries is different than that used in other contexts. Clarification was provided about the community engagement that occurred during the process, the rationale for the process used, including the desire to not limit the aspirations of survey respondents. Explanation was also provided about the Library’s external partnerships, and about the services the Library intends to provide based on the input received.

Council discussion ensued regarding coordination between the Library and the Parks and Recreation Department on programming.

The Mayor expressed a desire to proactively learn what materials patrons want, as well as views on operating hours and types of programming, and mobile library needs and implementation strategies. She generally emphasized the need to engage and involve the City Council in the process of planning for the Library's future, particularly because the Council should understand how and why General Fund dollars are being spent at the Library. She expressed a desire for information and involvement to help the Council support the Library's needs and goals; for the Council to be looped in and brought along during the planning process.

Other Councilors added that future strategic planning efforts should address long term budgetary needs like replacement of the mobile library, and should utilize business principles such as a SWOT analysis to understand future challenges and plan to address them. They also expressed a desire to better understand the Library's finances and the particulars of the large value provided to the community, and they questioned whether the deployment of the mobile library might have an impact on demand at the main branch. It was noted that a larger master planning effort in the future would require more time and resources.

Staff agreed to gather patron satisfaction data and provide it to the Council, and outlined plans to survey program participants on what they would like to see in the future.

MOTION: Adopt the 2025-2028 Sandy and Hoodland Libraries Strategic Plan as included in the meeting packet

Motion made by Councilor Sheldon, Seconded by Councilor Hanley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Walker, Council President Hokanson, Councilor Mayton, Councilor Smallwood, Councilor Sheldon, Councilor Ramseyer, Councilor Hanley

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

4. Meinig Park Improvements Update

The Interim Parks and Recreation Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet. Brian Martin with Lango Hansen presented slides and maps that were also included in the packet.

Council discussion ensued on the following topics:

- Distinctions between ADA and ABA standards
- Clarification that after the pathway work, people with disabilities will be able to reach park features, but not necessarily all features from all starting points
- Suggestion to make accessibility clear on the City's website so individuals know in advance of arriving what to expect
- Discussion on access to the heart of the park and the main stage

- Emphasis on the importance of preserving trees in the park, especially the oldest and largest; discussion on the trade-offs between tree preservation and access
- Concern about the spending levels to provide a relatively small amount of new ADA parking; discussion of the proposed welcome plaza and the relative benefits thereof
- Discussion of the benefits of relocating one of the shelters for ADA access, which will also create a great viewpoint of the stage
- Concern about ADA users being able to access an ADA restroom
- Suggestion to ensure ADA access to Fantasy Forest in the future
- Suggestion to explore an alternate access pathway to the legacy restroom

5. 2025-2027 City Council Goals Update

The City Manager summarized the staff report in the meeting packet. Explanations were provided on goals that are either not likely to be completed on time, or that have not been started yet. These included goals 1.5, 3.2, 5.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7.4, 7.15, 7.16.3, 8.2, 9.2, and 9.3. It was agreed that a follow up discussion with the Council is necessary soon to provide staff with further direction on these goals. Emphasis was placed on the importance of addressing the audio and visual challenges in the Council Chambers.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Thanks to the Public Works staff for managing the recent water main break; testing has come back clear and the boil water notice has been lifted. The incident provided a useful test of the notification capabilities of the City's utility billing software
- Overview of the board and commission process the City proposed to follow this year in light of the recent, including more robust application questions and a meet & greet event. This approach was discussed in contrast with past approaches, as well as other possible concepts including advisory board recommendations. It was noted that a formal policy change is warranted if this approach is to be implemented regularly going forward
- Note that Heather Stevens with Stantec will be available later in the week to meet with Council Members to answer questions about wastewater discharge issues
- Discussion of the proposal to send a letter to OGEC expressing concern about serial meeting restrictions and the threat to the ability to govern effectively at the local level; consensus that staff should draft such a letter

COMMITTEE / COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor President Hokanson

- Severe concern that OGEC's position on serial meetings effectively shifts power from elected officials to unelected staff

Councilor Hanley

- Recap of the recent Library fundraiser at Mt. Pizza
- Recap of the Meinig Park walkthrough with Mt. Festival personnel
- Praise for Deer Pointe Park

Councilor Ramseyer

- Recap of the recent Gladstone CCA dinner
- Recap of the recent Planning Commission meeting and ordinances that will soon come before the Council
- Concern about a skateboarder group that may have advertised an event at Cedar Park without the City's involvement

Councilor Sheldon

- Note of upcoming C-4 meeting
- Concern about utility rates; suggestion to hold in-person meetings, open houses, or coffee meetups to explain the situation to the community, and address concerns directly and correct misinformation

Councilor Smallwood

(none)

Councilor Mayton

- Recap of the recent Economic Development Advisory Board meeting
- Statement that he does not want to be directly referenced/included in the letter to OGE

Mayor Walker

- Appreciation for the recent walkthrough of Meinig Park
- Recap of the recent Economic Development Advisory Board meeting
- Recap of the recent ribbon cutting event at the Museum
- Discussion of the upcoming Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendment, and note that utility rates cannot be meaningfully compared with communities that are already part of regional cooperatives

STAFF UPDATES

Monthly Reports: <https://reports.cityofsandy.com/>

ADJOURN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f)