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

TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
Regular City Council Meeting
March 4, 2026

1. **Call to Order**
   a. Mayor Tracy Mix called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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 Mix	X		
Council President Silvia		X	
Councilor Chambers	X		
Councilor Kauffman	X		
Councilor Keating	X		
Councilor Burns		X	

   b. Staff Present: City Manager Rich Huebner, Detective Shinholster and City Recorder Paul Johnson

3. **Visitors/Public Comment**
   a. Shannon Hermann

4. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Council Member	M	S	Yay	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Mayor Mix			X			
Council President Silvia						X
Councilor Chambers		X	X			
Councilor Kauffman			X			
Councilor Keating	X		X			
Councilor Burns						X

5. **Community Service Reports and/or Presentations to the Council**
   a. ARC of Lincoln County Final Report for Contributions Committee

i. City Manager Huebner presented the ARC of Lincoln County final report, noting it was included in the council packet and that the organization had met their final reporting requirements. Councilor Keating provided extensive commentary praising ARC's contributions to the city, particularly their takeover of a building that had been facing funding challenges. He emphasized how ARC had improved the space through community volunteer efforts including mural work, noting their dual benefit to the city - both utilizing city contributions and contributing significantly back to the community by providing affordable space for services.

6. Discussion and Information Items

a. Town Hall Meeting in March at Fire Hall

i. City Manager Huebner explained that at the previous meeting, council had decided to replace their March work session with a town hall meeting, initially focusing on water conservation but potentially expanding to 2-3 topics of public interest.

ii. The council agreed to structure the town hall around fire safety and water conservation themes, tying together drought conditions, water conservation needs, and fire safety education. They planned to have city firefighters provide presentations on fire safety, defensible spaces around homes, burn ban procedures, and safe fireworks use.

iii. Councilor Keating suggested the town hall could include educational components about how residents get notified about burn bans and general fire safety preparedness. The council expressed enthusiasm for potentially ending the town hall with a small fireworks safety demonstration in the fire station parking lot.

iv. The meeting was scheduled for March 25th at the fire station, replacing the regular work session.

b. Fireworks Guidelines

i. The council discussed this item first, switching the order with the town hall discussion. Mayor Mix explained that the topic was added because neighboring communities like Newport and Lincoln City have recently banned fireworks sales, creating some pressure for Toledo to consider following suit, though historically the city has not done so.

ii. Councilor Chambers questioned the necessity of restrictions, asking about the actual cost to the city in terms of incidents, man hours, and injuries related to fireworks. He expressed concern about creating solutions for problems that may not exist, noting his general opposition to changing current policies.

iii. Councilor Keating acknowledged the controlled fireworks show's safety measures but expressed concern about the intersection of drought conditions and fire safety, particularly noting that peak fireworks use occurs during the driest time of year. He suggested considering educational safeguards rather than restrictions.

iv. Mayor Mix argued that if fireworks were banned in town, people would simply go to wooded areas to use them, making it harder to control potential fires than having them used in safer urban locations.
v. Shannon Herman from Toledo Summer Festival confirmed their interest in partnering with the city on educational materials to be distributed at their fireworks booth. Board member Randall Proust spoke about the festival's safety protocols for their fireworks display, noting they have multiple personnel on site for fire suppression and operate under fire marshal guidelines. He emphasized that fireworks sales provide crucial funding for the display, representing roughly 10% of the fireworks show costs.
vi. Jonathan Mix, speaking as a firefighter with 30 years of experience, provided technical clarification that Oregon law already prohibits aerial fireworks for citizens, with legal fireworks being primarily fountains and noise makers that are less fire-prone. He noted that existing drought protocols already provide restrictions when needed, and that Toledo sits in a "green zone" on state wildfire risk maps, indicating low wildfire potential.
vii. City Council President Frank Silvia's statement was read, providing data that fireworks booth sales represented 23.18% of the festival's fireworks display funding in 2023, 11.99% in 2024, and 12.46% in 2025. He strongly opposed any ban, citing the festival's economic impact and citizens' historical responsibility with fireworks.
viii. The council reached consensus to maintain current fireworks policies without restrictions, instead focusing on partnering with the Summer Festival to provide fire safety education materials. They agreed to incorporate fire safety education into the upcoming town hall meeting.

7. Decision Items

a. The council added a business item to authorize a change order for the Olalla Meadows water line project.
b. **Motion** to add a business item to the agenda for the March 4 City Council regular meeting.

Council Member	M	S	Yay	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Mayor Mix			X			
Council President Silvia						X
Councilor Chambers			X			
Councilor Kauffman		X	X			
Councilor Keating	X		X			
Councilor Burns						X
			4	0	0	2

c. **Motion** to authorize the city manager to negotiate and execute a change order with Trench Line Excavation to add the installation of approximately 30 linear feet of owner-supplied waterline for the Olalla Meadows project at a cost not to exceed $30,000, and further authorized the city manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Northwest Coastal Housing for the reimbursement of expenses related to this change order.

Council Member	M	S	Yay	Nay	Abstained	Absent
Mayor Mix			X			
Council President Silvia						X
Councilor Chambers			X			
Councilor Kauffman		X	X			
Councilor Keating	X		X			
Councilor Burns						X
			4	0	0	2

8. Reports and Comments

a. City Manager Comments

i. City Manager Huebner explained that this change order would allow the water line installation to occur while the road construction is ongoing, with Northwest Coastal Housing reimbursing the city for the costs. The timing coordination with Lincoln County made this approach more efficient than waiting for separate installation later.

9. City Council Issue Tracker

a. See item 12.

10. Council Comments

a. Councilor Chambers promoted the Toledo Summer Festival trivia events, encouraging council members and community members to participate in the monthly events held the last Friday of each month at various local venues.

b. Councilor Keating reported that Representative Gomberg had called to inform the city that funding for the public works building had been rejected at the state legislature.

i. City Manager Huebner noted he would schedule a meeting with Representative Gomberg's chief of staff to learn how to better position the request for next year's long session, acknowledging the significant competition for mid-biennium budget requests.

11. Mayor's Comments

a. Mayor Mix noted that the evening's discussions had covered the main items she wanted to address.

12. Future Agenda Items

a. An updated City Council Issue Tracker was presented by City Manager Huebner. Specific updates on continuing issues were provided.

13. Adjournment

a. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVE:

Mayor Tracy Mix

ATTEST:

City Recorder Paul Johnson