



CITY OF LYONS

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2025

Council Present: Councilors: Jessica Ritchie, Amy Thrasher, Diane Hyde, Eric Gjonnes, & Mayor Mike Wagner

Council Absent:

Employees Present: Lib. Dir. Michele Ray, PW Richard Berkey, PW Jerry Faber, CM Micki Valentine

Public Present: Kevin Crowell, Stephanie Shindler, Dick Voltin, Wayne Michele, & Tony "Craig" Reichling

Opened w/pledge: @ 6:30 pm by Mayor Mike Wagner

Roll Call: Taken

Announcements (Additions to Agenda/Conflict of Interest/Ex-Parte/Bias):

- none declared

Presentations: none

Public Comment: Wayne Michele would like to see audible emergency sirens be activated when evacuations are needed, such as when the Beachie Creek fire occurred. He expressed his concerns relating to lack of communication and that the system needs to be improved. Kevin Crowell defers his comments to the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) agenda item. Dick Voltin also defers to the SRTS agenda item. He comments that he is concerned about how the Detroit dam draw-down will negatively affect Lyons because the water district draws water directly from the Santiam River. The filters will plug if too much silt/sand is drawn up. Mayor Wagner responded that he has attended the meeting with other area cities and all have similar concerns.

Sheriff's Report: Report was reviewed. It was noted that they put in extra hours during the month.

Consent Agenda: Council Meeting Minutes July 22, 2025 and Bills Paid July 23, 2025 – August 26, 2025. *Councilor Ritchie motioned to approve – Councilor Hyde second – Wagner, Gjonnes, Thrasher, Hyde, & Ritchie in favor – none opposed - approved.*

Public Hearings: none

Unfinished Business:

- **Safe Routes to School Update** – Update report provided. Additional updates: light poles will be wood to accommodate lights, east side sidewalk extended to prevent pooling, curb ramps were inspected today, and street is marked for paving to begin within the next

couple days. A meeting is scheduled between Civil West and the two sides of ODOT to discuss paving and how it relates to the SRTS project. Accounting report, community update, and plans were provided for review. Stephanie Shindler concerned about attending the school open house. Can get there using Cedar Street. Dick Voltin commented his concern regarding drainage at the Elm Street intersection increasing stormwater drainage to neighboring properties. Response is that no work is being done in the intersection. Kevin Crowell cites ORS regarding stormwater going onto private property. Any work to the intersection is outside the scope of the SRTS grant. It is an ODOT road, they would need to make the improvements. Council agreed to monitor the intersection during the rainy season and notify ODOT, if needed. Crowell provided a photo of the new curb ramp across from Elm Street, showing a curb behind, which he is concerned that it is a trip hazard. Possibly a way to prevent walkers from stepping into the parking area.

New Business:

- **Ethics** – Clarification regarding electronic meetings. OAR 199-050-0050 Public Attendance; Meeting Locations was provided for review. OGEC is not providing information regarding (2) and (3) which requires public access to electronic meetings if they hold electronic meetings. Also for review, was OGEC's "Prohibited Serial Communications", which they sent out to all agencies, for informational purposes.

Correspondence:

- ODOT has changed their Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, which expires every 5 years. They will be moving to the OR Resources Coordination Assistance Agreement (ORCAA) which does not require an agreement. All entities are included. In the event we would need outside help with an emergency, we can utilize the ORCAA program. We also have an agreement with Marion County. Unknown if they will switch to ORCAA, as well.
- Received a communication from Linn County Commissioners regarding the Lyons-Mehama Water District, asking for our assistance to ensure they received the letter from the OR Secretary of State's office regarding audits. The communication was delivered.

Library Director Report: Library Director, Michele Ray, provides the monthly statistics report. She provided an additional report that included updates for the Summer Reading Program, Library Board, Meg Hebing will attend Mari-Linn's Back to School event, CCRLS meetings will resume in September, magna-tiles for kid's area funded with YBGT grant, and introduced the Seed Library program that will launch in February.

City Manager Report: CM Valentine provides report. PW safety meeting held. Items mentioned: dead tree in Freres Park, Bark Boys provided a quote for Freres Park in the amount of \$12,560 – recommends using dirt around tree roots rather than chips, agreed to place boulders on the north end edge of Freres Park, NS Watershed will treat for invasives in early September. We had three burials. Sold three plots in the cemetery. Weeds were sprayed. Complaint of a homeless person's vehicle not moving when complainant was there – Linn County Sheriff was called. The library email was compromised, will be obtaining a new one. Security sensor reinstalled and key fobs replaced at the library. Mini-splits to be cleaned more often. One new home and one shop building permits issued. The audit is in progress. Lamb property is considering eleven new homes. Twenty residents signed up for the Summer Sun Sale. The

electronic readerboard was repaired, however another part is worn and a new part has been ordered. Considering changing IT & website due to growing issues with little help. Complaints reviewed. Comment received regarding Grange property – we have not received a complaint – we are complaint driven. Properties larger than one-acre are not subject to enforcement.

Planning Commission Report: none

Financial Reports: Reports were available for review and no questions were asked.

Commissioner Report/Councilor Questions/Comments:

- Mayor Wagner, Building Improvements, Utility, Police/Safety – Mayor Wagner reports that he has received a request from the Canyon Weekly for a 5-year review of the Beachie Creek fire. There were no structures lost within the city limits of Lyons. Issues were in regards to communications. Would like to see a uniform, non-cell phone alarm system. Law enforcement now has experience and a plan. The community came together to help each other. People can prepare by creating defensible space for their property. Need to be prepared for events and keep it top of mind. Will review Commissionerships next meeting.
- Councilor Ritchie, Library – No comments.
- Councilor Hyde, Transportation – No comments.
- Councilor Thrasher, Cemetery – No comments.
- Councilor Gjonnes, Parks & Recreation – No comments.

Executive Session: none

Requests – Councilor Requests/Future Agenda Items/Announcements: none

Kevin Crowell asks about blueprints. The sidewalk is a combination walkway and bikeway. (*west side*) On the east side, the bike lane remains on the roadway. (*within the right-of-way*)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Adjourned @ 8:10 pm

Summarized by CM Valentine