

**WESTFIR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 6, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**  
**In person at City Hall and via audio/video teleconference**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Richard Watson, present in person, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Deretta Huey and City Recorder Nicole Tritten were present in person. Councilor Linda M. Love and City Operator Bobby Archer were present via video. Councilor Dylan Cheatham and Councilor Jara Mouracade were absent with notice. Those present at City Hall stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MAYOR'S MINUTE:**

Mayor Watson discussed the training he attended about the Lane County Wildfire Protection Plan update. The mayor addressed the likelihood of an active fire season after dry winter conditions and the importance of following outdoor burning rules.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no citizen comments.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no Councilor comments.

**OAKRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Fire Chief Scott Hollett was not available to give the report. The Council postponed the review until later in the meeting.

**WESTFIR WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN:**

Clinton Cheney of Civil West Engineering, present in person, gave a summary report of the recently completed Westfir Wastewater Facilities Plan. His report covered the following topics: the planning process; description of the existing infrastructure; planning criteria; issues identified and proposed solutions; and the sewer utility Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Cheney shared his laptop screen with the room to display a slideshow, but he lost the Zoom connection during his report. The Council then followed his report on the paper copy of his slideshow that was distributed prior to the meeting. During the report, Westfir resident and former City Councilor Randy Stark, present in person, briefly commented on past Council discussion of sewer infrastructure planning on the old mill site. Nicole explained that the Council would vote to adopt the plan at the same time as amending the Comprehensive Plan, which has not yet been updated for the current wastewater facility. The Council thanked Mr. Cheney for his work on the Plan and his presentation.

**RTMP FUNDING REQUEST: ROCK THE PARK:**

Event representative Kevin Gobelman was not present, so the mayor postponed the agenda item to later in the meeting to give Mr. Gobelman a chance to join the meeting.

**RTMP FUNDING REQUEST, PART 2: DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT:**

Jason Nehmer of the Oakridge Disc Golf Club was present via video to request an additional \$1,250 of RTMP funding. The Council reviewed a copy of his RTMP funding request from January 2026, when he was awarded half of his total request of \$2,500.

Councilor Huey moved to award an RTMP grant of \$1,250 to the Oakridge Disc Golf Tournament. Councilor Love seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**RTMP FUNDING REQUEST: KEG AND CASK FESTIVAL:**

Bev McCulley, the chair of the board for the Upper Willamette Community Development Corporation, was present in person to discuss the event. The Festival is a fundraiser for the Oakridge Food Box. The Council reviewed a copy of the event’s application for funding. The Council expressed uncertainty about the \$4,500 funding request because there were limited RTMP funds remaining in the fiscal year. Ms. McCulley assured the Council that any amount was appreciated.

Mayor Watson moved to award an RTMP grant of \$2,250 to the Oakridge Keg and Cask Festival. Councilor Huey seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**RTMP FUNDING REQUEST: ROCK THE PARK (cont.):**

Event representative Kevin Gobelman did not attend the meeting but, having supported the event in the past, the Council felt comfortable voting on the funding request. The Council also noted that Mr. Gobelman had submitted a detailed application and supporting data for Council review.

Councilor Huey moved to award an RTMP grant of \$2,500 to the Oakridge Rock the Park concert. Councilor Love seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

*The mayor recessed the meeting from 6:39–6:42 p.m. to allow Mr. Cheney to remove his equipment and leave the meeting.*

**DONATION TO THE TREE PLANTING FESTIVAL:**

The Council reviewed a broadcast email requesting a donation to the 2026 Oakridge/Westfir Tree Planting Festival. Nicole noted that RTMP funds couldn’t be used because the event did not request them or argue for the use of tourism funds. The Council determined that the only funding available was \$300 in the General Fund for miscellaneous.

Mayor Watson moved to donate \$100 to the Tree Planting Festival. Councilor Huey seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**REQUEST TO TURN OFF STREETLIGHT ON POLE V14R13:**

Nicole gave an update on Westfir resident Helaine Truthstone’s request to turn off the streetlight across from her house and adjacent to the City Hall driveway. Nicole reported that Lane Electric and Lane County did not object to turning off the streetlight. Nicole stated that she preferred to have a written request from Ms. Truthstone for the Council to consider. The Council decided to table the matter to get a formal request from Ms. Truthstone and to find out whether a dimmer light could be installed. The Council also expressed concern about the public safety implications of turning off streetlights.

**WATER/SEWER REPORT:**

City Operator Bobby Archer presented the report for March 2026. He noted that the past few months of managing the wastewater plant had been chaotic with trying to resolve the problems with effluent samples at the facility. He stated that he would meet with Max Baker, the City’s certified water consultant, to work on a DEQ-approved plan to address the problems. Bobby left the meeting after his report.

**OAKRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT (cont.):**

The Council reviewed the February 2026 report, and Councilor Huey read aloud some highlights of the report.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

Councilor Huey made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for March 2, 2026. Councilor Love seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love   **NAYS:** 0   **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**WESTRIDGE SCHOOL UPDATE:**

Mayor Watson opted to give an update at the end of the meeting during Matters of Concern to Council Not On Agenda.

**CITY RECORDER REPORT:**

Nicole Tritten presented the report and addressed these items:

- She updated the Council on the progress toward submitting an administrative warrant request to the Oakridge Municipal Court. She stated that the Oakridge Police Chief told her that Westfir’s attorney would have to present the documents to the municipal judge in person. Nicole stated that she wasn’t sure how practical it was for Westfir’s attorney to submit the documents, and it might be cost prohibitive. She asked the Council whether to continue to pursue the warrant. [The Council directed her to continue with the process.]
- Nicole stated that she attended a partner meeting about Westfir Confluence Park development on March 25. She reported that Virginia Pritchard of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council suggested that the City consider a portable toilet for the site since the City doesn’t have the resources to maintain the planned vault toilet. [The mayor responded that it might be possible for the Forest Service to provide maintenance of a vault toilet.]
- She reported that Jon Stueve, a Lane County Emergency Manager, contacted her about whether the City would like to have a tabletop exercise to test out the new Emergency Operations Plan. She stated that she planned to work with Mr. Stueve to organize the tabletop exercise, hopefully before summer.

**CITY FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

Nicole Tritten submitted the cash deposits, bank statements, bank reconciliations, expenditure sheet, and profit and loss reports, and addressed these items:

- Nicole reported that one member of the Budget Committee had to withdraw, so the Budget Committee has eight members this year.
- She stated that the City’s annual report on the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds is due April 30. She noted that unobligated funds in the amount of \$2,353 must be refunded to the US Treasury.

**APRIL EXPENDITURES:**

Councilor Huey made a motion to approve expenditures for April 2026 in the amount of \$61,093.99. Councilor Love seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**CITIZEN CONCERNS NOT ON AGENDA:**

Westfir resident Randy Stark requested an expenditure of \$500 for gravel and wood to create a floor for a donated shed at the end of Winfrey Road near the sewer plant. The purpose of the shed is to store equipment used by volunteers for mowing grass on City-owned property along the road. The Council determined that Highway Funds could be used for the expenditures.

Councilor Huey made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$500 of Highway Funds to purchase gravel and wood for the shed installation near the sewer plant. Councilor Love seconded, and the motion carried, 3–0.

**AYES:** Watson, Huey, Love    **NAYS:** 0    **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

**COUNCILOR CONCERNS NOT ON AGENDA:**

Councilor Love stated that she did not want to get her two dogs vaccinated for rabies because the dogs have health issues, and she doesn't trust vaccines. Nicole replied that she would have to look into the matter because she had not received a rabies vaccine exemption request before.

Mayor Watson addressed the continuing problem of dogs running loose in the Hemlock neighborhood, and Hemlock Park being used as a dog park, preventing use of the park by children. He stated that the park needs additional signage and suggested that the Council give more attention to quality-of-life issues in the City.

Mayor Watson gave an update on the Westridge School discussion. He reported on an in-person meeting he held on March 9 with County Commissioner Heather Buch, Lane County Policy Director Steve Adams, Oakridge School Superintendent Dave McGrath and other partner agencies to discuss possible uses of the facility and to tour the building.

**ADJOURN MEETING:**

Mayor Watson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Watson, Mayor

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ATTEST:  
Nicole Tritten, City Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

*The April 6, 2026, minutes were signed by the Mayor and City Recorder on May 4, 2026, after City Council approval.*