

City Hall
206 N. Main St.
Toledo, Oregon 97391
5:45 p.m.



TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
Regular City Council Meeting
February 11, 2026

1. Call to Order

- a. Mayor Rod Cross called the meeting to order at 5:45 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 and City Recorder Paul Johnson

3. Decision Items

- a. Consideration of Letter of Opposition to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Proposed Rule Changes.
- i. City Manager Huebner introduced the agenda item, explaining that the council had received a request to consider adopting a letter opposing new guidelines proposed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department. These changes would modify Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fisheries regulations.
 - ii. Mr. Huebner provided context about the proposed changes:
 1. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received a petition requiring implementation of "pop up" gear (also known as "ropeless" gear) for Dungeness crab fishery by 2028
 2. The changes would allow only one year of experimental use of such equipment
 3. The equipment costs tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars per vessel, creating a financial burden that smaller fishing vessels would find difficult to afford

4. Lenders would likely not provide financing for this unproven technology
 5. Implementation could have negative economic impacts on the Toledo community, as a reduction in fisheries would significantly impact the Port of Toledo's industrial operations, affecting the local economy and workforce
- iii. Mayor Mix noted that several representatives from the local fishing industry were present to answer questions, including Gary Ripcot, Mike Rutherford Sr., Kelly Rutherford, Mike Rutherford Jr., and Kyle Rutherford.
 - iv. The Mayor emphasized that the proposed changes would have an enormous impact not just on Toledo and Newport, but on the entire coastal economy. She expressed concerns that the changes could effectively shut down the majority of the crab season, affecting crab availability in stores and impacting numerous interconnected businesses throughout the community.
 - v. Mr. Huebner added that if fishing boats and processing operations shut down, employees and their families might relocate out of the area, further impacting the workforce and local economy.
 - vi. Council President Silvia noted that the cost alone to outfit all boats within the two-year timeframe would force many out of business, which would subsequently harm the Port of Toledo that works primarily with these boats.
 - vii. The Mayor expressed concern about implementing technology that had only been tested for one year under limited conditions in California, questioning the rush to adopt unproven methods.
 - viii. Council President Silvia pointed out that the petition appeared to inflate numbers of whale entanglements, claiming there were 20 incidents when only 4 were documented. Mayor Mix also noted that California and Washington fishermen are granted "incidental take permits" for whales, while Oregon fishermen are not, creating an unfair situation. Additionally, Council President Silvia mentioned that approximately 30 whale strikes in shipping lanes by other vessels were not being addressed in the petition, which focused only on crab pot incidents.
 - ix. Council discussion followed:
 1. Councilor Chambers agreed with concerns about the science, stating that Oregon often rushes into policies before the data fully supports them, and expressed strong support for the fishing families
 2. Councilor Keating discussed his work with Central Coast Food Web, noting how tight profit margins are for fishers and how every additional barrier is potentially crippling to their operations. He stated that while he could potentially support a 10-year implementation plan with proper pilot programs, the current short-term approach was unrealistic for small fishing businesses

3. All councilors present indicated they were aligned in opposition to the proposed changes
 4. It was noted that absent Councilor Burns had expressed her opposition as well through Council President Silvia.
- x. **Motion** to approve and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign a letter of opposition to changes to Oregon Commercial Dungeness crab fishery regulations.

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

4. Adjournment

- a. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Mayor Rod Cross

City Recorder Paul Johnson