



COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10501 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

2424th Meeting

MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2025

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Robert Massey, Rebecca Stavenjord, and Council President Will Anderson, and Mayor Lisa Batey

Staff Present: Joseph Briglio, Assistant City Manager
Ryan Burdick, Police Chief
Katie Gavares, Climate & Natural Resources Manager

Justin Gericke, City Attorney
Emma Sagor, City Manager
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder

Council President Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced that Mayor Batey was participating in the meeting via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Native Lands Acknowledgment.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Anderson announced upcoming activities, including a tour of the Kellogg Creek Restoration Project site, a restoration event at Elk Rock Island, a city manager open door session, Earth Day events, and a prescription drug and sensitive document shred event. **Mayor Batey** noted the return of First Friday events and the annual State of the City (SOTC) address on May 2.

Mayor Batey read a flower-themed haiku poem.

3. PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

A. Outstanding Milwaukie High School (MHS) Student – Award

Kim Kellogg, MHS Principal, introduced Erowyn Stovall and Council congratulated them on their academic and extracurricular accomplishments.

B. Earth Day – Proclamation

Gavares commented on the city's climate action work and plans to celebrate Earth Day. **Council President Anderson** proclaimed April 26, 2025, to be Earth Day in Milwaukie. **Sagor** noted that the first Earth Day was marked in Camas, Washington.

4. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. None Scheduled.

5. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Council President Anderson and **Sagor** reviewed the comment procedures. **Sagor** provided follow-up reports from the April 1 comments, reporting on city responses to a proposed no-cause commercial evictions ordinance and concerns from Ardenwald Neighborhood residents about a new middle housing development and related street parking and right-of-way (ROW) improvement questions.

Mara Reynolds, Milwaukie resident, remarked on an incident involving local law enforcement officers and an individual accused of stealing food from a gas station. **Council President Anderson** noted that state law prevented local police officers from assisting federal immigration officers.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Stavenjord and seconded by Councilor Khosroabadi to approve item 6. A. Council Minutes.

A. City Council Meeting Minutes:

1. March 4, 2025, work session,
2. March 4, 2025, regular session,
3. ~~March 11, 2025, study session,~~
4. ~~March 18, 2025, work session, and~~
5. ~~March 18, 2025, regular session.~~ (removed from the agenda)

Motion passed with the following vote: Councilors Anderson, Khosroabadi, Massey, and Stavenjord and Mayor Batey voting “aye.” [5:0]

Stauffer noted that the motion had not included item 6. B.

It was moved by Councilor Stavenjord and seconded by Councilor Khosroabadi to approve item 6. B.

B. Resolution 21-2025: A resolution of the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, Oregon, extending the term end date for members of the Transportation System Plan Advisory Committee (TSPAC).

Motion passed with the following vote: Councilors Anderson, Khosroabadi, Massey, and Stavenjord and Mayor Batey voting “aye.” [5:0]

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Downtown Open Container Conversation, continued

Sagor explained that downtown business owners had asked the city to consider a downtown open container policy and noted staff actions taken to-date to review the idea. **Burdick** provided an overview of the complexities of implementing and enforcing existing laws should such a policy be adopted; staff conversations with the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) were noted; and how other cities handle similar open contain areas were noted. **Sagor** and **Burdick** remarked on how the city’s event permitting process could possibly be updated to add an open container zone.

Councilor Massey, Burdick, and Sagor discussed how big an open container zone might be, noting it could possibly include most of downtown.

Councilor Stavenjord, Burdick, and Sagor remarked on how the presented zone had been created and noted that any private entity wanting to activate an open container zone would need to acquire high liability insurance. **Councilor Stavenjord** noted that the Stavenjord family owned a business within the proposed zone.

Council President Anderson, Burdick, and Gericke commented on why some businesses had been included in the zone and some had not, whether some businesses would want to be in the zone, and they noted the challenges of acquiring event insurance and what incidents such insurance would cover.

Council President Anderson, Burdick, and Sagor noted what city event and OLCC permits might cost for an open container zone wide event and how much liability insurance would cost event planners. **Sagor** appreciated the business' interest in activating downtown and wanted to make sure everyone knew the costs of such a zone.

Mayor Batey asked if sections of the zone could be engaged or if the entire zone would need to be activated. **Burdick** and **Sagor** suggested the zone could be revised and OLCC could be asked for input on the map; they commented on the need to consider signage and reported on how cities in other states handle similar zones. They discussed how the City of Eugene's proposal for a similar zone had been denied by the OLCC and how the open container zone in Hood River, Oregon, was enforced.

Reynolds expressed concern about the size of the proposed open container zone and suggested it be limited to Main Street.

Andy Fisher, Downtown Alliance of Milwaukie (DAM) chair, thanked the city for considering the proposal, suggested that DAM would probably be interested in only activating parts of downtown, and asked about ways volunteers could reduce the cost of such an event. **Burdick** remarked on OLCC-approved ways that volunteers and smaller zones could reduce costs. **Sagor** and **Burdick** commented on the difference between beer gardens and open container zones, and OLCC regulations regarding opening and carrying containers of alcohol in public spaces.

Council President Anderson asked Council to weigh-in on whether the city should continue to consider this policy and what adjustments to the proposal might be made.

Councilor Stavenjord and **Burdick** commented on ways businesses could make public events featuring alcohol safe for participants and whether the proposed zone should be limited to the street only.

Councilor Khosroabadi suggested the proposal created questions about the presence of alcohol in public spaces shared with children and the Milwaukie Police Department's (MPD's) ability to enforce such a zone. **Khosroabadi** remarked on whether it was appropriate to increase access to alcohol and asked for more feedback from OLCC, and suggested the idea generated more public safety risk.

Councilor Massey suggested the city was trying to solve an undefined problem that might not need to be solved given recent increased business activity downtown.

Mayor Batey recalled previous beer festivals in downtown Milwaukie and believed those experiences had generated the proposal and expressed interest in further feedback from OLCC about activating parts of the zone and how beer garden fencing and monitoring is regulated. **Batey** suggested if OLCC was opposed to a larger open container zone than the city should consider drawing smaller zones.

Council President Anderson asked business owners when such a zone would be activated and **Mike Lesch**, Beer Store Milwaukie owner, explained how the proposal had come from issues that had arisen during First Friday events. **Lesch** addressed the concerns expressed about public safety and enforcement and hoped the city could find a way to encourage participants to visit all parts of downtown.

Council President Anderson believed the proposed zone was too large and remarked on ways to reduce the zone map and encourage visitors to see more than just certain parts of downtown. Anderson agreed with concerns about increasing access to alcohol.

Council President Anderson suggested there was not a Council consensus to continue looking at the large-scale proposed open container policy but maybe in smaller ways. **Councilors Stavenjord and Khosroabadi** and **Mayor Batey** suggested Council needed more information from the OLCC before coming to a consensus.

Council President Anderson remarked on Council's role in approving events permits that activate an open container zone. **Councilors Stavenjord and Massey** and **Mayor Batey** believed staff should approve permits, not Council.

Council President Anderson summarized there was Council interest in receiving more feedback from OLCC and continuing the discussion about the proposed open container policy. **Sagor** noted steps staff would take to continue the conversation.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

A. None Scheduled.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Khosroabadi reported on housing and social services issues discussed at the last Clackamas County Community Action Board (CAB) meeting and presented a draft Council letter in support of the proposal to build a picnic shelter at Furnberg Park. The group discussed the letter, and it was Council consensus to send the letter.

Mayor Batey presented a draft Council letter of support of Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 229 that would fund a Bridge Meadows project in Milwaukie. Council reviewed the letter, and it was Council consensus to send the letter.

Council President Anderson reported on an impromptu neighbor meeting about the 29th Avenue Greenway and asked for Council support to receive an update on this greenway from staff. **Sagor** provided a brief overview of what the city had done on the 29th Avenue Greenway and confirmed there were no plans to further improve that greenway although a development application was expected to be submitted soon that could generate further conversations. **Councilor Massey** was hesitant to schedule an update on the greenway until other conversations were known.

Sagor encouraged the public to support local businesses.

Councilor Massey and **Sagor** noted that seven Canadian geese had been found dead in Milwaukie Bay Park on the morning of April 15 and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) was investigating.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by **Councilor Stavenjord** and seconded by **Councilor Khosroabadi** to adjourn the Regular Session. Motion passed with the following vote: **Councilors Anderson, Khosroabadi, Massey, and Stavenjord** and **Mayor Batey** voting "aye." [5:0]

Mayor Batey adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Stauffer, City Recorder