



**MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Meeting  
Council Chambers, City Hall

**Approved: May 13, 2026**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Johnson, and Councilors Carolyn McLeod, Marilyn Smith, Ramycia McGhee, Chris Van Drimmelen, Steph Newton, Michael Thomson (6:02 p.m.)

Councilors absent:

**Adoption of consent agenda**

**6:01 p.m.**

a. Adoption of resolution(s)

- 1) Approving Resolution renaming the Art Gallery in City Hall as the Gwenn Marchese Gallery

**MOTION:** was made by McGhee and seconded by Smith to move to adopt the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 and it was designated RES. NO. 7493.

**Presentations and Ceremonies**

**Presentation Pollywog Program Linn Benton Lincoln**

**6:01 p.m.**

Leanne Trask with Pollywog presented. She shared the background of the organization and what services they provide for families. Trask said since they started in 2017, they have served about 4500 families in three counties.

Newton said she used to get the newsletter that was sent out and appreciates the efforts Pollywog does.

McLeod said when she first moved to Albany she remembered reading up on the classes and services Pollywog offers. She said she took some of the classes and is thankful for their services.

**Presentation Albany Public Schools Foundation**

**6:09 p.m.**

Executive Director Peggy Burris with the Albany Public Schools Foundation shared a presentation\*. Burris said the APSF is a non-profit in town which supports our teachers and students. She shared what the foundation has accomplished and has been able to assist teachers and students with includes grants, school supplies, scholarships, swim lessons, and other items.

Newton thanked the APSF for the work they are doing.

Johnson said this is big in the community, thanked APSF for their work and said to invite City Council to their events.

McLeod said her daughter participated in the swimming event last year and loved it. Johnson said swimming safety is so important.

**\*Revised\*-Ordinances-Reopened Record**

**6:28 p.m.**

Mayor Johnson said he had previously recused himself. He said after consulting with the City Attorney Sean Kidd that it was not necessary and he will not be recusing himself for the next item.

**East Albany Town Center-EATC Annexation with Concurrent Map Amendments planning files AN-01-25, CP-03-25, and ZC-03-25**

Mayor Johnson said the public hearing for this item was held and closed on February 25, 2026; the first reading of the ordinance was held the same day. He shared following that meeting, City staff were given a hard copy of testimony alleged to have been sent to the city prior to the February 25 deadline. Johnson invited Community Development Director Matthew Ruetggers and City Attorney Sean Kidd to speak.

Ruetggers said that he apologizes for the confusion on the testimony, staff received testimony from Camron Settlemier that was reportedly missed. The initial reaction is out of an abundance of caution and on the side of engagement, and staff developed a plan to re-open the record to receive the testimony then close it again.

However, when something is missed; he begins to wonder why it was missed. He said that he checked with David Martineau, who was listed as the contact for where the testimony was supposed to go, it was never received. Ruetggers said that IT staff was also contacted to investigate and do an analysis. Ruetggers said that IT review report showed that the sent email never arrived into city email servers. The analysis also looked to see if it was considered spam and rejected, and there was no indication that the mail arrived at city email servers.

Ruetggers said that he has two duties, one is to ensure that all testimony that was received by the deadline is incorporated into packets for consideration, and the second is to make sure that testimony received after the deadline is not admitted to the record.

Ruetggers said that there is no evidence the testimony was received, and staff cannot admit the testimony. Kidd said that council has been provided the testimony, with the packet and council has likely read it, but they should disregard the testimony in consideration of a decision this evening.

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for the second time in title only.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to adopt the ordinance, Van Drimmelen seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

McLeod said that the city is growing at an uncomfortable rate for residents and provided some statistics from the National Community Survey.

Thomson said that there is likely sufficient buildable lands inventory for residential development without annexation.

The motion to adopt the ordinance was tied 3-3. (VanDrimmelen, Smith, McGhee- Yes), (McLeod, Newton, Thomson- No) Johnson voted yes to break the tie.

MOTION passed 4-3, it was designated ORD NO. 6077

**Ordinance to withdraw territory from the Rural Fire Protection District**

City Attorney Sean Kidd read for the ordinance for the first time in title only.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to read the ordinance for the second time in title only, Van Drimmelen seconded the motion. MOTION failed (McLeod, and Thomson voted no) to have the second reading of an ordinance in the same meeting requires unanimous consent. The ordinance will come back at the next council meeting.

**Public Comment**

**6:43 p.m.**

**Zachary Draper** said that he was an Albany resident and Commander of the Albany Veterans of Foreign Wars post. The post is active and the current buildings are no longer able to support events for veterans. He said he is excited to see the East Albany annexation.

**Kevin Coverstone** said that he is an Albany resident and happy to see peaceful protestors between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street on Ellsworth Street. He said that he has heard reports about people impeding traffic on Ellsworth, acting like they are going to walk into traffic and then not, or people laying on the horn aggressively. He also said that he heard that on February 20 some city employees couldn't leave the parking lot because protestors were blocking the entrance on 4<sup>th</sup> street. Coverstone said that he wants people to keep protesting, but he has some concerns about it.

**Camron Settlemier** said that he is an Albany resident and he wants to add his side of the story about the public process, public hearing and trust in local government. He said that he sent an email on Tuesday February 24 at 8:14 p.m., the evening before the first hearing. Settlemier said that he has the whole email with email header from the server. He said that when you submit testimony you expect government to receive it, and to let decision makers know about it. The City doubled down instead of trying to make it right, and they are not holding up fairness or public testimony submitted during a legal time frame. He said that when public comment is submitted an email comes back saying this was received, this does not happen for public hearings for land use or other matters. It goes to a black hole and one has to assume the city got it.

**Mark Stewart** said that initially he came to the meeting with the understanding that the public hearing for annexation would be completely reopened and further opportunity for public testimony would happen. He said that he recently had someone in a truck; stop and thank him for his service. He said that he felt horrible, and the more people that thank him for his service the worse he feels. Stewart said that he has to wonder how long it will be before people are no longer thanking him for his service, but rather they start demanding where were you? Where were you when neighbors were dragged off, children were kidnapped by the government, we were fleeced for billions of dollars and when habeus corpus died. Stewart said that he didn't have an answer for that.

**Action Item(s)**

**Resolutions – Award contract to Brown & Caldwell for the Vine Street Viability Study**

**6:54 p.m.**

City Engineering Staci Belcastro presented. She said that staff is requesting the approval of a contract with Brown and Caldwell for Vine Street WTP Viability Study consulting services in the amount of \$757,470.00. The plant is one of two that serve the city, and was constructed in the 1900s. The Water Master Plan recommended completion of a viability study for the Water Plant, and is identified in the capital improvement plan and current biennium budget. Belcastro said that the facility is seismically vulnerable, the buildings are historic and need investment.

**MOTION:** Van Drimmelen moved to approve the award of contract. Smith seconded the motion which passed 6-0, and was designated as RES NO 7494.

**Resolutions – Exemption from Competitive Bidding to Purchase a Fire Engine using a Cooperative Purchase**

**7:02 p.m.**

Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Vining presented. He said that the Fire Department was requesting approval to purchase a new Pierce fire engine using a cooperative purchase agreement. The cost will be around \$1 million dollars after a prepayment discount. Vining

said 4 of 5 five current engines are Pierce, and standardization on equipment offers efficiency.

Van Drimmelen asked how the equipment compares to other fire engines that could be purchased? Vining said there are three leading manufacturers of the equipment, cost is similar amongst them all; familiarity with equipment is the largest differentiating factor in selection.

Smith said that it was helpful to have a dealer located in Eugene, Oregon. Vining said yes, and a local repair shop in Albany is contracted for maintenance as well.

Johnson asked what the delivery time was on the fire engine? Vining said that it is an accelerated build, which means very minimal specification customization and will take 28-33 months for delivery. The city also used the accelerated build program for the last engine purchase.

Newton asked about the average life span of engines. Vining said the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has 15 years for front line service, and 10 years for reserve service

**MOTION:** Newton moved to approve the purchase using a cooperative contract for \$1,044,639. McLeod seconded the motion which passed 6-0 and was designated as RES NO 7495.

#### **Business from the Council**

**7:08 p.m.**

**McGhee** said that she has been receiving a lot of emails from constituents about items that are outside of City Council purview. She said that it would be helpful to have a document on hand to send out with a list of what the Council can or cannot do. This would help reduce multiple emails about items that are out of City Council purview and power. McGhee said that council wants to help, but there are things outside of scope and a plain language document addressing that would help.

**Thomson** provided comments about the City Manager Friday report that is emailed to council.

**Newton** said that she did hear that members of the Oregon Law Center are coming to the April 20 meeting for a report.

**Johnson** provided updates on events in Albany and the If I Were Mayor contest.

#### **City Manager Reports**

**7:15 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson shared that City Councilor 101 is on the city website under the government tab, it goes into detail about what the City Council can or cannot do. He said that council members can also send the public to him directly, and he can connect them with staff who can provide them with the information they need.

#### **Next meeting dates**

Monday, April 6, 2026; 4:00 p.m. work session

Monday, April 13, 2026; 5:15 p.m. joint meeting with Albany Planning Commission

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Erik Glover  
City Recorder

Peter Troedsson  
City Manager

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing [cityrecorder@albanyoregon.org](mailto:cityrecorder@albanyoregon.org).*