

**City of Lowell Oregon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2025**

The Lowell City Council held a regular meeting on June 3, 2025. The meeting location was at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District Fire Station 1 at 389 N. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR 97452. Mayor Weathers called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

City Councilors present:

Mayor Maureen Weathers, Don Bennett, Tim Stratis,

City Councilors absent:

Jimmy Murray, Gail Harris

Staff/others present:

Interim City Administrator Max Baker

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Weathers announced a change to the agenda, stating that item 9g would be pulled and considered at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda: None

Public Comments: No Public comments received

Staff Reports: None presented

Presentations: None presented

Public Hearings:

1. Resolution 853, "A resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Making Supplemental Appropriations."

Mayor Weathers opened the public hearing at 7:02 PM. City Administrator Max Baker presented the resolution, explaining that it corrected overspending and unanticipated expenses in the BlackBerry Jam event. He noted that the website posting fee, which occurs every other year, needed to be corrected in future budgets. Baker also mentioned that additional material services for BlackBerry Jam were needed, as the current budget was almost expended before the event. Mayor Weathers added that there was a shipment of jam available for sale. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:03 PM.

2. Resolution 854, "A resolution to establish water and sewer rates to be effective July 1, 2025."

Mayor Weathers opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM. City Administrator Baker presented the resolution, recommending a 3.5% increase across base and variable rates, as suggested by the American Water Works Association. He highlighted changes to the bulk water fill rates, including a new tank fill per use fee for residential customers and a hydrant meter fee for commercial users. Baker explained that these changes would help capture staff time and better align with the city's utility rate structure. He noted that Lowell's bulk water rates would still be significantly lower than those of other communities. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:06 PM.

3. Resolution 855, "A resolution certifying services for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Mayor Weathers opened the public hearing at 7:06 PM. City Administrator Baker presented the resolution, explaining that the city needs to certify providing at least four of seven core services to receive state shared revenues. He noted that Lowell provides six services, with policing no longer being one of them. Councilor Bennett asked about the increased presence of state and county law enforcement in town. Mayor Weathers suggested discussing this topic later in the meeting. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:08 PM.

4. Resolution 856, "A resolution declaring the city's election to receive state revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Mayor Weathers opened the public hearing at 7:09 PM. City Administrator Baker presented the anticipated state revenue sharing funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, including \$12,584 in state revenue sharing, \$725 in cigarette tax, \$22,475 in liquor tax, and \$2,650 in marijuana tax. No public comments or suggestions for use of the funds were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:10 PM.

5. Resolution 857, "A resolution to adopt a budget and impose and categorize taxes for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Mayor Weathers opened the public hearing at 7:10 PM. City Administrator Baker presented the resolution to adopt the budget recommended and approved by the budget committee. He stated that the budget contains \$4,109,667, of which \$445,677 is unappropriated and reserved. Baker also noted that the city's permanent tax rate is \$2.1613 per \$1,000 of assessed value. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 7:11 PM.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Resolution 853, "A resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Making Supplemental Appropriations."

Councilor Bennett's motion to approve Resolution 853, "A resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Making Supplemental Appropriations." was seconded by Councilor Stratis.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

2. Resolution 854, "A resolution to establish water and sewer rates to be effective July 1, 2025."

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve Resolution 854, "A resolution to establish water and sewer rates to be effective July 1, 2025." was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

3. Resolution 855, "A resolution certifying services for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Mayor Weathers motion to approve Resolution 855, "A resolution certifying services for fiscal year 2025-2026." was seconded by Councilor Stratis.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

4. Resolution 856, "A resolution declaring the city's election to receive state revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve Resolution 856, "A resolution declaring the city's election to receive state revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026." was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

5. Resolution 857, "A resolution to adopt a budget and impose and categorize taxes for fiscal year 2025-2026."

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve Resolution 857, as presented was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

6. Resolution 858, "A resolution Authorizing an Adjustment to the Employee Pay Scale for FY 2025-2026"

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve Resolution 858, "A resolution Authorizing an Adjustment to the Employee Pay Scale for FY 2025-2026" was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

7. Resolution 859, "A Resolution Updating a Master Fee Schedule and Rescinding Resolution 842."

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. City Administrator Contract-Discussion/Possible Action

Mayor Weathers presented the City Administrator contract for Max Baker's position, which combines the roles of City Administrator and Public Works Director. The contract runs for three years, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028. Mayor Weathers highlighted a unique provision regarding on-call duty pay for public works emergencies, where Baker would receive 1.5 times his basic straight time hourly rate for actual time on-site.

The council discussed how Baker's title would appear on the city website and business cards, deciding to use "City Administrator" for simplicity and alignment with the city charter. Mayor Weathers praised Baker's performance as interim administrator and noted that regular evaluations would begin in January.

Councilor Stratis' motion to accept the contract for the City Administrator as presented, was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

1. Parade Application – Lowell School District Senior Parade-Discussion/Possible Action

City Administrator Baker presented the parade application for the annual Lowell School District Senior Parade, scheduled for the upcoming Friday. He confirmed that the event had received approval from Lane County, had proper insurance, and an accepted parade route approved by the fire department, city, and Lane County.

Mayor Weathers mentioned that the parade would be followed by graduation at 7:00 PM in the high school gym, inviting anyone interested to attend.

Councilor Stratis' motion to approve the parade application for the Lowell School District Senior Parade, was seconded by Councilor Bennett.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES.

Other Business:

The council discussed the increased presence of county and state law enforcement in the area. City Administrator Baker explained that while no formal request had been made, there had been ongoing communication with Lane County officials. He noted an increased focus on rural areas by the Lane County Sheriff's office and mentioned recent high-profile cases in Lowell.


Baker suggested bringing back the Lane County call log to provide more information to the public about local law enforcement activities. He also mentioned the possibility of inviting the sheriff to a future meeting to discuss policing matters and establish a stronger relationship with the community.

Councilor Bennett suggested that the increased law enforcement presence might be related to grant funding that agencies are trying to utilize before it expires.

Adjourn

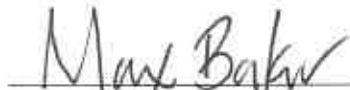
Mayor Weathers adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maureen M. Weathers", written over a horizontal line.

Maureen M. Weathers, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Max Baker", written over a horizontal line.

Max Baker, City Recorder