



CITY OF LYONS

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2026

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

Council Absent:

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

Public Present: Teresa Gjonnes

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

Roll Call: Taken

Announcements (Additions to Agenda/Conflict of Interest/Ex-Parte/Bias): Councilor Eric Gjonnes declares conflict of interest for the 7th Street Widening agenda item.

Presentations: none

Public Comment: none

Sheriff's Report: Report provided & reviewed. Councilor Ritchie would like clarification from LCSO on what the hours are used for.

Consent Agenda: Council Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026; Bills Paid May 27, 2026 – June 23, 2026. Question regarding OSP fee. It is for the setup of a Driver Record Inquiry account. Per the recommendation of our insurance company, to monitor driving records of employees because they tow our trailers, and perform city business using their personal vehicles. *Councilor Gjonnes motioned to approve – Ritchie second – Wagner, Thrasher, Hyde, Ritchie & Gjonnes in favor – none opposed – approved.*

Public Hearings:

- **State Shared Revenue Hearing** was opened at 6:40 pm. A brief description provided. There were no questions or comments from the public.
 - *Councilor Hyde motioned to approve Resolution 634-2026 Certifying Eligibility to Receive State Shared Revenues – Thrasher second – Ritchie, Gjonnes, Wagner, Thrasher & Hyde in favor – none opposed – approved.*
 - *Councilor Thrasher motioned to approve Resolution 635-2026 Declaring City's Election to Receive State Shared Revenues – Hyde second – Gjonnes, Wagner, Ritchie, Hyde & Thrasher in favor – none opposed – approved.*

- **2025-2026 Budget Adoption Hearing** was opened at 6:45 pm. *Councilor Gjonnes motioned to adopt – Thrasher second – Wagner, Ritchie, Hyde, Thrasher, & Gjonnes in favor – none opposed – approved.* The hearing was closed at 6:48 pm.

The Regular Council meeting resumed at 6:48 pm.

Unfinished Business:

- **Safe Routes to School Update** – Discussed an option from Civil West recommending that a stormwater drainage system be installed from Dogwood Street south to the catch basin at the park and rehab the stormwater detention facility in the park. Civil West estimates the additional cost would be \$280,500. Will have to confirm that the SRTS grant will cover this added expense. *Councilor Ritchie motioned to approve the stormwater plan to include upgrading the facility in the park, with Safe Routes to School grant money – Hyde second – Gjonnes, Wagner, Hyde & Ritchie approved – Thrasher abstained due to conflict of interest – approved.*
- **Citywide Clean-Up** – Pacific Sanitation has submitted their report and invoice. Compared numbers to previous years, which did increase. A procedure document was reviewed.
- **Mari-Linn Tennis Court** – As requested, contact was made to Mari-Linn principal, Sophia Duerst regarding the improvements of the court. A family has donated their time and money to make improvements of clean-up, replacing the net, and will stripe the lines. There is no plan to resurface the concrete. Council would like to know what the cost would be for possible contribution. It could be a community fundraiser, with assistance of the Parent-Teacher Organization.
- **Election Reminder** – Reminded council the candidate filing period is open for the November 3rd election. Anyone who wants to run for a position must stop in City Hall to pick up a packet. Oregon Ethics have revised their Ethics Law Guide for Public Officials. A link is available on our website. Mayor Wagner has picked up a packet. The mayor and two councilor positions are open for election.
- **Library Windows Replacement Project** – Environmental Resources Inc (ERI) is scheduled to begin Monday, June 29th. Architectural Glass (AG) is scheduled to begin Tuesday, June 30th. The project will take approximately three weeks to complete. The library will be closed during the construction. Tentatively, the library will reopen Tuesday, July 21st. Michele has prepared a task schedule. Public Works will assist with moving & covering things.

New Business:

- **Library Board Appointment** – The Library Board recommends reappointing Leslie Tracey for a second four-year term. *Councilor Ritchie motioned to approve – Thrasher second – Thrasher, Wagner, Gjonnes, Hyde, & Ritchie in favor – none opposed – approved.*
- **Resolution 638-2026 Amending Library Unattended Children Policy** – The policy was reviewed and updated to align with current library practices. Councilor Ritchie asked about the employees being mandatory reporters and if they have received the required training. Michele confirms they have. *Councilor Hyde motioned to approve – Gjonnes second – Wagner, Ritchie, Thrasher, Gjonnes, & Hyde in favor – none opposed – approved.*

- **Wilderness Meadows Subdivision – Widening 7th Street** – Councilor Gjonnes declared conflict of interest and stepped away from the table. Met with Planner - Dave Kinney & Civil West on June 17th. Dave would like the Council to consider whether to widen 7th Street four feet from the south end of the new subdivision along the three properties or all the way to Birch Street. Kinney said that the council does have the option of not widening until a later time, when the need arises. The cost to widen would include engineering, removing trees, moving utilities, and paving. Council comments were that the widening should include all properties to Birch Street when the widening occurs. The transition of pavement from 22 feet to 18 feet will occur on the north side of the Gjonnes property. It would be a taper that crosses their driveway, angling to the area of the mailbox to the current street pavement. If needed, the contractor will move the box. The Gjonnes' would prefer the widening not occur and to avoid the taper across their driveway. It was noted that the taper was pushed back as far as the planner would allow due to the possibility of a pothole forming next to the driveway. *Councilor Ritchie motioned to postpone widening the street until it is needed – Thrasher second – Wagner, Hyde, Thrasher, & Ritchie in favor – Gjonnes abstained – none opposed – approved.* Councilor Gjonnes returns to the council table.
- **Summer Sun Sale** flyer was provided with the City Manager report.
- **Cemetery Update** – The list of veterans was provided, totaling 147 veterans buried. Flags are placed on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Veterans are listed when the family notifies us. Report provided shows 72 full size casket plots, 3 in-ground cremains plots, and 36 columbarium niches are available for purchase. There are plots that have been purchased but are unused. After 75 years, if no one is buried in those plots then the City can take them back and make them available, per Oregon law. Discussed the possible expansion of the cemetery. There is land across the street, however there is a pond and the land may not be suitable. Our engineer recommends a soil test. Planner recommends contacting Linn County Environmental Health and the property owner. Council consensus ok to research the possibility.

Correspondence:

- **Tausch Letter** – The letter is in regards to a “Welcome” note that was not so welcoming, that they received. The note said that it was from “Your Neighborhood Welcoming/Watch Committee!”. Although there is a Neighborhood Watch in our area, it is highly unlikely that the note came from them. The note was in regards to tall grass on the Tausch property. The City did receive a complaint regarding tall grass/weeds prior to this incident, in reference to the Tausch property. More likely, the note was from the complainant. Council reviewed the letter and note. They found it quite concerning that the new residents were treated in this manner. Council would like a letter sent to Tausch in response.

Library Director Report: Library Director, Michele Ray, provides the library report. They had a great first Summer Reading Program event, which offered ice cream to kick it off and making seed bombs. They are growing Painted Lady butterflies, as part of Storytime learning.

City Manager Report: CM Valentine provides report. Picnic tables were painted in the parks as part of our routine maintenance. Tree limbs & bushes were cut back along City streets and signs. One plot purchase and one burial in the cemetery. Trimming along the fenceline continues. Preparing for the windows project at the library. The library stage area appears to have no

insulation under it and appears to be sitting on sub-floor. We may be able to remove the platform, reuse the wood, then cover with carpeting. This will make that area more accessible. There were three building permits and three mechanical permits issued. Updated the Library Director job description as a result of the annual employee review. Election packets are available for pickup. CM vacation July 13-17. Summer Sun Sale is Saturday, August 15th. Complaints reviewed and are mostly related to overgrown grass/weeds/bushes/tree limbs.

Planning Commission Report: Nothing to report.

Financial Reports: Reports were available for review. No questions or comments.

Mayor/Council – Questions, Comments, Commissioner Reports:

- Mayor Mike Wagner, Building Impr., Utility, Police/Safety – Nothing more to add.
- Councilor Jessica Ritchie, Library – Nothing more to add.
- Councilor Diane Hyde, Transportation – Nothing more to add.
- Councilor Amy Thrasher, Cemetery – Nothing more to add.
- Councilor Eric Gjonnes, Parks & Recreation – Nothing more to add.

Executive Session: Performance Evaluation of the City Manager Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i)
Close regular meeting & open executive session at 8:34pm.
Close executive session and open regular council meeting at 9:03 pm.

Requests – Councilor Requests/Future Agenda Items/Announcements:

Councilor Ritchie would like to discuss the condition of the library and the library platform. She will provide pictures for discussion.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Adjourned @ 9:04 pm

Summarized by CM Valentine