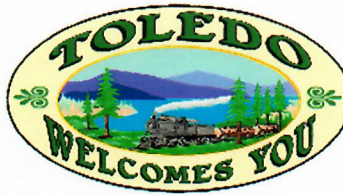


City Hall  
206 N. Main St.  
Toledo, Oregon 97391  
6:00 p.m.



**TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**November 19, 2025**

1. **Call to Order** *(The call to order and roll call were performed but the video was muted until 1:35 in the recording)*
  - a. Mayor Rod Cross called the meeting to order at **6:00p.m.**; also via Zoom in Toledo, Oregon and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call**
  - a. City Recorder Johnson took roll call and determined a quorum is present.

| Council Member        | Present | Absent | Via Zoom |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| Mayor Cross           | X       |        |          |
| Council President Mix | X       |        |          |
| Councilor Kauffman    | X       |        |          |
| Councilor Silvia      | X       |        |          |
| Councilor Burns       |         |        | X*       |
| Councilor Keating     | X       |        |          |
| Vacant                |         |        |          |

*\*Councilor Mix joined shortly before the public comments were presented.*

- b. **Staff present:** City Manager Rich Huebner; City Recorder Paul Johnson, Police Chief Michael Pace, Assistant Chief Larry Robeson, Public Works Director Brian Lorimor, Library Director Harrison Baker (Via Zoom), Human Resources Director Shawna Gribskov, Finance Director Richter (Via Zoom), City Planner Justin Peterson (Via Zoom), City Attorney Souvanny Miller (Via Zoom).
3. **Visitors/Public Comment**
  - a. Mayor Cross opened the public comment period, noting it was an opportunity to speak on items not on the agenda.
    - i. Cynthia George spoke addressing Mayor Cross directly. She requested that Mayor Cross step down as mayor, mentioning she had sent letters previously about being "abused by you in multiple occasions." She expressed disappointment that the mayor hadn't listened to community feedback and described an incident where a student mentioned they were coached by Mayor Cross while commenting on his treatment of them. Ms. George stated that the mayor was not worthy to hold the position, particularly citing concerns about "raised a hand on a child."
    - ii. The City Manager noted that Ms. George had provided a written comment



via email to the city recorder, which would be shared with council members but not read into the record since she had the opportunity to speak.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, motion carries 6-0-0-0.

| Council member        | M | S | Yay | Nay | Abstained | Absent |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----------|--------|
| Mayor Cross           |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Council President Mix | X |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Vacant                |   |   |     |     |           |        |
| Councilor Kauffman    |   | X | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Silvia      |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Keating     |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Burns       |   |   | X   |     |           |        |

#### **5. Community Service Reports and/or Presentations to the Council**

- a. VFW Presentation – Toledo Police Department Officer of the Year
- Police Chief Pace spoke first, commending Officer Gaughan who has been with the department for about two years. Chief Pace noted that Officer Gaughan has received positive feedback from the community and staff, excelling to the point that he was made a field training officer who now influences new officers.
  - The VFW representative clarified that they now operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year, making this the 2024-25 award. He explained that the VFW believes those who protect and serve the community deserve recognition, and the award represents both the VFW's appreciation and recognition by the officer's leadership team. The representative presented Officer Gil Henry with a certificate of appreciation and a plaque bearing his name that will hang in the Toledo Police Department, with new recipients added each year.

#### **6. Discussion and Information Items (Work Session)**

- a. Justin Peterson
- City Planner Justin Peterson provided background information on the irrevocable petition for public improvements, also referred to as deferred maintenance agreements. He explained these agreements are a standard practice used by Toledo and other cities when property owners want to make improvements that would require the street to be improved to city standards. The agreements allow the city to defer the required improvements until they can be combined with adjacent improvements more efficiently.
  - Peterson addressed a specific case mentioned at a previous meeting regarding Four Square Church adjacent to Lincoln Way. The original conditional use approval (CU-3-98) had included a requirement for improvements to be completed within three years, which was never fulfilled. Recently, the church requested a modification to add a storage building, and the city required a new deferred maintenance agreement as part of the approval.
  - Peterson reported he had spoken with former mayor Jim Chambers that



day, who stopped by the office to discuss the agreement, and there seemed to be movement toward resolving the issue. Peterson noted that Chapter 13.08 of the city code addresses local improvement districts but hasn't been updated since the 1970s, suggesting it could be reviewed by the council if desired.

- iv. Mayor Cross asked whether the agreements could be modified to bind property owners only to the standards that exist at the time of signing rather than potentially expanded requirements in the future. Peterson acknowledged this was a good question but wasn't entirely sure of the legal implications, noting that current agreements list specific items like curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. He suggested it might require legal consultation.
  - v. City Attorney Miller provided additional context, explaining that the agreements benefit property owners by preventing "ghost sidewalks" (isolated sections of sidewalk) while allowing for cohesive development later. She noted that while there is a burden on the property, there's also flexibility and potential long-term benefit.
- b. Discussion of Activities of Department of Homeland Security in Lincoln County
- i. Councilor Keating initiated discussion about the Department of Homeland Security's activities in Lincoln County, expressing concerns about immediate attention needed for recent developments. He thanked Mayor Kaplan of Newport for attending, acknowledging Newport has been more directly impacted by these issues.
  - ii. Councilor Keating emphasized that his concerns were not political but focused on likely outcomes if the current relationship between Lincoln County and DHS continues. He highlighted two specific issues: efforts to build an ICE detention center in Newport, and the relocation of the Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter from Newport just before the start of crabbing season.
  - iii. Keating detailed the dangers of the crabbing profession, noting it experiences nearly triple the national fishing industry average for deaths. He explained that the helicopter, now 30 minutes away by air, could mean the difference between life and death in emergencies at sea. The Fisherman's Wives organization had stated that lives will likely be lost if the helicopter is not returned.
  - iv. Regarding the detention center, Keating argued it would negatively impact tourism and the local economy, citing national media coverage already affecting public perception. He referenced a study showing correctional facilities can reduce nearby property values by an average of 20%, potentially putting homeowners into negative equity. He urged that even those who support immigration enforcement should recognize that putting a detention center in Newport would cause irreversible economic harm.
  - v. Keating also referenced the "Brown Roundup" letter discussed by the council in December of the previous year, which had encouraged targeting people based on skin color or language. He noted that while the council had planned to draft an official declaration against the letter's contents, other challenges had prevented follow-through. He suggested now was the time for such a declaration, as the concerns were "no longer abstract but at our doorstep."



- vi. Mayor Kaplan of Newport shared that Newport's City Council had unanimously committed to stopping the detention center development, hiring outside counsel and pursuing all legal remedies. He expressed frustration that federal agencies had shown "absolute disrespect and contempt" by not providing any official written communication or even a phone call to the city, county, senators, congressional representatives, or governor. He emphasized the urgent need to get the helicopter returned, stating "people will die" without it, including fishermen, recreational fishers, surfers, and others who rely on the ocean.
- vii. Councilor Burns noted the importance of separating two issues: Newport's inability to support a detention center and the broader question of immigration enforcement. She emphasized that while deportation will happen, Lincoln County doesn't need to host a detention center.
- viii. Councilor Keating proposed scheduling a special meeting to draft and approve an official statement from the city. After discussion about timing given the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the council agreed to hold a special workshop meeting on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
- ix. Mayor Cross added practical and logistical concerns about the detention facility proposal, noting the tsunami and earthquake risk, already stretched healthcare system, and water infrastructure limitations. He was particularly troubled by the helicopter's removal without notice or reason, emphasizing its critical importance to the coast's fishing community, especially given the dangerous weather conditions common during crabbing season.

## 7. Decision Items

- a. RCA – An Ordinance Granting Central Lincoln People's Utility District an Exclusive Electric Utility Franchise and Revoking Ordinance No. 1340
  - i. City Manager Huebner presented Ordinance 1433 granting Central Lincoln People's Utility District (PUD) an exclusive electric utility franchise. He noted two typos in the RCA: the previous ordinance (1361) was passed in 2015, not 2025, and the item was correctly placed on the agenda as a decision item rather than a discussion item.
  - ii. The new agreement maintains the 5% franchise fee established in the previous ordinance and allows the city to request financial documentation from the PUD once annually to verify the calculation. The fee revenue is split 60% to the general fund and 40% to the street fund, with projected revenue of approximately \$1.25 million for the current fiscal year. The ordinance had been reviewed and accepted by the PUD, the city manager, and the city attorney.
  - iii. During public comment, Cynthia George inquired about potential conflicts with individual solar power hookups. Eric Chambers from the PUD responded that they welcome residents who generate power at their residences and use net metering agreements, purchasing power at the same rate they pay to the Bonneville Power Administration.
- b. **Motion** to approve Ordinance Number 1433 granting the Central Lincoln People's Utility District an exclusive franchise to construct, maintain, and operate an electric utility along streets and other public ways in the city of Toledo, setting the franchise fee and revoking Ordinance Number 1361. Motion carries 6-0-0-0



| Council member        | M | S | Yay | Nay | Abstained | Absent |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----------|--------|
| Mayor Cross           |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Council President Mix | X |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Vacant                |   |   |     |     |           |        |
| Councilor Kauffman    |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Silvia      |   |   | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Keating     |   | X | X   |     |           |        |
| Councilor Burns       |   |   | X   |     |           |        |

## 8. Reports and Comments

- a. Police Department
  - i. The Police Chief noted his comments were included in his submitted report with nothing additional to add.
- b. Fire Department
  - i. The Fire Chief was on vacation. Assistant Fire Chief Larry Robeson attended but had no additional information beyond the submitted report.
- c. Public Works
  - i. Public Works Director Brian Lorimer announced that the Southeast survey and waterline upsizing project, initially scheduled to break ground on December 1, had been postponed to January 5 at the contractor's request to avoid holiday interruptions and ensure a more streamlined job. He also addressed questions about road striping, explaining that the city lacks the capability to do street striping and has to work with outside contractors, who had not responded despite being given completion dates.
- d. Planning Department
  - i. Nothing further to submit.
- e. Library
  - i. Councilor Kaufman inquired about 3D printer classes at the library. Library Director Harrison explained that while they don't currently have scheduled classes, staff can provide one-on-one instruction for those who call ahead. The library computer has various 3D design software installed, including Blender, FreeCAD, and Bamboo's slicer program. Councilor Keating noted that several local 3D print artists in the community might be engaged to demonstrate their work at the library.
- f. Human Resources
  - i. Council members congratulated Shawna Gribskov on accepting the full-time Human Resources Manager position, expressing relief and appreciation that the long-vacant position had finally been filled.
- g. Finance
  - i. Nothing further to submit.
- h. City Manager
  - i. The City Manager reported on the Finance Director recruitment, noting that a candidate who had visited Toledo and was invited back for an immersive opportunity had to withdraw due to a family medical situation. Jensen Strategies was assisting with reopening the position, and Judy had



- agreed to continue in her role through the transition.
- ii. The manager announced a joint meeting with the Planning Commission scheduled for February 11, 2026, to discuss results from the parks survey and traffic calming ordinances.
- iii. For the December 3 meeting, the agenda would include an interview with an applicant for the vacant city council position and a presentation from Scott Edwards Architecture with updated floor plans for the Civic Center building. The council would be asked to select preferred options from four floor plans, with detailed cost breakdowns to be developed by year-end to support requests for state funding.
- iv. The manager also noted that documentation for the Homey House matching funds had been received and an RCA would be presented on December 3 for council approval of the previously earmarked \$10,000.
- v. The December 17 meeting would include a presentation from the auditors.
- vi. The City Manager would be out of the office the following two days for an early Thanksgiving celebration with family and on November 26, but would remain reachable if needed.

#### **9. City Council Issue Tracker**

- a. No items to discuss or add.

#### **10. Council Comments**

- a. Council President Mix
  - i. Suggested scheduling an Executive Session at the December 3 meeting to discuss whether to conduct an investigation into allegations against the mayor, rather than a public discussion.
- b. Councilor Burns
  - i. Suggested creating a volunteer appreciation event or banquet to recognize community members who support city events, noting the difficulty in recruiting volunteers and the importance of honoring those who contribute.
- c. Councilor Silvia
  - i. None
- d. Councilor Kauffman
  - i. None
- e. Councilor Keating
  - i. Suggested improving the city website by setting external links and documents to open in new tabs rather than the same tab. He also requested an update on publishing the after-action report on the city website, which had been part of the deliverables when Jensen Strategies was hired.
  - ii. Keating also requested that the December 3 agenda include a discussion about a potential investigation into allegations made against Mayor Cross. He distinguished between a criminal investigation and one related to the city charter, council rules, and adopted values, emphasizing the importance of accountability and honoring the former employee who came forward with allegations.

#### **11. Mayor's Comments**

- a. Focused his comments on the Newport/DHS situation, emphasizing that the helicopter's removal impacts Toledo significantly since many fishermen live in Toledo and East County. He described the devastating impact of losing fishermen

and characterized the helicopter's removal as negligence that threatens residents' security.

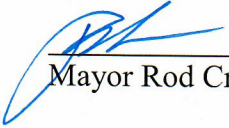
**12. Future Agenda Items**

- a. The council agreed to schedule a special workshop meeting for Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM to discuss the DHS issues and an executive session for December 3 to address the investigation question.

**13. Adjournment**

- a. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Rod Cross

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder Paul Johnson