

Wasco City Council

Meeting Minutes

October 21st, 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), Mary Bowen (Resident), Matt Bowen (Resident), Kristina Fiebig (

The following individuals attended remotely: Jaime Crawford (Bell Designs)

Flag Salute

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- None

Consent Agenda

- Cnc. Altman motioned to approve the September 15th, 2025 minutes.
 - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.
- City Bills/Invoices
 - City Clerk Melzer added DeGrange Construction and Preston Bartlett to the bills for City-purchased rock and landscaping, respectively. Also added were Tarzan Tree Service for stump grinding at the school and American Door Service for the door at the fire hall.
 - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne motioned to accept and pay the September/October bills with the addition of DeGrange Construction, Preston Bartlett, Tarzan Tree Service, and American Door Service.

- Cnc. Altman seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, Minter
 - Cnc. DeGrange abstained.
 - Motion passed.
- WSEC Bills/Invoices
 - See attached.
 - In the negatives due to \$9,000 annual insurance. This will fix itself next month. The property value has increased, which raises building insurance.
 - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne motioned to accept the bills.
 - Cnc. Altman seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.

Visitors' Comments

- City Clerk Melzer, on behalf of Michelle Lawrence, inquired about the idea of installing a coffee cart behind the market. CC Melzer is not sure about any necessary permits for commercial lots. Cnc. Altman suggested it might need a temporary or conditional use permit.
- Dee Ashley has been helping out in City Hall to get files sorted and organized. The process is going well.
- Jaime Crawford submitted the TA Grant for a downtown core streetscape and improvement plan. Cnc. Altman was sent the outline. Ms. Crawford will send it to the city as well.
 - Cnc. Altman motioned to have Mayor McCurdy sign the letter of support.
 - Cnc. McAllister-Wynne seconded
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.
- Lana Egbert inquired about the water and sewer rate increase at a city council meeting. City Clerk Melzer explained that rising costs, including a 20% increase in power, health insurance, and maintenance expenses, have strained the city's finances. The city has been addressing long-overdue maintenance issues, including sewer leaks and mainline collapses. Although Wasco managed to avoid rate increases for years, the depletion of cash reserves and the end of a significant SIP fund have made this unsustainable. The city is currently in the red, with a \$39,000 deficit last year, and risks bankruptcy if rates are not raised, despite being lower than neighboring areas. Efforts are underway to secure loans for larger projects, but lenders are hesitant due to the city's deficit. Mrs. Egbert further inquired about the process for increasing the rates, which CC Melzer explained. Mayor McCurdy and Cnc. Altman both pitched in to explain the process that led to the decision to increase.

Public Hearing >>> Resolutions >>> Ordinances

- **Resolution Setting Water Rates**
 - City Clerk Melzer explained why the water and wastewater rates need to increase.
 - Cnc. Altman moved to approve Resolution 2025-08.
 - Cnc. DeGrange seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.
- **Resolution Setting Wastewater Rates**
 - Cnc. DeGrange moved to approve Resolution 2025-08A.
 - Cnc. Altman seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.

Guest Presentation

- **Tri-County Hazardous Materials Waste and Recycling Program - Kristina Fiebig**
 - Maint. Tech Hollibaugh asked how the recycling system works without separation.
 - Jessica Wheeler asked what it would take to get the Wasco recycling station open more often.

Memorial Day/Depot/WSEC Report

- See attached.
- The New Year's Eve party is planned for December 31st.
- Asst. City Clerk Carlson asked Jessica Wheeler to message her about what Mrs. Wheeler wants Mr. Bartlett to work on at the school, as ACC Carlson will see him at the school first thing Thursday morning and can speak with him about the work.
- Jessica Wheeler needs to clear out Memorial Day from the depot.
- The Sunday following Thanksgiving is scheduled for the Annual Tree Lighting event. Maint. Tech Hollibaugh suggested rescheduling for the first Sunday of December. December 6th is the Christmas Bazaar.

Mayor's, Council, and City Staff Reports

City Hall Report

- City Clerk Melzer attended the League of Oregon Cities' Fall Conference, celebrating its 100th event. He participated in seminars on contracting processes, making valuable contacts for future

assistance. Discussions included best practices for hiring contractors, emphasizing early collaboration with engineers to identify cost-saving opportunities. The Local Government Law Group offered support to small cities, encouraging outreach for assistance. During a legislative update, CC Melzer inquired about fire prevention grant funding, which is pending. The conference featured notable speakers, including former governor Barbara Roberts and a couple former state senators, who discussed career challenges, including one's advocacy in 2015 for removing religious exceptions for vaccinations, an issue that led to significant backlash.

- CC Melzer reported that the kitchenette is done. Kent Home & Building has finished the countertop. Maint. Tech Hollibaugh has finishing touches to add.
 - Cnc. DeGrange moved to issue the final payment to Kent Home & Building.
 - Cnc. Altman seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.
- CC Melzer reported on the AKS situation. He suggested paying the \$6,000 bill out of the fund.
 - Cnc. DeGrange moved to issue payment to AKS Engineering.
 - Cnc. Altman seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - Motion passed.

Maintenance Report

- Maint. Tech Hollibaugh asked for a building or closet around plumbing at the WSEC so we're not heating a 25x25' room that only houses a hot water heater and some plumbing.
- Maint. Tech Hollibaugh says he will delegate winterization of the WSEC, which he feels should be an imminent priority due to a \$7,000 bill it incurred when it froze.
 - CC Melzer installed wifi thermostats.
- Four projects have been finished.
 - Jason Earl (city side) - water line still needed
 - Stephen Reynolds - separation of houses
- The Sandon Street project is starting tomorrow (10/22)
- Maint. Tech Hollibaugh explained what happened with the samples and coliform.
 - Cnc. Altman reported that price bids for the testing stations have come in.
 - Maint. Tech Hollibaugh wants the testing station installed when he installs new meter boxes.
 - Maint. Tech Hollibaugh reported that the Stage 2 investigation with the state was completed on Friday (10/17). The City passed the investigation.
 - No individual residences should be sampled.
 - The state wants testing stations installed on the north and south sides of town as well as one in the center of town, at the park. A fourth site was mentioned, as well.

Council Reports

- Cnc. Altman provided an update to his project list. The water meters need to be rebid, as both bids received exceeded \$250,000. Meter installation anticipated to begin in January.
 - Bell Design will provide a Water System Master Plan update funded by an approved grant.
 - The maintenance department needs a pressure washer.
 - Cnc. DeGrange made a motion to purchase a pressure washer.
 - Cnc. Anglin seconded.
 - In favor: Mayor McCurdy, Cncs Altman, Anglin, McAllister-Wynne, DeGrange, Minter
 - The Planning Assistance Grant was approved.
- Cnc. DeGrange suggested shutting off public restroom access from 7 PM to 5 AM due to a serial messy defecator. It was effective last time the time limits were implemented.
- Cnc. Anglin reported that the Rufus Fire Station broke ground. He also gave further explanation of the sound-dampening ideas for the cafeteria at the WSEC. He and Mayor McCurdy will meet to discuss ideas about the solar farm at a later date.
- Cnc. Minter would like to add fencing over the ditch by the parks.
- City Clerk Melzer plans to purchase an EUFY security camera, the same brand used for the WSEC.
 - Mayor McCurdy asked whether one camera would be sufficient or whether City Hall would require two. The consensus was that one should be enough.

Mayor's Report

- None

HB 5202 Community Development Funds

- None

New Business

- None

Adjournment

Mayor McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Carlson, Asst. City Clerk

Signed _____

Signed _____