



## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

April 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM

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Good evening and thank you for being here tonight.

It is my honor to stand before you once again as your mayor to deliver the State of the City address.

Before I begin, I want to recognize several elected leaders who have joined us tonight.

- First our City Council, Council President Caroline Berry, Councilor Adam Cunningham, Councilor Anne Shevlin, and Councilor Sam Scull.
- State Senator Courtney Neron-Misslin.
- State Representative Sue Rieke Smith.
- Metro Councilor Garret Rosenthal
- City of Tualatin Mayor Frank Bubenik
- Former City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
- West Linn-Wilsonville School Board Vice Chair Maegan Vidal
- Clackamas Community College President Tim Cook
- Washington County Commissioner Jason Snyder
- Clackamas Community College Board Ryan Ingersoll

Thank you all for your service to our community, region, and the State of Oregon.

This month, we welcomed Jeanna Troha as our new City Manager. Our Council is fortunate to have selected someone with Jeanna's depth of experience and commitment to community-centered leadership. She brings a thoughtful and steady approach to this work, balancing long-term vision with the day-to-day responsibilities of running a city. She has long demonstrated the ability to listen, to build relationships, and to work collaboratively.

I look forward to her work with this Council, City staff, and the community as we build Wilsonville's future together.

I also want to recognize our City Attorney, Amanda Guile-Hinman.

Amanda plays a critical role in the work we do as a Council and for the City at large. She provides guidance in difficult moments, helps us navigate complex decisions, and does so with professionalism, integrity, and a steady hand. I deeply respect her judgment and her commitment to this community, and we are fortunate to have her serving Wilsonville.

Thank you to Jeanna, Amanda, and every member of our City staff who make this city work every day. Naming everyone would keep us here all evening, but please know how much your work means to me, this Council, and our community.

I also want to recognize members of our boards and commissions, and the many volunteers who serve in ways both large and small throughout Wilsonville.

Your leadership, your service, and your commitment matter deeply. Thank you.

Finally, I want to thank my family.

Public service is not something you do alone, it asks a lot of the people who stand beside you every day.

There are long nights, missed time, and moments when the weight of decisions follows you home.

Through it all, my family has been there supporting me, grounding me, and reminding me why this work matters.

I love you, and I am deeply grateful for everything you give so I can do this work.

Last year, when I delivered my first State of the City as mayor, I spoke about **BELONGING** and my belief that Wilsonville should be a place where every person matters, where every family can build a life, and where every resident feels this community is truly theirs.

It's a simple, yet powerful idea that I believe deeply.

Because when people feel they belong, a community becomes more than a place to live — it becomes **HOME**.

And when a place feels like home, people begin thinking about something even more important — the future they want to build together.

The future **WE ARE ALL BUILDING TOGETHER**.

And the future we **will one day hand to the next generation**.

We must ask ourselves:

What kind of community will we leave to our children and grandchildren?

Answering this question requires us to step back and look at the everyday moments that define our lives **here**.

The best way to understand Wilsonville is not through a report or a budget document, but by walking through our community.

That is something I do nearly every morning with my dog, Curious George.

Those walks — through our neighborhoods, parks, and public spaces remind me what we are so fortunate to have — a place where people build rich lives, raising their children, looking out for one another, and where our Seniors are honored and respected.

Wilsonville's spirit reveals itself through observing simple moments.

A child riding their bike to school ...

Or a family gathering in Memorial Park, the crown jewel of our fabulous park system.

Over the past several years, our investments in Memorial Park have continued to build on what makes it so special — from the nature play area and expanded skate park, to the dog park, community and pollinator gardens, new restrooms, and field lighting — with new play equipment near the sports fields on the way.

Last year, staff expanded the park's disc golf course, now one of the top courses in the region.

Our dedicated parks team got creative to make that project happen. This short video details their award-winning collaboration with the disc golf community.

*A video of the disc golf in Memorial Park was played.*

Memorial Park and all that it has to offer is an example of how a community's vision, staff dedication, and the collaboration that followed delivered a wonderful outcome.

Our investment in our park system is a great representation of our **VALUES**.

So, too, is our emphasis on community events ... from long-established events like the Easter Egg Hunt ... Party in the Park, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, and Harvest Festival to new celebrations like the Second Annual "Light Up Wilsonville" Menorah lighting, Los Posadas, Pride, Juneteenth, Lunar New Year, Celebration of India, and Ramadan Potluck.

We seek **active, enriching lives; we honor families in all their forms, we embrace togetherness and tradition; we celebrate important occasions, we rely on each other.**

One more example of our values is our library — a place that means a great deal to many families, including my own.

Last month a new four-wall mural was painted in the children's room.

This wonderful project -- funded by the Wilsonville Public Library Foundation and directed by our Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission and staff -- demonstrates **the power of collaboration and community involvement**. The result is wonderful.

*A video of the Library mural was played.*

Strong community does not happen on its own.

It requires people willing to **step forward and take responsibility for what comes next.**

**Local Leadership matters.**

But it is **not** just about the Mayor, or members of City Council — it is about **the community leaders** we have had over the decades who have given **their heart and soul** to this community in so many ways. Those in community organizations, such as the Rotary Club, our nonprofits like Wilsonville Community Sharing and Heart of the City, our local businesses, religious institutions, parent groups, and so many others.

Many of these leaders—those current, and those who have passed—many of them **quiet, unsung heroes**—have continuously stepped up and made this community a better place, not only for the Wilsonville we have now, but **for the vision** of the community that we will leave for future generations.

Because leadership **at every level** of our community **matters.**

As President John F. Kennedy once said:

“Our task in our time and in our generation **is to hand down undiminished** to those who come after us the **rich heritage we have inherited.**”

That’s a big responsibility that requires thoughtful decisions about our future.

The decisions we make **together** today will shape Wilsonville for decades to come.

**Thoughtful** leadership means investing in infrastructure that keeps our city strong.

It means improving our local roads and transportation systems.

It means strengthening and preserving water and stormwater systems, so **the next generation does not inherit problems we chose to ignore.**

It means finding a way to guide our inevitable growth in a manner that allows us to retain our small-town spirit.

**Informed, deliberate decision making** can ensure that we maintain our high quality of life for the next generation.

Investing in our future has delivered new returns this year.

The reopening of the Boeckman Road Corridor and the Boeckman Bridge connection has improved mobility and safety across our city as the Frog Pond neighborhood comes to life.

We have continued investing in places where families gather, including a new neighborhood park which will be opening in Frog Pond West next to the new primary school.

Our commitment to transportation and pedestrian safety improvements continues.

Last year we were awarded a six-million-dollar competitive grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation to fund the completion of the Boeckman Creek Regional Trail.

When complete, **a child** growing up in Frog Pond will be able to ride their bike to their high school **without setting foot on a high-speed arterial road. THAT** is the kind of city our community is **BUILDING**.

The seismic-resilient new 3-million-gallon Westside Reservoir on Tooze Road protects our most precious asset —**WATER** —and adds storage capacity to support future growth.

This is what **responsible** long-range planning looks like: investing in infrastructure that most residents will never see, so it is there when needed.

Our responsibility **does not stop at our city limits**.

We **continue to ADVOCATE** for the replacement of the Boone Bridge — one of the **most important** transportation priorities for our community, our region, and **the movement of goods and commerce across our nation**.

That work has required persistence — working with state and federal partners, testifying at the legislature, traveling to D.C., and continuing to make the case that Wilsonville's future depends on a transportation system that keeps pace with our growth.

**Leadership** means not just managing today but advocating for what **comes next**.

Building a strong city is not only about infrastructure, of course. **IT IS ABOUT PEOPLE**.

Last year we launched a peer support initiative to help residents struggling with addiction and mental health concerns connect with the help they need.

Next month, we'll celebrate the grand opening of VUELA — the new Transit-Oriented Development at the Wilsonville Transit Center — a project that reflects **the compassion of this community** and **our shared commitment** to helping people build **stability in their lives**.

Vuela provides 121 units of housing for those earning 30–80% of area median income, creates a **permanent home** for Wilsonville Community Sharing, and creates a welcome center for regional transit users.

What began as an idea brought forward by SMART Director Dwight Brashear and City staff has grown into something more — **a reflection of this community's values**, and an example of how thoughtful public leadership, **grounded in our compassion**, can **truly change lives**.

*A video of Vuela was played.*

That is Wilsonville **at its best** — a community that does not turn away from challenges, **but steps forward to meet them**.

With that being said, many households remain cost-burdened, spending more than they can reasonably afford on housing. Some facing severe financial strain. That reality affects not just our seniors and individual families, but the long-term stability of our workforce, young adults, and our community.

Our Housing Production Strategy was recently adopted to help expand housing access, promote affordability, and encourage diverse housing options.

Meanwhile, the City's first Climate Action Plan ensures that future long-term infrastructure accounts for weather conditions **more intense and less predictable** than ever.

**YES**, Wilsonville is **moving forward**.

Its progress is not happening by accident, but by **community leadership**, and **good planning**.

Our local businesses continue to be **the backbone** of this city — creating jobs, supporting families, and shaping our character.

Our work continues both at home **and at the legislature** to encourage investment in our Coffee Creek and Basalt Creek Areas.

When we talk about the future of Wilsonville, we are not just talking about growth — we are talking about **creating opportunity and stability** for the people who live here—our workforce, seniors, and the students and teachers from Oregon Institute of Technology and Clackamas Community College.

Everything we enjoy today is the result of **deliberate choices** — **made by this community**, through its elected leaders, and carried forward by the work of our **expert, dedicated City staff**, all engaged in shaping **our future together**.

Which brings me back to that question that will shape the next fifty years:

**What kind of city do we want Wilsonville to be?**

Wilsonville **deserves** a place where families **gather**, where small businesses can **grow and succeed**, Where people can walk, connect, and experience **the beauty** of this community.

But it will not happen on its own. It requires **US**—as a community—to decide **TOGETHER** whether we are willing to invest in that future.

The Wilsonville Town Center Plan **is not just** a planning document — it is an **adopted roadmap** that reflects **years of work, community input**, and a **SHARED VISION** for what the **HEART** of Wilsonville can become.

This is about whether Wilsonville will have a **TRUE** civic center — a place where community life comes **together**.

If we do not step forward and shape our own future, it will be shaped for us — **piece by piece** — **by absentee landowners and developers**, rather than by the **shared vision of this community**.

Some may wish that Wilsonville could stay exactly as it is.

But the reality is, **ALL CITIES CHANGE**.

We face a critical decision. Will **we shape** that change, **or allow it to shape us?**

Just as those who came before us made decisions that shaped the Wilsonville we enjoy today, we now have that same **responsibility**.

**Not just** for ourselves. But for the people who will live here **long after we are gone**.

Last summer, this Council directed staff to gather input to better understand what our residents want. The message **WAS CLEAR**— there is **wide** support for a **vibrant** Town Center.

Residents raised thoughtful questions about building heights, housing density, and what Town Center will look like. The questions we received **deserved** our consideration.

We **heard clearly** that the housing numbers created **confusion**. So, we went back to work. We created a task force to examine **building heights**.

We **revisited** the Urban Renewal District proposal that was narrowly defeated two years ago.

I **believe** we have a **responsibility to come back with a better**, more refined Urban Renewal District plan — and to give residents a new opportunity to consider how we proceed. **My goal** is to bring that refined proposal before the voters of Wilsonville **this November**.

That is what this good public process looks like — **listening, refining, and returning** with something that reflects **the values** of the entire community.

Urban renewal is **not a theory**. In Wilsonville, it is a method we have used successfully to help build the city we all enjoy **today** ... **without** raising taxes.

Urban Renewal has supported infrastructure, created our parks, provided opportunities for local businesses, and helped guide development in alignment with **our values**.

Our City has been blessed by many visionary community leaders who helped create the Wilsonville we have today.

Now that responsibility **passes to US**. To look beyond our current lives and needs to determine what's **BEST**.

It is not just the responsibility of a Council or a Mayor.

It is the responsibility of **ALL OF US**.

Let's be a community **willing to lead**.

A community willing to **think beyond today**.

A community willing to **invest in the future** for people they may never meet.

As Theodore Roosevelt once said:

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow **it from our children**."

We must ask ourselves: when our children are ready to build lives of their own, will they choose to **stay here?**

Because in the end, the measure of **our work** as a community is not just what we build today, but whether the next generation **sees a future for themselves in Wilsonville**.

That they **BELONG**.

If we lead with **compassion and integrity**...

If we **listen**...

If we remain **TRUE** to the next generations...

Then one day, they will inherit more than a city.

They will inherit a **HOME** — shaped by a **compassionate** community that **believes** in their generation, **and** in the generations that will follow.

Thank you for being part of the Wilsonville story.

And **THANK YOU** for helping build a bright future for our city.