



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Sandy City Hall and via Zoom

MINUTES

WORK SESSION – 6:00PM

1. Chapter 17.74 Work Session

The Development Services Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet. Presentation slides were also included in the packet.

Discussion related to the following topics:

Temporary Used or Structures

- Considerations related to the impact to the Mt Hood Farmers Market and the desire to ensure they are not adversely impacted by the code language
 - Suggestion to provide a 90 day use limit but give the Farmers Market an explicit exemption, similar to language in the sign code
 - Discussion of road closures as a separate process
 - Agreement for staff to confer with the City Attorney on potential options in keeping with consistency and fairness
- Discussion related to Tickle Creek Condos and challenges related to recreational vehicles being lived in on the property
 - Suggestion that large developments might prefer to have someone living on-site during construction
 - Concern that allowing RV living on-site could have united consequences related to homelessness
- Discussion related to utility service plans and when utilities are 'needed'
- Suggestion to remove 'President of the United States' from the emergency declaration portion of the code language
 - Concern about delving into politics
 - Suggestion to refer to the federal government generally
 - Concern about contrived emergencies being declared to advance political agendas

Fences and Retaining Walls

- Explanation of the diagrams included in the slides
- Concern that an eight foot retaining wall is too high and could create an unsafe condition for people trying to perform maintenance and/or remove vegetation
 - Suggestion that preventing unsafe conditions is not within the City's purview

- Suggestion to make the combined maximum height for walls and fences 14 feet to accommodate a six foot fence atop an eight foot retaining wall
 - Suggestion to develop language to allow such high combined fences on land with topography justifying it
- Discussion related to allowable wall materials; agreement on disallowing tires and refuse as materials
- Concern that 'front yard' definitions could create problematic consequences; street-facing should be the operative term
- Discussion regarding the desirability of chain link
- Discussion regarding the need to refer to a specific edition of state specialty codes in order for the reference to have legal effect
- Suggestion to update the proposed code to accommodate interior park sidewalks/paths

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM

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

It was agreed that the Mt Festival Carnival item would be discussed after the Consent Agenda, followed by a government relations update.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute limit)

Art O'Leary: Inquired as to the veracity of the assertion that some Sandy Bluff homes had sewer laterals connected to the stormwater system, thereby polluting a local pond, which was recently discussed on social media. Staff responded that according to City records, two homes indeed had a cross connection, which was quickly discovered by staff and remedied by the developer. Procedures are now in place to inspect before and ensure this does not happen again. It was also noted that stormwater for the neighborhood does not drain to the pond.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMENTS

(none)

CONSENT AGENDA

2. City Council Minutes: March 2, 2026

MOTION: Adopt the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Sheldon, Seconded by Councilor Ramseyer.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilor Smallwood

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-1

NEW BUSINESS

3. Noise Exemption & Road Closure Request: 2026 Mt Festival Carnival

Staff summarized the staff report in the meeting packet. It was suggested that signs should be installed to notify the public of the upcoming street closure. Discussion also ensued related to sanitation and bathrooms at the laydown yard on Pioneer, and the need to notify surrounding property owners. It was suggested that the Mt Festival might look at alternative sites for the carnival in the future; Mt Festival staff stated that visibility for the carnival is important, but if the former Cedar Ridge property were to be made safe and available as a site they would be very interested.

MOTION: Approve both the noise exception request and the Scales Avenue road closure during the 2026 City of Sandy Mountain Festival Carnival to be held at 38600 Proctor Blvd. between the dates of July 6, 2026, and July 13, 2026, as detailed 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. Government Relations Update

Nellie deVries provided an update on the serial communications bill passed by the Legislature, which may not be signed into law by the Governor. She provided observations on political motivations related to the upcoming governor race. The Mayor reflected on the inappropriateness of OGEC staff advocating against passage of the bill.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Follow Up Discussion: Sign Code Modifications

The Development Services Director summarized the changes to the proposed code language following the past Council discussion in February. It was noted that additional direction is needed regarding the allowable duration of temporary signs.

Discussion ensued on the following topics:

- Note that student graduation signs are not a major source of complaints, nor are they an enforcement priority
- Suggestion to leave the temporary sign duration period at 180 days and rely on prudent enforcement discretion
- Suggestion that property owners should be allowed to place signs as they wish
- Concern that sign placement by neighbors may become excessive
- Clarification related to address number signs and similar signs required by law
- Clarification on proposed language related to flags
- Discussion regarding lighting for Cedar Park and Josnrud Viewpoint signs; concern related to dark sky regulations; concern about attracting visitors to parks that are closed at night
- Suggestion to ensure wayfinding signs are not adversely impacted by code language
- Discussion related to regulation of feather flags; summary of the City's policy history of disallowing such flags; discussion as to whether such a policy is still warranted or appropriate, given the importance of economic development

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the temporary sign duration period should remain at 180 days. It was also agreed that staff should reach out to local businesses to advise them on the impending changes to the sign code.

6. "Bin List" Discussion Follow-Up

The City Manager provided an introduction, and the Mayor summarized the several methods currently by Councilors to advance ideas onto upcoming agendas. She suggested deferring any potential update of the Council Rules until after any changes to state ethics and meetings laws take effect.

It was suggested that review and potential updates to the bin list should occur once per month during Council meetings. Alternatively, it was suggested that bin list suggestions could be made via email, though the City Attorney cautioned any such deliberations need to be conducted during a noticed meeting. Further discussion included the need for a bin list in the first place, and whether Council Reports discussions might be sufficient. The challenges presented by recent strict meetings law interpretations by the OGEC were raised; it was suggested that being able to legally float or pitch ideas with fellow Councilors is of high importance.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Council Reports will be used as the proper time for Councilors to suggest agenda items, and that the City Manager will suggest

quick 'straw polls' in the moment, as appropriate, to verify majority Council support for suggested items before staff time is expended.

It was also noted that the City Manager will continue to list future agenda items in weekend update emails.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Note that ordinances updating the municipal code related to excess noise and solicitation will be brought to the Council for consideration before summer
- Note that an RFI is being released soon to gather information from potential vendors related to technological enhancements in the Council Chambers
- Reminder of the upcoming CCA dinner in Estacada

COMMITTEE / COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Hokanson

(none)

Councilor Hanley

- Praise for the upcoming Mountain Festival carnival
- Praise for the Mountain Storm youth basketball program and Parks staff
- Suggestion to potentially reorient the Council Chambers to improve acoustics

Councilor Ramseyer

- Note of upcoming Transit Advisory Board meeting
- Note of upcoming Planning Commission meeting

Councilor Sheldon

- Recap of recent C-4 meeting
- Discussion related to the County's transportation system plan update

Councilor Smallwood

(none)

Councilor Mayton

- Update on the Parks and Trails Advisory Board
- Note of upcoming Mt. Hood Economic Alliance meeting

Mayor Walker

- Note of upcoming LOC water/wastewater policy committee meeting and opportunities to pursue reuse solutions

- Note of forthcoming wastewater facilities plan amendment and groundwater reuse approaches that will be included
- Praise for the Energize Sandy program; suggestion to convene an Economic Development Advisory Board meeting soon

STAFF UPDATES

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

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DRAFT