

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



TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
Regular City Council Meeting
February 18, 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, Police Chief Michael Pace, Public Works Director Brian Lorimor, Fire Chief Dave Lapof, Human Resource Director Shawna Gribskov, Library Director Harrison Baker, City Attorney Souvanny Miller, and City Recorder Paul Johnson

3. Visitors/Public Comment

- a. The City Manager noted that one written comment had been received that afternoon. The comment was designated to be attached to the meeting record rather than read aloud, and would be provided to Council.

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		X			
Councilor Chambers					X	
Councilor Kauffman		X	X			
Councilor Keating					X	
Councilor Burns			X			

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

- a. Toledo Summer Festival Princess
 - i. City Manager Huebner informed the Council that the Summer Festival organization had requested to move the presentation of the princesses to the March 18th meeting.
- b. Lincoln County Historical Society Final Report
 - i. The report was included in the Council packet, but no representative was present for a presentation.
- c. Toledo History Museum and Yaquina Historical Railroad Museum
 - i. Brenda Brown represented both the Toledo History Center and the Yaquina Pacific Historical Railroad Society. She provided an update on the museum's activities over the last quarter and requested quarterly funding of \$3,000 for each organization, as previously offered by the Council.
 - ii. Councilor Keating inquired about the TRT (Transient Residency Tax) money that both organizations receive from the county. Ms. Brown confirmed that the Toledo History Center receives \$6,000 per year from the county in biannual payments, while the railroad receives about \$30,000 per year. Councilor Keating provided context about pending state legislation that could change TRT allocation requirements from a minimum of 70% toward marketing and tourism to a minimum of 40%, potentially affecting organizations dependent on this funding.
 - iii. Ms. Brown explained that they are required to report to the county commissioners biannually to receive this funding. She noted that for many years, the History Center did not receive county funding because Toledo already had a museum, but through advocacy they were eventually added at a smaller rate.
 - iv. The Council reached consensus to add the funding request to the March 4th meeting's consent agenda.

6. Discussion and Information Items

- a. Art Toledo
 - i. Kim Bush, who has volunteered with Art Toledo for five years, expressed concern about the organization's future following the departure of City Recorder Lisa Figueroa, who had previously handled administrative duties for Art Toledo. She used an analogy describing Art Toledo as the city's "baby" that now lacks a "paid babysitter" and is being left to volunteers. Ms. Bush emphasized that Art Toledo is important for revitalizing the city and attracting tourism, but needs dedicated support to continue.
 - ii. Paul Bright from the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) provided historical context about Art Toledo, which started in 2020 as a city initiative to use creative economies to revitalize downtown Toledo and attract tourists from Newport. He detailed numerous successful projects including Phantom Galleries (using empty storefronts as temporary art galleries), community murals, beautification programs, and the Art Oysters and Brews event.
 - iii. Mr. Bright explained the extensive work that EDALC has contributed to Art Toledo, including website hosting, marketing, and event planning, fundraising, and volunteer coordination. He noted that EDALC had

- "stepped in to be foster parents" when city support diminished.
- iv. Stacie Keating from EDALC added that they need a decision by April 1st regarding whether Art Oysters and Brews (scheduled for the first weekend in August) could proceed, noting their team put in 66 collective hours for last year's event.
 - v. Councilor Keating suggested the possibility of creating a public arts commission under the city umbrella, which could provide more sustainability than forming a separate 501(c) (3) organization. City Manager Huebner agreed to investigate:
 - 1. Locating existing 501(c) (3) paperwork that had been started previously
 - 2. Getting an update on the status of grant funds
 - 3. Consulting with the city attorney about the legal implications of different organizational structures
 - vi. Mayor Mix suggested adding this topic to a future work session for further Council discussion. The Council agreed to continue the conversation, recognizing the April 1st timeline for planning the Art Oysters and Brews event.

7. Decision Items

- a. City Manager Rich Huebner conducted the oath of office for Mayor Tracy Mix, who had been appointed but not yet formally sworn in.

8. Reports and Comments

- a. City Manager
 - i. City Manager Huebner reported that the city had extended a conditional offer of employment to a finance director candidate, with background checks in progress. He noted that staff had interviewed two qualified candidates and were excited about the selected individual.
 - ii. City Manager Huebner provided a preview of the upcoming work session agenda, which would include:
 - 1. Oregon Sustainable City Year program
 - 2. Capital improvement program requests
 - 3. Council goals draft from the recent retreat
 - 4. Art Toledo discussion
- b. Fire Department
 - i. Chief Lapof of the Fire Department shared information about a significant grant Siletz Fire District had received that would fund a new building behind their station. He explained that the project had been in the works for several years, with support from State Representative Gomberg and Senator Merkley. The grant will allow them to build a large barn-like structure and remodel the inside of their current station. As part of the process, they needed to purchase the property they had been leasing from the city of Siletz since 1987. Chief Lapof anticipated the project would be completed by July 2027.

- c. City Recorder
 - i. City Recorder Johnson announced that the resolution to change the city charter would be published in the newspaper the following Wednesday, starting the seven-day challenge period for the title, providing ample time to meet requirements for the May 19th ballot.
- 9. City Council Issue Tracker**
- a. City Manager Rich Huebner indicated that the tracker would be cleaned up and ready for council at the next scheduled meeting.
- 10. Council Comments**
- a. There were no council comments.
- 11. Mayor's Comments**
- a. There were no comments made by the Mayor
- 12. Future Agenda Items**
- a. Previously mentioned by the City Manager during his report.
- 13. Adjournment**
- a. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Mayor Tracy Mix

City Recorder Paul Johnson