

# Wasco City Council

## Meeting Minutes

September 15th, 2025

### Call to Order

*Mayor McCurdy* called to order the Regular session of the Wasco City Council at 6:30 PM.

The following persons were present: Mayor Beth McCurdy; Council members Julie McAllister-Wynne, Robert Anglin, Ben Altman, Ken DeGrange, and Bill Minter; City employees: Ian Melzer (City Clerk), Melissa Carlson (Assistant Clerk), Jessica Wheeler (Wasco Depot and Wasco School Events Center), Curtis Hollibaugh (City Maintenance)

Visitors: Dee Ashley (Resident), Jennifer Smith (Resident), Debbie Wyatt (Resident), Stephen Wyatt (Resident), Jaime Crawford (Bell Designs)

The following individuals attended remotely: None

### Flag Salute

### Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- Executive session at the end of regular session.

### Consent Agenda

- Cnc. Altman motioned to approve the August 19th, 2025 minutes.
  - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne seconded.
  - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
  - Motion passed.
- City Bills/Invoices
  - \$125.92 phone bill for CenturyLink to be added to the list of bills.
  - Preston Bartlett needs to be paid, but has not provided a statement yet.
    - Jessica Richelderfer thinks Mr. Bartlett's rate is too high. It should be re-evaluated in winter.

- Cnc. McAllister-Wynne motioned to accept and pay the August bills, including the \$ 1,975 Chamber of Commerce bill, up to \$2,200 for Preston Bartlett for work on the WSEC, up to \$1,200 for Preston Bartlett for additional work on the WSEC, and \$125.92 for the phone bill.
  - Cnc. Altman seconded.
  - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, Minter
  - Cnc. DeGrange abstained.
  - Motion passed.
- City Clerk Melzer asked about the invoices that have recently come in from AKS Engineering, which have been increasing in value.
  - Cnc. Altman made a motion to pay the AKS invoices except for the Clark St. Master Plan invoice of \$1207.50, then send a goodbye notice.
    - Cnc. DeGrange seconded.
    - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
    - Motion passed.
- WSEC Bills/Invoices
  - See attached.
  - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne motioned to accept the bills.
    - Cnc. Anglin seconded.
    - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
    - Motion passed.

### **Visitors' Comments**

Debbie and Steven Wyatt came to ask about the gentleman living out of his RV. Maint. Tech Hollibaugh reported that Breezey Ponke had been hired, but nothing further has happened on the family's side. City Clerk Melzer sent a letter to Kevin Auld's family addressing significant concerns about overgrown brush, flammable materials, and sanitation issues, which were causing a nuisance. Mr. Auld's brother promptly replied, reiterating these issues and informing CC Melzer that Breezey Ponke was contacted, leading to a cleanup by the following week, which Maintenance Tech Henricksen praised. Mr. Auld's brother also mentioned working with their sister on a plan for Mr. Auld, who is living in a dilapidated single-wide, noting that under Wasco's nuisance ordinance, living in an RV is restricted unless specific conditions are met. They plan to construct a new living arrangement for Mr. Auld, but are unsure how to relocate the RV. CC Melzer emphasized the immediate need to resolve the weed and fire hazard issues first.

- Mayor McCurdy suggested that the Auld family call Purdy's Towing, which may have someone living in Wasco who can move semis. She also asked City Clerk Melzer to deliver a letter to the Aulds as soon as possible, with a firm date of October 1st for when the RV needs to be moved before the sheriff's office is contacted for its removal.

Jaime Crawford has joined Bell Design Company in White Salmon, WA, after previously working with AKS Engineering. She started on August 4th and is stepping into a role similar to that of Dan Meader, who is now retired but still offers his guidance. Jaime remains dedicated to keeping Dan involved in future projects and has maintained the same billing rates as before. She's committed to effective cost

management for city projects and is eager to be a valuable resource for the council. Recently, she and one of the Bell brothers met with Mayor McCurdy and Cnc. Altman to discuss project needs. Despite facing personal challenges, Jaime is enthusiastic about her new position and the opportunities it presents.

- There is a Technical Assistance Grant through the state of Oregon due October 10th for planning services. It could be used for the sidewalk project, to update the sewer plant, or for online mapping.
- Cnc. DeGrange made a motion to hire Bell Designs as the official engineering company for the City of Wasco.
  - Cnc. Anglin seconded.
  - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
  - Motion passed.
- City Clerk Melzer asked if Jaime needed anything from the city for the grant.
  - A letter from Mayor McCurdy

### **Public Hearing >>> Resolutions >>> Ordinances**

### **Memorial Day/Depot/WSEC Report**

- See attached.
- Cnc. McAllister-Wynne asked when the rates would rise at the WSEC. Jessica Wheeler said the rental fees will be raised as soon as she can get them printed, and the tenant fees will probably be raised on January 1, 2026.
- Jessica Wheeler reported that she plans to update the website, as it has not been updated in over three years.

### **Mayor's, Council, and City Staff Reports**

#### Maintenance Report

- Maint. Tech Hollibaugh reported that the maintenance department will meet with Cncs Altman and DeGrange every Monday.
- A priority list is in process of being assembled. Other projects are taking priority.
- Mayor McCurdy asked about Jason Earl's house. It should be delivered next month.
- Maint. Tech Hollibaugh's certifications lapsed at the end of June 2025. City Clerk Melzer assisted in making sure these certifications are current.
- Cnc. DeGrange made a motion to contact Tarzan to get stumps ground.
  - Mayor McCurdy asked which line item the money will come from.
  - Cnc. Altman seconded the motion.
  - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
  - Motion passed.

### City Hall Report

- City Clerk Melzer reported that the auditors visited. They identified an error in our 2024/25 budget, which is also reflected in our 2025/26 budget. Personal Services, Capital Outlay, Special Payments,
- The City would like to reimburse Dee Ashley for the cleaning work she has done for City Hall. She has been volunteering since April. This topic will be addressed next month.
- City Clerk Melzer will be at the League of Oregon Cities Fall Conference the week of September 29th.
- Debbie Wyatt reported an “unreasonable” amount of noise from her neighbors during the day on Sunday. The issue will be addressed.

### Council Reports

- Cnc. Minter asked about Pacific Power. Maint. Tech Hollibaugh has not received any updates from them. He asked further about the incoming water meters. City Clerk Melzer stated that we need to submit a report to OAWU regarding our Water Conservation Plan by October 2026, so meters need to be installed before then.
- Cnc. McAllister-Wynne asked about the Cities’ Meeting. CC Melzer said he emailed her question to the other cities, and the response was that the question would be forwarded to their councils.
- Cnc. Anglin is in contact with a resource for sound equipment ideas for the cafeteria at the WSEC. The sidewalk project needs to be worked on. An elderly lady tripped on a crack in front of the market recently. The fire department is finally starting to break ground in Rufus.

### Mayor’s Report

- None

### HB 5202 Community Development Funds

- None

### **Old/Unfinished Business**

- **Capital Improvements Project Priorities**
  - Cnc. Altman reviewed list of project priorities based on work session in August.
    - Water meters/RFP: Backflow valves were not included, so we added 35 valves to the RFP as an option.
    - Installing a new water line behind market, including hydrant, estimated at \$15,000, with City purchasing materials.
    - Installing new water line looping Asher Street to Yates Street, estimated at \$35,000, with City purchasing materials.

- Pioneer Engineering in Goldendale, for Clark Street Improvements Concept Plan: \$9,720. Cnc. Altman asked if the City should also get a scope of work from Bell Design, since they were just hired. Mayor McCurdy in favor.
- Cnc. DeGrange made a motion to approve the 2025/26 priority list with the exception of #13, which will receive another bid.
  - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne seconded.
  - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
  - Motion passed.

## **New Business**

- **Adjust Water & Sewer Rates**
  - Right now, Wasco charges \$94 for water and sewer services. The cities surrounding Wasco charge \$120 to \$130.
  - The consensus agrees that water and sewer rates will increase \$30 at the end of November.
- **Change of Office Hours**
  - Mayor McCurdy suggested moving office hours to 9 AM - 5 PM. City Council agreed.

**Executive Session began at 8:50 PM**

**Regular Session resumed at 9:05 PM**

## **Adjournment**

Mayor McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Carlson, Asst. City Clerk

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_