



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Sandy City Hall and via Zoom

MINUTES

WORK SESSION – 6:00 PM

1. Sign Code Modifications Work Session

The Development Services Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet, and presented slides that were also included in the packet. The history and context of the longstanding efforts to reform the sign code were discussed, as was past frustration heard from business owners and sign manufacturers.

As outlined in the presentation slides, the following topics were discussed by the Council:

- Murals; constitutional protections of speech; public art programs in other comparable cities; and the possibility of developing a future mural program in Sandy
- Sign height, especially related to stone base requirements and the desire for reasonable proportionality; concerns about light pollution;
- Sign design and framing; concerns about cost to businesses
- Food cart sign regulations; screening requirements; maintenance requirements
- Community event signage and approval processes; considerations for ensuring all applicable events can be addressed by the proposed code language
- Temporary sign time limits; importance of property rights; importance of ensuring residents can celebrate their graduating students with yard signs; concerns about visual appearance; possible variance processes
- Electronic sign time limits
- Sign review processes
- Code enforcement policies; compliance deadlines; strategies for deadline with refused notices; discussion of fine amounts and repeat violations

Summary of Outcomes from the Discussion:

- Temporary Signs: Council will reconvene in the next several months to discuss all amendments in more detail, especially proposed changes to temporary sign regulations where Council consensus was not evident. Staff will research temporary sign regulations in other cities for consideration
- Murals: Staff should develop a proposed mural program in 2026, potentially for implementation with the assistance of a new Heritage Advisory Board.
- Sign Height: The Council agrees with increasing the height in the C-3 zoning district from 8 feet to 10 feet. The Council agrees with increasing the sign height for

commercial and institutional uses within a residential zone from 5 feet to 6 feet, but wants the stone base requirement reduced to 24 inches.

- Sign Frames: The Council agrees with decreasing the sign frame from three inches to two inches.
- Food Cart Signs: The Council wishes to allow signage on all four sides of a food cart.
- Community Event Signage: The Council agrees with the proposal for the City Manager to approve signage pursuant to the conditions listed
- Electronic Message Signs: The Council agrees with a minimum of 10 seconds rather than one hour.
- Sign Review: The Council agrees with A-frame signs being reviewed by staff, sign variances being reviewed by the Director with appeals to Council, and increasing the appeal timeline to 12 calendar days.
- Code Enforcement: The Council agrees with reducing temporary sign compliance to 10 days, but wants the clock to begin at the time that certified mail is “received or refused.”
- Fine Amount: The Council agrees with classifying sign violations as Class C infractions (\$250).

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Councilor Chris Mayton

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(none)

PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute limit)

Art O’Leary: asked about the status of any efforts to further explore the construction of a new community pool, which may include the formation of a parks special district. The City Manager responded with a summary of past efforts and the funding in the current budget to support creation of a district, which would be necessary because the City is unable to afford to operate a pool on its own. The Mayor provided further thoughts on the potential to form a district, noted

she sits on the County's parks and trails advisory committee, and pointed to the need to identify a list of stakeholders to be involved in the initial stages of district formation.

Larry Porter: stated they received a letter from City staff about the installation of a pole for a new live camera at Jonsrud Viewpoint, which is directly across Bluff Rd. from their home; stated they received assurances from staff that the pole would be placed as far south as possible to minimize the impact on their view, but it appears the pole will not be installed where they were told it would be; stated this is not acceptable to them, and asked the City to move the pole; provided the letter their received and other handouts displaying the view from their home, which are attached to these minutes.

Linda Porter: thanked the Council for their service; stated that the letter from staff indicated the pole would be in the most southern location possible; stated she feels the City's actions did not reflect the promises made in the letter from staff; questioned why they were not included in discussions about the placement of the pole

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMENTS

It was noted that staff will give the Council an update in the near future on the Tickle Creek restoration supplemental environmental project, as well as the involvement of Mr. Ernesti and his team

CONSENT AGENDA

2. City Council Minutes: January 20, 2026
3. City Council Minutes: February 2, 2026

MOTION: Adopt the consent agenda

Motion made by Councilor Ramseyer, Seconded by Councilor Sheldon.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

4. Contract Approval: Portland General Electric Fleet Partner Program Agreement

The Transit Director summarized the staff report in the meeting packet. She noted that a timeline extension of the federal grant is not likely. Discussion ensued on the flexibly-written utility easement language included, allowing a future survey to establish the particular easement boundaries; further discussion related to the desire to be able to revoke the easement in the future if the equipment installed becomes obsolete, which was not included as part of the proposed easement language. Additional discussion related to the anticipated lifespan of the equipment and PGE's responsibility to maintain it over time.

MOTION: Authorize the City Manager to execute the Program Participation Agreement and Utility Easement between Sandy Transit and Portland General Electric, as included in the meeting packet

Motion made by Councilor Smallwood, Seconded by Councilor Ramseyer.

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

Voting Nay: Council President Hokanson

MOTION CARRIED: 5-1

MOTION: Amend the proposed easement language to include a provision to allow the City to revoke the easement if and when the subject equipment and technology becomes obsolete

Motion made by Council President Hokanson (not seconded)

5. Contract Approval: City Manager Employment Agreement Amendment

Councilor Sheldon, who had been tasked with working with the City Attorney to review the City Manager's request for a contract amendment, summarized the report in the meeting packet. Councilor Sheldon noted that the proposed salary increase would keep the City Manager near the middle of the salary range that was advertised during his recruitment, when adjusted for inflation. It was noted that increases to the City Manager's salary can result in upward pressure on the City's salary schedule. It was also noted that the salary increase should be made retroactive to the anniversary of Mr. Deems' appointment to the City Manager position.

MOTION: Authorize the Mayor to execute the proposed amendment to the City Manager's employment contract, with an effective date of September 24, 2025

Motion made by Councilor Sheldon, Seconded by Councilor Hanley.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

- Nellie deVries provided an update on the current session of the Oregon Legislature. She noted that the first chamber of origin deadline has expired, and also praised the Mayor's testimony at the recent capital construction public hearing. She noted that approximately \$77 million is expected to be allocated to projects statewide, and that Sandy's funding request is currently still on Senator Drazan's list. She also indicated that she is scheduling upcoming meetings with members of the Ways and Means committee.

- Further discussion related to the following topics:
 - Expected referral of the transportation bill to the May ballot
 - Efforts to disconnect the state from the federal tax code to ensure more state revenue
 - A bill to provide modest reforms addressing the recent OGEC ruling limiting the ability of councilors to engage in discussion outside of public meetings

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Note that SB 1514 will not proceed during this legislative session
- Reminder of the upcoming business appreciation event and summary of the advertising methods
- Overview of community survey response statistics thus far
- Discussion related to placement of the Jonsrud Viewpoint camera:
 - Construction is scheduled to begin the next day
 - Concern that the City was vague and insufficiently forthright in its letter to the adjacent property owners
 - Contention that the quality of the view is a subjective matter
 - Note that the planned placement of the camera is best for the cost and feasibility of the project
 - Suggestion that City representatives should visit the site personally and consider alternative placement options
 - Concern that moving the pole would increase costs beyond the scope of the grant
 - Concern about disturbing the existing stonework at the viewpoint
 - Suggestion that the City needs to do a better job of communicating with adjacent property owners generally

COMMITTEE / COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Hokanson

- Suggestion that the City should have considered other creative options for the Jonsrud camera such as placement on a nearby rooftop
 - Additional Council conversation about the long history and context of the camera project
- Suggestion for government relations updates to occur at the beginning of each meeting
- Suggestion to hold a town hall style meeting about the possibility of installing traffic cameras to encourage more public involvement
- Concern that not enough policy discussion is occurring in open public meetings, and that too many executive sessions are being held; suggestion that better balance is needed between the roles of Mayor and Councilor particularly as it relates to agenda setting

Councilor Hanley

- Suggestion to absorb the extra cost to move the viewpoint camera
- Summary of the Library's statistics from 2024 and 2025 (stat sheets are attached to these minutes)
- Note that the Mountain Festival will include a carnival this year

- Praise for the business appreciation event

Councilor Ramseyer

- Recap of the Deer Pointe Park ribbon cutting
- Recap of the recent Regional Water Providers meeting
- Disappointment that the viewpoint camera is encountering difficulties; hope for a positive resolution

Councilor Sheldon

- Suggestion that the Mountain Festival carnival should be in a better location off the highway because of safety concerns
 - Discussion of challenges involved with hosting a carnival at the community campus site
- Concern that installing a traffic camera at the intersection of Hwy 26 and Bluff, especially for westbound traffic, could create a speed trap because of the 40 mph sign visible just beyond the intersection
 - Suggestion to move the 40 mph sign further to the west

Councilor Smallwood

- Recap of the recent C-4 meeting
- Discussion related to providing input for the County's transportation system plan update; recognition of the need to compile a list of the Council's priorities for improvements in the immediate vicinity of Sandy, likely including extending 362nd north to Kelso and improving the intersection of Hwy 211 and 362nd

Mayor Walker

- Recap of the Deer Pointe Park ribbon cutting
- Recap of recent testimony at the Legislature regarding the City's wastewater funding request
- Note of the upcoming business appreciation event and the launch of new grant and loan programs through the urban renewal agency
- Note of the expected vote on the County's public safety levy
- Note of the dialogue on social media regarding potential traffic and pedestrian safety measures
- Note that the Jonsrud Viewpoint camera project challenges were unfortunate
- Note of the pending request to ODOT to lower speed limits on Hwy 26 at the eastern entrance to town
- Emphasis on the importance of moving SandyNet to the operations center to free up space and options at the community campus
- Regarding wastewater:
 - With the oversight subcommittee now disbanded, it is important for all councilors to meet with staff to get fully up to speed, followed by a work session to discuss next steps
 - Avoiding serial meetings is important

- Staff are pursuing the possibility of a groundwater recharge solution

STAFF UPDATES

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

ADJOURN

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The City Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d)

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