



TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

FOR APRIL 14, 2025

PRESENT: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Christen Sacco, Councilor Cyndi Hillier, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Octavio Gonazlez

ABSENT: Councilor Maria Reyes

Call to Order

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements

1. Month of the Military Child Recognition

Lorene Moore, joined by youth leaders from the Oregon Military Teen Panel, gave a brief overview of children in military families. She invited her counterparts to share their experiences. They spoke on their challenges and opportunities, shared positive reflections, and gave examples from their personal lives. Ms. Moore thanked the Council for recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child.

Mayor Bubenik announced April as the Month of the Military Child.

2. Proclamation Declaring April 2025 as Parkinson's Awareness Month

Councilor President Pratt read the proclamation declaring April 2025 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the City of Tualatin.

3. Proclamation Declaring April 20 - April 26, 2025, as Volunteer Appreciation Week in the City of Tualatin

Human Resource Director Stacy Ruthrauff presented the Volunteer Appreciation Week proclamation.

Councilor Brooks read the proclamation declaring the week of April 20-26, 2025, as Volunteer Appreciation Week in the City of Tualatin.

4. Recognition of Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee Member Dawn Upton

Recreation Manager Julie Ludemann introduced Dawn Upton and spoke highly of her 15-year tenure on the Arts Advisory Committee.

The Council recognized Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee Member Dawn Upton for her service to the committee.

5. New Employee Introduction- Management Analyst II William Sullivan

Finance Director Don Hudson introduced Management Analyst William Sullivan. The Council welcomed him.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion to adopt the consent agenda made by Pratt, Seconded by Brooks.

Voting Yea: Mayor Bubenik, Council President Pratt, Councilor Brooks, Councilor Sacco, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Hillier

MOTION PASSED

1. Consideration of Approval of the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2025
2. Consideration of **Resolution No. 5872-25** Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for and Accept Local Government Grant Program Funds to Rehabilitate the Playground at Tualatin Community Park
3. Consideration of **Resolution No. 5873-25** Authorizing an Amendment to the Agreement Between the City of Tualatin and Tualatin Riverkeepers for Management and Operations of City Property

Special Reports

1. Tualatin Youth Advisory Council Report on the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC

Tualatin Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members presented their report on their recent attendance at the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Cities Conference. They shared highlights of the trip including networking with other youth councils from across the country, learning about issues and projects being addressed in other communities, and visiting key landmarks such as the National Museum of Natural History, the National Botanic Garden, the National Mall, and the Library of Congress. They described their participation in workshop sessions focused on community-based problem solving, where they worked in teams to develop ideas and strategies for addressing local issues.

YAC members presented several recommendations for the Council to consider. They proposed creating a Tualatin-based problem-solving “hack” event, where local youth could engage directly with the City Council to provide productive feedback and propose solutions to community challenges. They also recommended implementing a “Meet the City” program to take students on field trips to City facilities, offering them a deeper understanding of local government operations and the individuals who serve the community. Lastly, they expressed their intent to continue supporting mental health initiatives, including participation in a mental health awareness fair in May hosted by LEAP at Tualatin High School.

Councilor Brooks thanked them for their presentation and their leadership in the community. She offered support for their ideas and offered to be a resource in the future.

Councilor Brooks stated she would like to include the Council in future field trips.

Mayor Bubenik thanked them for their work and stated he looks forward to hearing more from them in the future.

2. Outside Agency Grant Awardee- Tualatin Riverkeepers

Tualatin Riverkeepers Executive Director Glenn Fee presented an update on the organization's recent activities and ongoing initiatives. He provided an overview of their mission and highlighted several community-focused projects. Director Fee spoke about increased visitor activity along the trails, noting that more families are now using the area and that one local resident, initially drawn to the park as a visitor, is now volunteering as part of the team.

Director Fee shared updates on a variety of events and programs, including the upcoming Earth Day fair, a recent boat sale, and continued efforts in habitat restoration. He also highlighted the River Experiences Wayfaring Project, the River Runner Program, and the recent designation of the Tualatin River as a National Water Trail. Director Fee announced that Discovery Day is scheduled for June 21.

Councilor Brooks expressed her appreciation and support for the work being done. She asked if she could obtain a T-shirt and brochure to share with the library. Director Fee responded that those items will be made available on the organization's website.

Councilor Brooks asked if he could share about the historic Swan Boats. Director Fee gave a brief overview of the history of the Roamers Rest RV Park and their Swan Boats. He is hopeful that one may be out for Discovery Day to highlight the history of the river.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about the EAB and what is being done around that topic. Director Fee stated they want to be an asset for the city around this and know they will lose most of the Ash trees. Nevertheless, they want to partner to plant more trees and protect the under shed. His worry is the rising river temperatures, and he hopes to utilize the River Runner Program to assist in geotagging trees on the river.

Council President Pratt thanked him for the restoration work they do.

Mayor Bubenik thanked him for the presentation and for utilizing the grant funding so well.

3. Backyard Habitat Certification Program Annual Report 2024-2025

Management Analyst Lindsay Marshall provided background on the program and its partnership with the city, emphasizing that the initiative aligns closely with the goals outlined in Tualatin's Climate Action Plan. Backyard Habitat Members Katherine Noble and Susie Peterson presented the group's annual report. Member Noble offered an overview of the activities that contribute to the program's environmental impact. She described the different levels of habitat certification and explained the steps participants must take to achieve each designation. She encouraged those interested in learning more to visit growsmartgrowsafe.org. Member Noble also highlighted several partnerships with local community groups that have helped expand the program's reach and effectiveness.

Councilor Brooks thanked them for the presentation and inquired if they could share more about the bird loss happening in our area. Member Peterson stated the region has lost 1 out of 4 birds in the last 50 years. She explained that Tualatin is in the Pacific Flyway and tonight is a red alert night for night migration. She gave suggestions on how to support the bird population.

Councilor Brooks stated her appreciation and their shared common goals. She asked them to share the list of professional services on their website. Member Peterson shared the professional directory located on their website.

Council Communications

Mayor Bubenik invited everyone to attend the Town Hall being held on Friday at 6:30 pm in the Library Community Room.

Councilor Brooks reminded everyone about the State of the City event and invited all to attend.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____/ Erika Pagel, Recording Secretary

_____/ Frank Bubenik, Mayor