



# TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FOR FEBRUARY 09, 2026

**PRESENT:** Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco, Councilor Octavio Gonzalez

**ABSENT:** Mayor Frank Bubenik

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## Call to Order

Council President Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Announcements

### 1. Proclamation Recognizing February 21, 2026, as Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration Day

Councilor Brooks read the proclamation recognizing February 21, 2026, as Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration Day in the City of Tualatin.

President of Vietnamese Community of Oregon Thao Tu accepted the proclamation.

### 2. Employee of the Year Presentation and Proclamation

City Manager Sherilyn Lombos announced Network Administrator Frank Bubenik as the 2025 City of Tualatin Employee of the Year.

Councilor Hillier read the Employee of the Year Proclamation.

## Consent Agenda

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

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

## MOTION PASSED

### 1. Consideration of Approval of the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2026

### 2. Consideration of Approval of a New Liquor License Application for Ancestry Brewing

### 3. Consideration of **Resolution No. 5942-26** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Grant Agreement for a Metro Area Communications Commission Grant; and Appropriating Special Purpose Revenues in the City's General Fund During the FY 2026-27 Budget

## Special Reports

### 1. TriMet Budget Reductions Presentation

TriMet General Manager Sam Desue, Chief Public Affairs Officer JC Vannetta, Director of Local Government Affairs Tom Mills, and Board Member Robert Kellogg presented information regarding TriMet's proposed budget reductions. Mr. Vannetta stated the region is experiencing layoffs at a rate outpacing the Great Recession, continued high office vacancy rates in downtown Portland, elevated telework levels, and ongoing public safety concerns which are impacting their business.

Mr. Vannetta stated approximately 35% of riders are transit dependent, noting record enrollment and usage in the low-income fare program. He stated fare revenue has declined since the pandemic, resulting in an approximate \$60 million annual loss. Mr. Vannetta stated inflation has increased operating costs by 56% between 2019 and 2025, while service needs have grown. He reported TriMet has invested in safety and security, cleaning services, and network reconfiguration. The agency currently has a \$700 million capital maintenance backlog and is facing a projected \$300 million deficit that must be addressed by July 2028.

Mr. Vannetta stated TriMet is focusing on three primary areas to address the deficit: administrative reductions totaling at least \$93 million, generating a minimum of \$48 million annually in new sustainable revenue, and service adjustments. He stated internal actions, including administrative cuts and pausing service increases, have reduced spending by approximately \$150 million. External actions include increasing fares, conducting outreach regarding a potential future fare increase, and working with lawmakers to increase Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund funding.

Mr. Mills presented proposed service reductions and categorization of cuts. He stated service reductions are balanced by county, with 21% in Clackamas County, 68% in Multnomah County, and 11% in Washington County. He reviewed proposed impacts specific to Tualatin.

Mr. Mills stated proposed line eliminations include Lines 82, 97, and 153, noting ridership standards and cost per ride ratios were factors in the analysis. He presented new proposals involving Lines 38, 94, and 97 intended to improve operational efficiency. Additional proposals include new service to Plambeck Gardens and Rolling Hills. He stated a demonstration ride for Line 96 would occur on February 11<sup>th</sup> to allow riders to experience the proposed route and compare travel times.

Mr. Mills reviewed Title VI requirements, stating TriMet must complete an analysis to ensure no system-wide disproportionate burden on low-income riders and no system wide disparate impact on minority populations. He reported LIFT paratransit service recorded 747,303 boardings in Fiscal Year 2025 and approximately 22,463 annual boardings would be affected under the proposals.

Mr. Mills stated the public comment period closed on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the TriMet Board will consider the proposals in March, and service changes would take effect August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Vannetta reiterated outreach efforts, including in person, online, and multilingual open houses. He stated TriMet invited the public to rank 9 types of potential service cuts and received nearly 7,000 responses.

Councilor Hillier asked whether Tualatin residents are receiving the approximately \$20 million in transit benefits relative to taxes paid. Mr. Mills stated he was unsure of the specific calculation and

explained that contributions support the regional network as a whole rather than service solely within Tualatin.

Councilor Hillier expressed concern regarding residents' ability to travel to Hillsboro and Oregon City. Mr. Mills stated ridership to Oregon City was very low and the line is proposed for elimination. He stated TriMet is coordinating with SMART to help address service gaps.

Councilor Hillier asked how school transportation is accommodated. Mr. Mills stated Portland Public Schools does not provide yellow bus service for many students, and students use TriMet service. He stated TriMet provides free passes for low-income students.

Councilor Hillier asked whether TriMet would be eligible for Transient Lodging Tax funding. Mr. Vannetta stated those funds are typically used to support conventions and event related travel and are not a general operating revenue source for transit.

Councilor Reyes asked when ridership data was collected. Mr. Mills stated the data reflects the fall quarter, August through December.

Councilor Brooks asked how TriMet plans to improve ridership and stated she would like the agency to evaluate community needs in addition to ridership numbers. Mr. Mills stated TriMet uses an equity index incorporating 10 evaluation factors when making service decisions.

Councilor Sacco asked how TriMet contextualizes low ridership and whether timing and frequency contribute to low utilization. Mr. Mills stated suburban land use patterns result in fewer mixed-use origins and destinations compared to urban areas. He stated the current budget constraints require prioritizing preservation of higher performing routes.

Councilor Sacco asked about Ride Connection services and expressed concern regarding Line 76 not serving certain areas, including access to the food pantry. Mr. Mills stated those riders primarily utilize Ride Connection services rather than Line 76.

Councilor Sacco emphasized the importance of ensuring Tualatin residents have sufficient opportunity to connect to the broader transit network.

Council President Pratt stated she was pleased LIFT services are not proposed for elimination and expressed interest in ensuring service gaps are addressed through paratransit options where appropriate. She asked about upcoming Board sessions and opportunities for continued engagement.

Council President Pratt asked about the WES Commuter Rail service and why it remains operational given cost considerations. Mr. Mills stated WES involves contractual agreements and intergovernmental agreements that require continued operation. He stated TriMet is in discussion with partner agencies regarding potential adjustments.

TriMet Board Member Kellogg stated the agency is working daily to ensure the transit system remains safe, efficient, and affordable.

General Manager Desue stated TriMet is committed to making necessary adjustments to stabilize finances while preserving essential service.

## Public Comment

Catherine Ball spoke regarding the proposed elimination of TriMet Line 76 service to Oregon City and described how the change would impact her ability to travel to that destination. She also expressed concern regarding proposed changes to Line 96 and stated the modifications would affect commutes to local churches.

## Special Reports

### 2. Outside Agency Grant Awardee- Just Compassion

Just Compassion Deputy Director Michael Austin presented information regarding the organization. Director Austin provided an overview of the organization's history and described its service model. He reviewed services provided, including street outreach, shelter services, case management, permanent supportive housing, eviction prevention, and a safe parking program. Director Austin presented information regarding the organization's new campus and discussed additional services now offered on site, including mental health services and career guidance.

Councilor Brooks thanked the organization for its work in the community and expressed appreciation for services provided to individuals with dual diagnoses. She asked about rental expungement and how the organization assists individuals in addressing barriers related to prior rental history.

### 3. Backyard Habitat Certification Program Annual Report 2025

Backyard Habitat Program Co-Manager Katherine Noble presented the organization's annual report. Manager Noble stated the program's mission is to provide tools and resources to help create climate resilient yards and communities. She explained the program works with participants to educate and equip them to take action in their own yards. She stated participants are encouraged to mitigate climate change through tree planting and reduction of manmade hazards. Manager Noble described how the program operates and outlined six core elements: invasive plant removal and management; planting locally native species; reducing pesticide use; supporting wildlife habitat; stormwater and soil management; and education and volunteerism.

Manager Noble stated the organization partnered with Earth Economics to prepare a report evaluating program benefits. She reported that participants have planted approximately 5.3 million square feet of naturescape, including 21,182 native trees and 327,315 shrubs and groundcovers. She stated the program has generated more than \$5 million in environmental benefits. Manager Noble also reported that participation in gardening activities supports mental wellbeing, with an estimated 289 individuals experiencing reduced risk of depression or anxiety.

Manager Noble provided Tualatin specific data, stating the program has had 102 participants to date. The program has conducted 20 site assessments and certified 26 properties. She stated more than 21 acres are currently enrolled in the program and certified sites have planted approximately 2,340 native trees and shrubs.

Councilor Brooks congratulated the organization on its work and asked about the Open Gardens program. Manager Noble stated the Open Gardens program will launch in the spring.

#### 4. Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee Annual Report

Recreation Manager Julie Ludeman, Juanita Pohl Center Manager Sara Shepherd, and Juanita Pohl Center Advisory Committee Chair Susan Noack presented the annual report. Manager Shepherd introduced the Advisory Committee members and expressed appreciation for their service. She stated the Committee's role includes sharing ideas for future programming, advocating for active older adults in the community, and supporting the Center's efforts to provide inclusive and engaging services. She thanked the Center's community partners and sponsors for their continued support.

Manager Shepherd reviewed the benefits of the Juanita Pohl Center, stating participation contributes to improved health outcomes, life enrichment, greater life satisfaction, and increased social connection and interaction. Manager Shepherd reported that in 2025 the Center served 16,525 program participants, representing a 27% increase over the previous year. She highlighted new activities offered during the year, including Coffee and Conversations, cards and games in partnership with LAM Research, crafts, BUNCO, trivia, and gift-wrapping events.

Manager Shepherd provided an update on the Juanita Pohl Center Meal Program, stating the program currently serves approximately 72 meals per week, representing a 400% increase compared to the previous nutrition program. She noted that 83% of participants contribute the requested \$5 donation per meal.

Manager Shepherd stated planned facility improvements this next year include restroom upgrades, installation of new exterior doors, and minor interior updates. She outlined the 2026 action plan, which includes expanding high quality programming, continuing to grow and refine the meal program, and fostering new sponsorship opportunities.

Committee Chair Susan Noack shared her personal experience at the Center and spoke to the positive impact the programs have on participants.

Councilor Brooks thanked staff for their work supporting the Center and its participants.

Council President Pratt expressed appreciation for the success and growth of the meal program.

#### **General Business**

##### 1. Review of 2026 City Council Priorities

City Manager Lombos presented the updated Council Vision and Priorities document. She stated the seven priority areas remain unchanged and reviewed minor revisions made to associated action items. She summarized updates to action items under the following priority areas: Neighborhood Engagement, Housing, Economic Development, Transportation, Environment, Parks, and Culture and Identity. She noted that while outcome statements remain unchanged across all priority areas, several action steps were refined to better reflect current initiatives and timelines.

Councilor Brooks requested edits to Action Item 1.1 and asked for clarification regarding specific language. City Manager Lombos clarified the terminology used and the intent of the revision.

Councilor Brooks asked where legislative coordination, including work with Thorn Run Partners, was reflected in the document. City Manager Lombos stated legislative coordination was removed as a listed action because it is an ongoing operational activity.

Councilor Brooks stated she would like to see clearer communication and policy direction regarding legislative decision making reflected in the document.

### **Council Communications**

City Manager Sherilyn Lombos presented the Manager’s Report. She stated an all-employee meeting was held to recognize service anniversaries, welcome new employees, and honor the Employee of the Year. She reported ongoing coordination with Washington County Cooperative Library Services. She stated staff continue to participate in meetings related to sub regional transit service planning. She noted attendance at the Key Leaders Breakfast and reported ongoing collaboration with the Tualatin School District regarding athletic fields. City Manager Lombos stated City offices will be closed on Monday in observance of the holiday.

Councilor Sacco stated she attended the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting and the Community Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilor Reyes stated she attended the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting.

Councilor Brooks stated she met with Representative Walters, attended the Clackamas River Basin Council meeting, the Washington County Public Affairs Board review meeting, the Chamber of Commerce Titanium Committee meeting, a First Tier Suburbs meeting with the National League of Cities, the Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee meeting, the League of Oregon Cities Women’s Caucus meeting, a National League of Cities housing webinar, the Regional Water Providers Consortium meeting, Representative Neuron’s community meeting, and the Tualatin Riverkeepers annual meeting.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting, the Community Advisory Committee meeting, the Key Leaders Breakfast, the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting, and the R1ACT meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Council President Pratt adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor