

Toledo City Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and roll call

The Toledo City Council Regular Meeting was called to order on February 19, 2025. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Councilor Kauffman, Councilor Silvia, Councilor Mix, Councilor Burns, Councilor Keating, and Mayor Cross. Council President Bush was excused. With six members present, a quorum was established.

Presentations

Wildfire information and map, Jon Mix

Jonathan Mix, a resident of Toledo with 29 years of firefighting experience, presented information about Oregon's wildfire risk map. He explained that Oregon State University researchers worked with fire modeling experts to develop the map, which identifies where wildfires pose the greatest hazard to structures and development. The map combines data on burn probability and fire intensity based on climate, weather, topography, and vegetation.

Mix showed the council that most of Toledo is in the "low" risk category according to the state map, with surrounding areas being in the "moderate" category. He noted that the map doesn't consider structures or people specifically, but focuses on wildfire risk to the area. Councilor Mix pointed out that residents can look up their individual properties on the interactive map via the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer website.

Council asked about historical fires in the area, and Mix mentioned a significant fire in approximately 1868 that started in the Toledo area and extended to where the lighthouse is now, largely fueled by logging slash.

Dahl Disposal Service, Outreach Manager Dave Larmouth

Dave Larmouth from Dahl Disposal Service presented information about the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) and requested council approval for DEQ paperwork. He explained that the RMA aims to standardize recycling across Oregon, with all residents using the same list for mixed recycling collected at the curb.

Larmouth detailed that the program will be funded by product manufacturers and packaging producers, with costs incorporated into consumer goods. He explained that a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) called Circular Action Associates (CAA) has been hired to run the program in Oregon under DEQ supervision.

Larmouth outlined the expanded list of recyclable materials that will be accepted, including new paper items like milk cartons, aseptic packaging, tissue paper, and non-metallized gift wrap, as well as new plastic items like dairy tubs, cups, large plastic buckets, and nursery pots. He also mentioned that certain items like plastic lids and polystyrene foam will be collected at drop-off depots.

He explained that five different funding streams would be available starting July 1, 2025, covering transportation, contamination reduction education, collection containers, depot containers, and service expansion. These funds would flow to the service providers, with Toledo likely to receive funds later in the rollout as priority will be given to larger communities and those without existing recycling programs.

Larmouth clarified that the city would need to authorize Dahl Disposal to receive these funds directly, which would appear as a reduction to expenses rather than new revenue.

Visitors/Public Comment

Barry Brewster asked about the format for public comment, inquiring whether questions could be asked before comments. Mayor Cross confirmed that the format would allow for comments later in the meeting as well.

Consent Agenda

There were no items for consideration.

Discussion/Decision Items

Consideration of funding authorizations for the Recycling Modernization Act – Dahl Disposal Service

Following the earlier presentation, the Council discussed authorizing Dahl Disposal Service to handle all aspects of the RMA funding. City Attorney Adams confirmed this would be consistent with the act.

After some clarification about what exactly needed to be authorized, the Council reached consensus to fully authorize Dahl Disposal Service for all five funding streams.

Councilor Kauffman moved to authorize city staff to sign and submit the necessary forms to DEQ regarding Dahl Disposal Service and consent to fully authorize all transfers of funds concerning the RMA. Councilor Silvia seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Consideration to lower speed limit on NW Lincoln Way & NW/NE Skyline Dr.

Public Works Director Brian Lorimor requested Council to consider establishing an ordinance to decrease the speed limit on Northwest Lincoln Way and Northwest/Northeast Skyline Drive from 25 to 20 miles per hour, depending on a study. He explained that there are currently no designated speed signs posted on these roads, and at minimum, speed signage needs to be posted.

Jim Chambers, a resident of Aspen Street off Skyline, expressed concerns about lowering the speed to 20 mph, suggesting that 25 mph would be more appropriate given traffic patterns and residents' familiarity with that standard speed limit. He questioned whether there was adequate traffic volume to warrant 20 mph and emphasized that enforcement would be necessary for any posted speed limit to be effective.

Mayor Cross explained that the issue arose after a resident had cars go into their yard, and that neighbors he spoke with had no issue with lowering the speed. Chief Pace noted that at least one accident was due to ice or snow rather than speed.

After discussion, the Council reached consensus to install approximately six signs posting the speed limit at 25 mph for now, and to revisit the issue in January 2026 after evaluating its effectiveness. Chief Pace indicated that the terrain creates challenges for speed enforcement, but they would do their best.

Discussion and possible decision to establish a process to hire an Interim City Manager

City Attorney Adams explained the legal requirements for executive sessions when considering employment of a chief executive officer, noting that certain procedures must be followed to use that authority. He mentioned that for interim positions, the process has varied in the past.

The Council discussed the interview process and decided to hold public interviews of candidates the following Wednesday, with deliberation and appointment to follow. They agreed that the interviews should be conducted in public rather than executive session, given the level of scrutiny.

City Recorder Lisa Figueroa shared 13 draft interview questions she had prepared, and the Council reviewed them one by one, deciding by consensus which to keep, modify, or eliminate. Additional questions were suggested regarding oversight of internal investigations, recruitment and retention, and timeline for availability.

The Council specifically discussed the charter requirement that the city manager must reside within Lincoln County, and whether this would apply to an interim manager. Attorney Adams confirmed this would be a requirement and suggested asking candidates about their willingness to establish residency in Lincoln County for the duration of their appointment.

The Council agreed to schedule interviews for the following Wednesday at either 4:00 or 5:00 PM, depending on candidate and council member availability. They also decided to begin discussions about the permanent city manager hiring process at the same meeting.

Reports and Comments

Committee updates

Toledo Fire Department: Interim Chief Dave Lapof reported they are moving forward with operations and have welcomed back one volunteer. They are working with East Lincoln County crews on calls, and Seal Rock personnel are providing additional support. They are preparing for a significant GP mill shutdown that will bring approximately 2,000 contractors to the area starting February 27th, increasing the population and potentially affecting emergency services.

Library: Director Harrison reported that the space behind the library has been improved with a new fence and benches. He noted that district reintegration is on pace for March 10th, with test instances of their new Aspen discovery catalog already running. He also announced that Denise will be retiring May 1st and plans to stay on as a volunteer for story time and other programs. The Council discussed the process for hiring her replacement, which will involve the interim city manager when appointed.

Public Works: Director Brian Lorimor reported on various activities including hydrant replacement on SE First Street, route maintenance, water system regulation, bench rebuilding at the library and Arcadia Park, manhole inspections, storm drain installation at Knight Park, and tree removal on East Slope. He mentioned that Lions Park improvements look "gorgeous" with assistance from Angel Job Corps' masonry group. He also noted that he will be attending an annual management and technical conference in Sunriver.

Police Department: Chief Pace reported that Colton's last day in dispatch was today, leaving them with one dispatcher (Wendy) and one on limited basis (Katie). They have contract dispatchers assisting with the transition. He requested authorization to provide conditional job offers to two patrol officer candidates in backgrounds and to hire them after completion of background checks. He announced a March 12th launch date for WVCC to take over dispatching services, with a phone to be installed outside the main door for 24-hour availability. He asked for patience during the transition as the contract dispatchers learn the nuances of Toledo's operations.

City Recorder: Lisa Figueroa reported that she reached out to Elaine Howard regarding the urban renewal district's annual report, which needed to be posted by March 1st. The

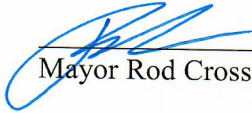
publication has gone out, taxing districts have been notified, and the website has been updated. She also mentioned the upcoming Spring Conference in North Bend on May 1-2, with Councilor Silvia already registered and Councilors Keating and Mix expressing interest in attending.

City Attorney: Mike Adams reported that he is waiting on a draft IGA from the attorney for the East Lincoln Fire District. He also mentioned an email from Pierre regarding labor negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement and recommended using Pierre for the TPSA bargaining due to trust issues. Adams also reported that copies of executive summaries related to fire investigations were sent to DPSSD without explanation or return address; DPSSD has since shredded these privileged documents. He received Council consensus to send a response to a tort claim notice regarding a public meeting.

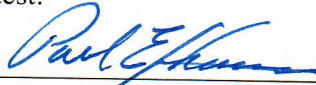
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved:


Mayor Rod Cross

Attest:


City Recorder Paul Johnson