

Wilsonville City Council Meeting
Mayor's Business Report – Monday, April 21, 2025
Presented by Shawn O'Neil, Mayor

CALL TO ORDER [7:30 PM]

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

MAYOR'S BUSINESS [7:35 PM]

4. Upcoming Meetings

COMMUNICATIONS [7:45 PM]

5. TVF&R State of the District (Fire Chief Deric Weiss) [15 min]
6. Urban & Community Forestry Organization Presidents Award
Recipient Chris Neamtzu [15 min]

CITIZEN INPUT AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS [8:15 PM]

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

Good evening everyone. For those members of our community who observe Easter, I hope that this was a good year to celebrate.

And hopefully community members with children had the opportunity to participate in the free annual Wilsonville Egg Hunt at Memorial Park.

For tonight's Mayor's Business Report, I have several items to report on since our last City Council meeting on April 7.

- **Statement from Mayor O’Neil on the Passing of Senator Aaron Woods**

First, it is with profound sadness that I share the news of the passing of our State Senator, Aaron Woods, who died on Saturday, surrounded by his family in Colorado.

Senator Woods was a proud resident of Wilsonville for over 27 years, and represented Senate District 13 since 2023.

He was first recruited to the area by Tektronix in 1996 and went on to build a remarkable career at Xerox, where he served as a Senior Executive for more than two decades.

I first met Aaron about ten years ago when we served together on the City’s Development Review Board.

From the very beginning, we struck up a close friendship—often meeting for lunch and spending time at his home with his wife, Shirley. That was just the kind of person Aaron was—generous, welcoming, and warm.

We also participated in the Wilsonville Civics Academy together.

Aaron later served on the Wilsonville Planning Commission and was a founding member of the Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Community.

He also went on to serve on the Clackamas Community College Board. For a time, I thought we might both run for City Council.

But Aaron was called to a higher purpose: serving as our State Senator.

When I was contemplating whether I should run for mayor, he was one of the first people I called for advice.

True to form, Aaron encouraged me to run—and offered his full support.

In the Oregon State Legislature, Senator Woods served with distinction:

- Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Information Management & Technology
- Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
- Member, Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
- Member, Joint Committee on Transportation

As a leader, Senator Woods accomplished so much for Wilsonville and for Oregon.

He was a steady advocate for our city, our schools, and for policies that lifted up working families.

Senator Woods was a real believer in bringing high-speed Internet service to those areas of Oregon without broadband access in the belief that access to information was critical for health and education.

His legacy is one of service, integrity, and compassion.

Senator Aaron Woods will be deeply missed—but his impact will continue to shape our community for generations to come.

- **Proclamations**

In the City Council meeting packet for tonight's meeting, there are three proclamations I would like to call attention to.

- **A Proclamation for Vietnamese American Remembrance Day that is observed on April 30.**

PROCLAMATION

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN REMEMBRANCE DAY APRIL 30, 2025

WHEREAS: Vietnamese refugees have proudly resided in the state of Oregon since the conclusion of the Vietnamese War on April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS: Vietnamese Americans have put forth their full toiling energy building the state of Oregon in a multitude of prominent areas including industry, economy, culture, education, and military service; and

WHEREAS: Vietnamese Americans have counted on the state of Oregon as being their second heart, mind, and family homeland; and

WHEREAS: Every year, Vietnamese Americans celebrate Remembrance Day on April 30th to solemnly honor the 58,000 American servicemen and servicewomen in that 810 soldiers from the state of Oregon, and more than 300,000 South Vietnamese soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty for freedom and democracy in South Vietnam from November 1955 to April 1975.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shawn O’Neil, Mayor of the City of Wilsonville, do hereby proclaim the 30th day of April 2025 as:

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

I encourage all Wilsonville community members to join in this observance. Dated this 21st day of April 2025.

Shawn O’Neil, Mayor

- **A Proclamation declaring the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.**

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental health is part of everyone's overall health and wellbeing, and mental illnesses are prevalent in our county, state, and nation, with one in five adults experiencing a mental health issue every year; and

WHEREAS, stigma and the resulting discrimination is a primary obstacle to early identification and effective treatment of individuals with mental illness and their ability to recover to lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14 and suicide is the second leading cause of death of individuals ages 10 to 14 and 25-34; and

WHEREAS, long delays averaging 11 years occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help, and it is therefore essential to cure the stigma and discrimination that is the primary cause for those delays; and

WHEREAS, every citizen and community can make a difference in helping cure the stigma and discrimination that for too long has surrounded mental illness and discouraged people from getting help; and

WHEREAS, public education and civic engagement improves the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Shawn O’Neil, Mayor of the City of Wilsonville, a municipal corporation in the County of Clackamas and the County of Washington County, in the State of Oregon, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Wilsonville to increase public understanding of the importance of mental health, to promote identification and timely treatment of mental illnesses, and to cure the resulting stigma and discrimination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and with the consent of the City Council of the City of Wilsonville, I have hereunto set my hand on this 21st day of April 2025.

Shawn O’Neil, Mayor.

- **And a proclamation declaring May 2025 as Building Safety Month, which recognizes the importance of a safe, energy efficient, and ADA-accessible built environment.**

Throughout the month, the City’s Building Division will be highlighting different safety themes through social media and other venues with tips relating to fire safety at home, water safety, water conservation, creating resilient structures, accessible facilities, sewage disposal, and energy efficiency.

- **Meetings**

Over the past two weeks, I have participated in a number of meetings and events with local area elected officials and community members.

These meetings include:

- A meeting with newly elected Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners Chair Craig Roberts.

Chair Roberts is a Wilsonville-area resident who formerly served as Sheriff of the County.

This was a good opportunity to discuss a number of land-use and transportation issues that impact both County and City.

- A meeting of the Washington County Coordinating Committee that includes the cities and county government.

During this meeting we heard an update on Safety and Security on the TriMet transit system and a report on the Metro Community Connector Transit Study.

I will note that Wilsonville residents and businesses are beneficiaries of top-quality transit service provided by our SMART transit system.

- A meeting of the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee Metro Subcommittee where we also heard the report on TriMet safety improvements and Metro Community Connector Transit Study.
- A monthly meeting with Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce Executive Kevin O'Malley and City Manager Cosgrove.
- I attended along with other City Council members the annual Wilsonville Rotary Club Heart of Gold Gala & Auction last Friday. This year we are celebrating the Rotary Club's 50th anniversary.

During this annual fund raiser for the Rotary Club, the First Citizen Award is presented.

This year, the award went to _____, who is valuable member of our community for volunteer service.

- I also conducted eight interviews with community volunteers who have applied to serve on a City board, committee or commission.

Wilsonville is fortunate to have such incredible community members who seek to serve their community.

- **Legislative Testimony**

Now, on to my next item to report on.

Working with City staff, legislators and community members, I have provided written testimony to various legislative committees on a number of bills on topics of interest to the City.

The City Council’s adoption of a Legislative Agenda and specific set of 2025 Legislative Priorities is very helpful in screening the hundreds of bills now being heard by the Oregon Legislature.

Testimony that the City has submitted over the past two weeks includes the following:

- Supporting Senate Bill 967 that clarifies cities’ ability to create local improvement districts in urban growth expansion areas to facilitate new development.

Wilsonville has a number of urban growth expansion areas with fragmented property ownership that could benefit from potential formation of a local improvement district to help finance infrastructure serving new employment or residential development.

- Testimony Opposing House Bill 3505, proposed legislation that deprives cities of key infrastructure funding mechanism by limiting system development charge for water capacity.
- Testimony Opposing Senate Resolution 2 and supporting an amended version of the bill.

This proposed legislation sought to recognize Quote the important role of Aurora State Airport in the State of Oregon’s emergency preparedness and response efforts. Unquote

However, the Aurora State Airport is rated the lowest-level priority of Tier 3 airports in the Oregon Resilience Plan for a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake.

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries seismic maps show that the Aurora State Airport is located in an area subject to major potential damage in a projected 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake.

The “Mid/Southern Willamette Valley Geologic Hazards, Earthquake and Landslide Hazard Maps show that the Aurora State Airport is located in a geologically vulnerable area:

- Rated High for Ground Shake Amplification;
- Rated High for Amplification Susceptibility; and
- Rated Moderate to High for Liquefaction Susceptibility

During the course of testimony on this bill, we learned that the real purpose behind the proposed legislation.

The actual goal of passing this Senate Resolution is to seek reduction or modification of Airport public safety standards from the FAA Federal Aviation Administration in order to expand the Aurora State Airport to accommodate more larger jets.

Another purpose of the proposed legislation is to acquire more state and federal funding under the false premise of post-earthquake emergency services to expand the Airport.

However, as scientific geologic maps illustrate, the Aurora State Airport runway will be broken apart into pieces and unusable for airplanes. Meanwhile, heavy lift helicopters that don’t need a runway will continue to be able to operate.

Due to opposition from the cities of Aurora and Wilsonville, the resolution appears to not be moving forward.

- And testimony Supporting House Bill 3939, proposed legislation that would fund key city infrastructure projects that directly support state goal for increased residential housing production.

This bill specifically names the City's capital funding request for the Stafford Road Improvement Project.

This infrastructure project is crucial for the development of 1,500 to 1,600 new residential units in the Frog Pond East and South UGB expansion areas.

The requested \$3.5 million of State funds represents 47% of the estimated project cost of \$7.4 million total, and leverages \$3.9 million of City funds.

We appreciate the Wilsonville Chamber's testimony in support of the City's funding request.

- **Upcoming Community Events**

Finally, there are a number of upcoming community events that I would like to call attention to.

- This Saturday, April 26, from 10 am to 1 pm, the Wilsonville Public Library is sponsoring a Repair Fair.

This event brings together residents with broken items with skilled volunteers who know how to fix things:

Examples of items to bring for potential repair and mending include clean clothes and textiles, small electronics and small home appliances.

- On Wednesday, April 30, the City's Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a reception for the Many Cultures, One Heart project.

The reception and unveiling of the art pieces is to be held at the Stein Boozier Barn in Upper Memorial Park.

- For community members who volunteer for City activities and serve on boards and commissions, the City is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Event on Thursday, May 1 at Wilsonville High School's Performing Arts Center.
- Next week starting on Friday May 2, the Wilsonville Public Library is hosting First Friday Films.

The films being shown include new, interesting, and difficult-to-get movies via Netflix. Snacks are available by donation, or bring your own.

- And on Saturday, May 3, from noon to 3 pm, a mental health fair commemorating the 30th anniversary of the closing of Dammasch State Hospital is being held at the Villebois Piazza.

Entitled "Turning Darkness into Light," the event is hosted by a newly-established non-profit known as Resilience Events.

This organization seeks to build connections and to support the mental health and well-being of Wilsonville residents.

More information about all of these events is available on the City’s website.

- **Next City Council Meeting**

The last item to note is that the next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, starting at 7 PM.

During this meeting, I will present my first State of the City Address, with a theme of “A community that fosters connection and belonging, where every voice is heard and valued, and where diverse backgrounds and experiences are celebrated.”

COMMUNICATIONS [7:45 PM]

We have two presentations scheduled for tonight.

First up is Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Deric Weiss who will present on the State of the District.

And after the Chief’s presentation, we have the pleasure of hearing the Urban & Community Forestry Organization Presidents Award to be presented to Chris Neamtzu by Oregon Community Trees.

Chris Neamtzu is the City’s Community Development Director, and prior Planning Director, who has served the City with pride for 30 years and is retiring at the end of April.

CITIZEN INPUT AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS [8:15 PM]

**So we will move now to Citizen Input and Community
Announcements portion of the City Council meeting agenda.**