

Wilsonville City Council Meeting
Mayor's Business Report – Monday, September 4, 2025
Presented by Shawn O'Neil, Mayor

CALL TO ORDER [7:00 PM]

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Motion to approve the following order of the agenda

MAYOR'S BUSINESS [7:05 PM]

4. Upcoming Meetings

COMMUNICATIONS [7:15 PM]

5. Wilsonville Community Sharing Update
6. Watching Wilsonville Wildlife Program

CITIZEN INPUT AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS [7:45 PM]

4A. MAYOR'S BUSINESS – Recent Meetings, Events, Etc.

Good evening. School is back in session, which means vacations are winding down but sports, clubs, and other activities are in full swing. My son, Tenzin, is now in high school—every parent's dream, but an exciting time for him. I wish all the parents, students, and teachers in the community a great start to the school year, and a reminder to all of us to drive safe and watch out for kids and school zones.

Tour with Rep. Rieke Smith

On a very hot day in mid-August, **State Representative Sue Rieke Smith**, our new representative down in Salem, joined city staff on a whirlwind **tour** of Wilsonville. We showed her:

- **SMART's operations facility** to highlight the City's outstanding public transit system and our transition to a clean fuels fleet,
- **Vuela**, the transit-oriented affordable housing development currently under construction,
- The **Wastewater Treatment Facility** and the constrained site that they must operate on while maintaining state and federal rules for handling wastewater,
- **Town Center** to provide an overview of the community-driven 2019 Town Center Plan, including the **pedestrian bridge over I-5**, and
- **Coffee Creek and Basalt Creek** to showcase Wilsonville's employment lands and opportunities for creating living wage jobs here in our city.

Rep. Rieke Smith was appreciative of the tour and there's no replacement for seeing something with your own eyes, so this will help Wilsonville as we tell our story and make policy proposals in Salem.

Sen. Woods Memorial

On August 13, the City held a **memorial** for the late **State Senator Aaron Woods** in Town Center Park to recognize his significant contributions to the City of Wilsonville and the State of Oregon. Speakers included **State Senator Courtney Neron Misslin**, former **Mayors Tim Knapp and Julie Fitzgerald**, **Clackamas Community College President Tim Cook**, and other community leaders.

The event was well-attended by community members, and several members of Aaron's family flew in from Chicago for the service and dedication of a park bench in his memory.

OMA Conference

In mid-August, I attended the **Oregon Mayor's Association Conference** in Baker City. It's an opportunity for mayors across the state to come together and share best practices and discuss shared challenges.

Regardless of size, urban versus rural, coast or far east, cities in Oregon have common issues, including the need for more **housing** at all affordability levels, the desire for good **jobs** and **healthy communities**, and an interest in protecting our **local autonomy and individual character** that makes our cities unique.

Boone Bridge Progress Meeting

The **Boone Bridge Seismic Resiliency Project** is the City of Wilsonville's prime legislative priority. Thanks to the efforts of **State Senator Courtney Neron Misslin**, the Legislature recently approved **\$1 million dollars** for preliminary work that will inform the eventual engineering and design of a new bridge.

I joined **Senator Neron Misslin**, **Representative Rieke Smith**, staff from **Congresswoman Salinas' office**, Oregon Department of Transportation **Director Kris Strickler** and other ODOT staff, and City of Wilsonville representatives at a meeting to discuss how to efficiently and effectively use that \$1 million of secured funding and opportunities to seek additional resources. ODOT recommended conducting a **geotechnical study**, which tells engineers what soil and rock conditions are like underground, which the group supported.

There also was energy around developing a larger **coalition of supporters** from the community and private sector who can help tell the story of the Boone Bridge and why it is a project of statewide significance. I look forward to that group coming together in the coming months.

Party in the Park

It was great to see community members come out for **Party in the Park**, our unofficial end of summer celebration. With live music, fun

and informative activities from City departments, and of course the beloved SMART train and rubber duck races, it was an evening with something for everyone. Many thanks to our outstanding **City staff** for putting on such a wonderful event.

Legislative Special Session

Beginning **Friday, August 29**, the Legislature convened a special session to discuss **transportation funding**. The effort, led by Governor Kotek, seeks to backfill **operations and maintenance** funding for ODOT as revenue from the gas tax declines because of fuel-efficient vehicles.

The proposal **raises the gas tax and other fees**, including extra fees on fully electric and highly-efficient vehicles and sets in motion a **transition to a road user charge** where people pay to support our road system based on miles traveled rather than fuel efficiency, leveling the playing field.

It also **temporarily doubles the 0.1% payroll tax** that funds transit to 0.2% until January 1, 2028. SMART would receive additional funds to support new vehicles, service enhancements, and other benefits.

Following two public hearings totaling around six hours and thousands of written comments submitted, the Oregon House passed the transportation proposal over Labor Day weekend. The bill is now awaiting action in the Senate, which is delayed until September 17.

4B. MAYOR'S BUSINESS – Upcoming Meetings, Events, Etc.

DEI Cultural Calendar

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee's Cultural Calendar highlights dates of significance for historically marginalized communities. There are three dates of note in September.

Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized from **September 15 through October 15**. It is a time to celebrate the rich culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino culture on the nation's history. People with ancestry from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America celebrate their roots.

Rosh Hashanah is September 22 through 24. The Jewish New Year, it is the first of the Jewish High Holidays and a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal through special prayers and festive meals, which often include apples and honey to symbolize a sweet new year.

And finally, **Yom Kippur**, another Jewish High Holiday, is observed on October 1 and 2. The holiest day of the year in Judaism, it is a day of atonement to seek forgiveness for sins and deepen spiritual connections. It involves a 25-hour period of fasting, prayer, and focus on one's spirituality.

Republic Services Tour

Next week, I will be touring **Republic Services’ transfer facility** here in Wilsonville on Ridder Road. In October, Republic Services will be presenting their annual report to Council.

Emergency Preparedness Fair

Join experts from the City and partner organizations on **Saturday, September 20** from **10am – noon** at the **Stein-Boozier Barn** in Memorial Park for the City’s **annual Emergency Preparedness Fair**. Learn the basics of being prepared for an emergency, including building a “go kit,” how to get connected to emergency alerts, what to know about wildfire season, and more.

Motivated by the wildfires, ice storm, heat dome, and COVID pandemic we’ve experienced in the past five years, the “**Wilsonville Ready**” campaign is a year-round effort to help residents and businesses become better equipped to endure the immediate aftermath of an emergency when power, water, food, medical aid, communications, and other basic services may be unavailable.

Paper Shredding Day

Residents are invited to drop off sensitive paper documents for secure, on-site shredding at the City’s **annual Shred Day** on **Saturday, October 4** from **9am – 2pm** at **City Hall**. The City is partnering with Shred Northwest to provide this service to residents and small businesses at

no charge. In lieu of a fee, the City is asking participants to consider making a cash or check donation to Wilsonville Community Sharing to support this local non-profit food bank continue to provide social services to our community. **Proof of residency** is required, and participants are encouraged to come earlier in the day—the event will end when the shredding truck is filled to capacity!

Next City Council Meeting

Our next City Council meeting will be on **Monday, September 15 starting at 7 PM.**

5. COMMUNICATIONS [7:15 PM]

Wilsonville Community Sharing Update

It's now my pleasure to welcome **Leigh Crosby, Executive Director of Wilsonville Community Sharing**, our local food bank to give an update on their amazing work supporting our neighbors who need temporary help getting a nutritious meal for their family or with other basic needs like utility bills.

Watching Wilsonville Wildlife Program

Next, **Kerry Rappold, Natural Resources Manager** for the City, will share about the Watching Wilsonville Wildlife program, which is funded through a Metro Community Enhancement Grant. Hopefully the

presentation includes some exciting trail camera photos like we saw at Party in the Park!

CITIZEN INPUT AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS [7:45 PM]

We will move now to the Community Input and Announcements portion of the City Council meeting agenda.