

Meeting Minutes



CITY OF BEND

Joint Meeting of the Bend City Council and the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Location: Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online

Date: April 28, 2025

The Joint Meeting of the Bend City Council (Council) and the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners (Board) was called to order at 2:34 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2025, in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online. Present from the City of Bend were Mayor Melanie Kebler, Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Gina Franzosa, Councilor Ariel Méndez, Councilor Mike Riley, Councilor Megan Norris and Councilor Steve Platt. Present from the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners were Chair Tony DeBone, Vice Chair Patti Adair and Commissioner Phil Chang.

- 1. Called to order at 2:34 p.m.**
- 2. Introductions, meet new Councilors (15 minutes)**
- 3. Update on Temporary Safe Stay Agreement for Juniper Ridge (30 minutes)**
 - a. Matt Stuart, City Real Estate Director and Kristie Bollinger, County Property and Facilities Director- efforts to date- support services, housing-focused case management, clean up and removal timeline overview
 - b. Updates to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Stuart and Erik Kropp, Deschutes County Deputy Administrator and Risk Manager, (in place of Bollinger) gave the presentation.

The update included background on the Temporary Safe Stay Area (TSSA), current guidelines and rules for camping, and details on expanded services, infrastructure protection, fuels mitigation, City-eastside R&R closure and housing focused case management.

Stuart reminded the Council and Board of the intent of the TSSA, which is to mitigate and improve the health and safety risks associated with unmanaged camping, and to provide improved sanitation services and case management to facilitate moving into safer shelter or housing.

Stuart provided recent counts which identified about 70-80 people inside the TSSA and about 15 people in the surrounding area outside the TSSA.

Kropp highlighted expanded services including new hygiene stations, security patrols (2-4 hours/day), dumpsters, and a storage facility. The storage facility protects the personal property of those removed from the area (for example, for breaking TSSA rules), and individuals may retrieve their belongings at a later date.

Stuart and Kropp discussed infrastructure updates to limit vehicle access and to protect the canal against vehicle impact.

Stuart discussed fuels mitigation work performed by the City of Bend (the City), including the creation of a 200-foot firebreak, which was funded through a community wildfire risk reduction grant award, and brush removal. Kropp discussed fuels mitigation work performed by Deschutes County (the County) on 50 acres at Juniper Ridge, which included tree and brush removal.

Stuart recapped the closure timeline and closure notices provided to people living on the property.

City of Bend Housing Senior Programming Manager Amy Fraley presented on the TSSA Housing-Focused Case Management. Fraley discussed services provided, identified six non-profit partners, and highlighted the case management dashboard, which provides monthly and cumulative totals for hours of service, number of client interactions, number of clients served, and number of exits from the TSSA.

Kropp stated that the updates to the IGA are primarily concerned with reimbursement from the City to the County for the new hygiene stations and contracted security. The updates will go to administrators for signature, not to the Council or Board.

Councilors and Commissioners supported the work being done, and Councilor Riley reported positively on his visit to the site with Stuart, Councilor Franzosa and Mayor Pro Tem Perkins.

Commissioner Chang requested the Council and Board begin discussing a vision for the closure of the TSSA.

Mayor Kebler suggested bringing this topic to the next joint meeting in late summer or early fall 2025.

4. Coordination on Reducing Wildfire Risk (30 minutes)

- a. Joint communication and preparedness efforts, City and County Emergency Management staff, Carrie Karl and Nathan Garibay
- b. Update on alert programs, property and neighborhood assessments and programs
- c. Future actions in the coming year, fuel reduction, evacuation planning and other updates

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Nathan Garibay, Deschutes County Natural Resources Forester Kevin Moriarty, and City of Bend Risk & Emergency Management Director Carrie Karl gave the presentation.

The update included information on joint City/County communications and preparedness efforts, alert programs, property and neighborhood assessment programs, actions in the coming year, and fuels reduction and evacuation planning.

Karl discussed coordinated City/County mitigation, exercises, continuity planning and evacuation planning and listed upcoming community engagement events. Karl reminded the community to register for Deschutes Alerts and announced the May 7 All-County test.

Moriarty discussed the prescribed burning season and stated that prescribed burns are crucial for improved forest health and reducing fire risk. Moriarty recommended visiting Central Oregon Fire Info online (<https://centraloregonfire.org>) for prescribed burn information, such as schedule and press releases, and shared various online resources regarding wildfire risk reduction.

Moriarty reported on the County's community-based grant programs for fuels reduction projects and highlighted projects in Deschutes River Woods and Juniper Ridge.

Karl and Moriarty shared information on wildfire risk assessments performed by Bend Fire & Rescue and Deschutes County.

City of Bend City Manager Eric King stated that the City added a staff member to support wildfire risk assessments in the City's budget proposal, which the Council will hear during the budget delivery at the City Council meeting on May 7, 2025.

Commissioner Chang expressed concern about the success of the wildfire funding package currently being developed in the State Legislature. Chang expressed the need for State funding to fight fires and fund assessments and mitigation efforts. Chang felt that the City and County should be advocating for a robust wildfire funding package at the State level.

Karl stated that Bend Fire & Rescue is working on building community Firewise teams, which are comprised of trained assessors who perform wildfire assessments in their neighborhoods.

Karl discussed the City's flammable vegetation code, and stated that all tenants, property managers and property owners are responsible for reducing potentially flammable vegetation. Karl stated that most enforcement is complaint-based due to limited staffing.

Garibay provided information on the 2025 fire season forecast and stated the models predict normal (low) fire risk in June, and a dryer than usual forecast with higher-than-average fire potential in July. Garibay stressed the importance of reducing human ignitions.

Karl stated that Bend Fire & Rescue is fully staffed and ready for fire season.

5. Solid Waste Franchise Agreement Coordination

- a. County Landfill Director, Tim Brownell and Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Betteridge
- b. Consolidation of solid waste franchise agreements among Deschutes County cities

Brownell and Betteridge gave the presentation. The update included information on the development of a new franchise agreement by Deschutes County, the City of Bend and the City of Redmond.

Significant elements in the new franchise agreement address several areas that were loosely defined or not contemplated in existing agreements. They include:

- Designation of facilities
- Service requirements
- Expanded public education and outreach and material collections
- Compliance with State Law
 - Recycling Modernization Act
 - Opportunity to Recycle Act
- Reporting requirements
- Having local customer service support

Brownell identified key objectives, including creating positive partnerships, centralizing solid waste and recovery management, supporting Bend’s Community Climate Action Plan and supporting and protecting significant infrastructure public investments.

Brownell stated that Deschutes County, the City of Bend and the City of Redmond are contemplating an IGA to define roles and responsibilities of administering the new franchise agreements. Brownell discussed facility designation, service requirements, reporting requirements and rate adjustments, identified County and City responsibilities, and explained the IGA amendment process.

Brownell reviewed the timeline, with goals to finalize negotiations with haulers at the end of June 2025, complete the IGA in June 2025, bring the IGA to the Board of County Commissioners and Bend and Redmond City Councils in June/July 2025, and implement the new agreement in the fall of 2025.

Brownell clarified that the City of Sisters and City of La Pine are not currently negotiating but would like to see the agreement once finalized.

6. Deschutes County Downtown Campus Planning

- a. Concepts for consideration, Lee Randall, Facilities Director
- b. Coordination with the City of Bend

Randall discussed the County’s long-term plan to utilize the existing downtown Bend campus. Randall identified goals of coordinating with the core area project that was established in 2019 and revitalizing the downtown campus to be a magnet for services. Randall stated that the County expects to release a request for proposals (RFP) in May or June 2025, will seek input from stakeholders and will convene a steering committee of downtown County department heads or designees to confirm goals and priorities with a consultant group.

Mayor Kebler suggested including members of the City of Bend’s Core Area Advisory Board (CAAB) and the Downtown Bend Business Association in the stakeholders group.

Commissioner Chang and Mayor Kebler suggested the County work with CAAB, the City of Bend’s parking advisory committee, and downtown businesses to coordinate and discuss shared parking.

7. Other items (10 minutes)

- a. Budget calendar overview

City Manager Eric King and Deschutes County Administrator Nick Lelack shared timelines and dates for upcoming budget meetings.

Commissioner Chang stated that the City’s contribution toward the mobile crisis team has been instrumental, and was concerned about whether the state would continue its funding.

King provided legislative updates. The City is working on an infrastructure advocacy package for southeast Bend. The City is also interested in water infrastructure packages, transportation packages and shelter funding.

Lelack identified the County’s legislative priorities, including juniper removal, a wildfire funding package, assessment and taxation funding, CORE3 funding, a transportation package, and a water package.

8. Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Bontje
Deputy City Recorder



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Ashley Bontje at abontje@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-7164. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.