

**City of Lowell Oregon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025**

The Lowell City Council held a regular meeting on October 21, 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 7:01 pm.

City Councilors present: Mayor Maureen Weathers, Jimmy Murray, Don Bennett, Tim Stratis

City Councilors absent: Gail Harris

Staff/others present: City Administrator Max Baker

Approval of Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Weathers announced that the consent agenda included financial reports for July and August 2025, check register for September 2025, leave register for September 2025, and meeting minutes from the September 16, 2025 regular meeting.

City Administrator Baker explained that the inclusion of both July and August financial reports was due to difficulties with the accounting software at the last meeting, which necessitated catching up with these reports at the current meeting.

No items were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilor Murray and seconded by Councilor Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES; Stratis: YES

Public Comments: There were no public comments during this portion of the meeting.

Staff Reports:

City Administrator Baker provided the following updates:

Sed Basin Project: The project remains on hold due to the government shutdown. No updates have been received from USDA. Baker is not comfortable moving forward with spending money with Army Corps if financing is uncertain, though the money will eventually be spent. The project is still moving but not progressing to the next stage.

Land Use and Planning: The public hearing for LU 2025-02 (Whipple Estates subdivision) was canceled due to lack of a quorum. It has been rescheduled for November 5th, with confirmation that a quorum will be present.

Parks: Public works staff completed installation of new swing sets at Paul Fisher Park, which have proven popular. Chief of Police submitted a complaint about squeaking noises from the swings, and maintenance will address this issue.

Paul Fisher's family will not be able to attend the planned dedication ceremony scheduled for November 1st. Baker has reached out to the parks committee to determine whether to proceed with the ceremony on that date or reschedule.

Covered Bridge: Baker submitted quotes received from Overhead Door to Lane County regarding repairs. The quote was surprising - while they requested a new opener and replacement of the bottom support beam, the entire gate

would need to be removed for these repairs. Overhead Door also quoted an entire gate assembly for \$29,000, which is less than the original quote from 2019. Since this exceeds sole-source limits, the county is reviewing the quote.

The bridge has been opened and closed only Monday through Friday with public works staff to thoroughly test operations before releasing it to volunteers. Baker wants to ensure there won't be issues requiring callouts in the middle of the night.

There has been no comment from Lane County regarding the IGA despite Baker requesting meetings. The Christmas tree lighting event will be held at the Covered Bridge this year, and the city will harvest a tree from National Forest.

Former City Hall: A different developer has viewed the property twice. Suzanne indicated this prospect is more promising than the previous one, though nothing is in writing yet.

Code Enforcement: Baker completed a citywide code enforcement survey identifying 30 properties requiring attention:

- 11 properties with noxious vegetation
- 6 properties with nuisance/junk/garbage/debris
- 13 properties with abandoned vehicles or parking issues
- 1 property with sidewalk issues
- 1 commercial property with improper garbage containment storage

Letters will be sent the following day, starting the enforcement process. Only five of these are repeat violations. Baker noted the town appearance has improved, with positive comments from residents on Hyland and Alder Streets. Baker has contacted Oakridge's police chief twice without response regarding assistance with code enforcement, particularly with abandoned vehicles. Oakridge has expressed interest in creating an IGA for services, even though hourly rates were already agreed upon during budget time. Baker will provide more details when received.

Public Works Report

A councilor asked about "ADA bark chips" mentioned in the report, and Baker explained these are specific types of bark that are compact enough to support wheelchairs and walkers, splinter-free, and uniformly sized.

Library Report No comments

Presentations: No presentations

Old Business:

Second reading of Ordinance 314

City Administrator Baker presented the second reading of Ordinance 314, "An Ordinance amending the Lowell Development Code to adopt zoning regulations and standards for Mobile Food Vending within the City of Lowell." Baker performed the second reading by title only, as approved at the previous meeting.

Motion to approve Ordinance 314 was made by Councilor Murray and seconded by Councilor Stratis. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES; Stratis: YES

New Business:

Resolution No. 862, "A Resolution Transferring Funds"

City Administrator Baker explained that Resolution 862 would transfer \$2,500 from the General Fund to the BlackBerry Jam Fund. This transfer was planned during the budget process to provide cash on hand for the event at the start of the year. The funds will help replenish jam stock (with the largest order of jam they've ever done), purchase t-shirts if needed, and provide capital for the car show, which is returning this year. Baker noted that this transfer was approved in the budget but had not yet been executed.

In response to a question about who pays for trophies for the car show, Baker confirmed that the event organizer pays for those expenses using funds generated from entry fees and t-shirt sales.

Motion to approve Resolution 862 was made by Councilor Murray and seconded by Councilor Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES; Stratis: YES

Library committee volunteer application

City Administrator Baker presented a volunteer application for a vacant seat on the Library Committee. The seat has been vacant since March 2025, and this appointment would complete the committee.

Motion to appoint Kristen Murray to Position Number 3 on the Library Committee, with a term expiring December 31, 2025, was made by Councilor Stratis and seconded by Councilor Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES; Stratis: YES

Planning Commission volunteer application

City Administrator Baker presented a volunteer application for the Planning Commission. Like the previous item, this would fill Position 3 with a term expiring December 31, 2025, which was vacated in December 2024. Baker noted this appointment would help prevent situations like the recent lack of quorum and would fill all committees. The applicant, William Priser, was present at the meeting.

Motion to appoint William Priser to Position Number 3 on the Planning Commission, with a term expiring December 31, 2025, was made by Councilor Murray and seconded by Councilor Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Weathers: YES; Murray: YES; Bennett: YES; Stratis: YES

Baker mentioned that he would include Priser in the next meeting packet and bring him up to speed before the upcoming meeting.

Recap of 25-26 City Council Goals

City Administrator Baker presented an update on the 2025-26 City Council Goals, previously discussed in August. He suggested reporting on these quarterly to track progress.

Baker reviewed the status of each goal.

Other Business:

Work session topics for November 4, 2025 meeting

City Administrator Baker listed the following topics for the upcoming work session:

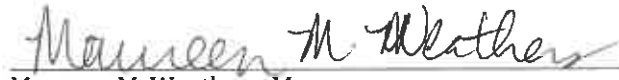
- USDA and ECWAG (pending government shutdown status)
- Reservoir cleaning quotes
- SDC updates (if draft is ready)
- Surplus property list
- City Administrator evaluation process timeline

Baker noted he would email the proposed work session agenda to council members a few days before the meeting in case anyone wanted to add items.

Adjourn

Mayor Weathers adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

APPROVED:



Maureen M. Weathers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Max Baker, City Recorder