



City of Clatskanie

Regular Council Meeting Agenda
Clatskanie Council Chambers
August 5, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment
4. Consent Agenda
 - Regular Meeting Minutes for July 1, 2026
5. New Business
 - Consideration of Continued Participation in Oregonians for Floodplain Protection
 - City Branding Discussion
6. Staff Updates
 - City Manager
 - Finance Manager
 - Public Works Director
 - Code Compliance Officer
7. Partner Updates
 - Parks & Recreation District
 - Sheriff's Office
8. Council Updates
 - Councilors
 - Mayor
9. Adjournment



City of Clatskanie

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Clatskanie Council Chambers
July 1, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Councilors Present: Mayor Robert Brajcich; Jeff Horness; Bob Emminger; Russell Finney-Leggroan; Amanda Owen (Zoom); Bruce Jolma; Heidi White

Staff Present: N.J. Johnson, City Manager; Mitch Warren, Public Works Director; Kierza Hammill, Finance Manager/City Recorder; Therese Stix, City Attorney (Zoom)

Agency Partners Present: Lt. Shaun McQuiddy, Columbia County Sheriff's Office; Cyndi Warren, Clatskanie Parks & Recreation District; Kanale Tumlinson, Hudson Garbage

1. Mayor **Brajcich** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the passing of St. Helens City Administrator, John Walsh.

2. Public Comment

- Donna **Garlock** expressed concerns regarding illegal fireworks, citing excessive noise and increased fire danger.
- Jan **Acquistapace** also commented on recurring fireworks activity within the community and encouraged stronger enforcement.
- Jasmine **Lillich** welcomed City Manager N.J. Johnson, presented the Council with the Clatskanie Farmers Collective 2025 Annual Report, and thanked the City for its partnership on the recent mural project and children's festival. She expressed hope that additional public art projects would continue throughout the community.

3. Consent Agenda

- *Regular Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2026*
Jolma made a motion to accept the minutes as written; **Horness** seconded the motion. The **Mayor** called a vote. The motion passed.
Mayor, aye; **Emminger**, aye; **Horness**, aye; **Finney-Leggroan**, aye, **Jolma**, aye; **White**, aye; **Owen**, aye.
- *Special Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2026*
Horness made a motion to accept the minutes as written; **Emminger** seconded the motion. The **Mayor** called a vote. The motion passed.

Mayor, aye; **Emminger**, aye; **Horness**, aye; **Finney-Leggroan**, aye, **Jolma**, aye; **White**, aye; **Owen**, aye.

4. Resolutions and Ordinances

- *Agenda Item 2026-13 – Resolution No. 2026-10: Establishing New Solid Waste Collection Rates*

Johnson presented Resolution No. 2026-10, explaining that Hudson Garbage had requested a 2.5% rate increase to offset increased fuel costs and a significant increase in Columbia County landfill tipping fees. **Tumlinson** further explained that the request had been intentionally limited despite higher-than-anticipated operating cost increases. Council discussed the proposed increase, including the impact of fluctuating fuel prices and the increase in disposal costs.

Jolma made a motion to approve the resolution. **Horness** seconded the motion. The **Mayor** called a vote. The motion passed.

Mayor, aye; **Emminger**, aye; **Horness**, aye; **Finney-Leggroan**, aye, **Jolma**, aye; **White**, aye; **Owen**, aye.

- *Agenda Item 2026-14 – Award of Bid Contract for CIP 159 (Bryant Street Improvements)*

Johnson presented the recommendation to award the contract for the Bryant Street Improvement Project (CIP 159) to Big River Construction in the amount of **\$88,946.00**. The project includes sidewalk and curb ramp improvements funded in part through an SCA grant.

Council questioned the significant difference between the lowest bid and the remaining proposals. **M. Warren** explained that Big River Construction was the only bidder to conduct a site visit and recognized that the proposed ramps would not require ODOT ADA inspection standards, resulting in substantially lower construction costs.

Jolma moved to award the contract to Big River Construction. **Finney-Leggroan** seconded the motion. The **Mayor** called a vote. The motion passed.

Mayor, aye; **Emminger**, aye; **Horness**, aye; **Finney-Leggroan**, aye, **Jolma**, aye; **White**, aye; **Owen**, aye.

5. Staff Updates

- *City Manager:*

Johnson thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the community and reported that his first two weeks had gone well. He shared that he and his family had secured housing in Clatskanie and looked forward to becoming more involved in the community, including participating in Heritage Days.

- *Finance Manager:*

Hammill reported that June activity was relatively light as staff completed year-end processing. Major expenditures included ongoing lift station improvement work by Hamer Electric. While a few year-end invoices remained outstanding, current estimates indicated all funds would close the fiscal year within budget.

- *Public Works Director:*

M. Warren reported continued progress on the wastewater treatment plant project, including completion of the blower building structure. Representatives from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program and DEQ recently toured the project and expressed satisfaction with construction progress.

He also reported that the City's water treatment plant received a high performer evaluation, extending the inspection cycle from one year to five years. Additional updates included sewer maintenance activities, completion of lift station control improvements, street sweeping, upcoming reservoir cleaning, replacement of the Scout Lake dock, and scheduling of the Bryant Street project following Council approval. Council also discussed the opportunity for a future tour of the wastewater treatment plant.

6. Partner Updates

- *Parks & Recreation District*

C. Warren reported on pool operations, noting staffing challenges caused by employee scheduling requests but stating the facility continued to operate successfully. She discussed open swim attendance, recent community events, and updates to the multi-sport court grant project. She also informed Council that the Oregon Health Authority had revised previously announced pool supervision

requirements from mandatory standards to recommendations while further study is conducted.

- *Sheriff's Office*

Lt. McQuiddy reported that the Sheriff's Office had experienced an increase in calls for service during June but noted that dispatch had received no fireworks complaints during the month. He encouraged residents to report violations through dispatch so deputies could respond appropriately.

7. Council Updates

- *Councilors*

- **Jolma** and **Finney-Leggroan** both noted hearing exceptionally loud firework activity within the community and discussed enforcement with the Sheriff's Office. **Mayor** confirmed that a resolution had been passed the year before to have the officers enforce state laws regarding fireworks. **Lt. McQuiddy** mentioned that they need complaints called into dispatch to accurately track and enforce.
- **Horness** complimented the recently completed mural project and encouraged continued recognition of Clatskanie's history through future public art installations.

- *Mayor*

Mayor **Brajcich** thanked the Clatskanie Farmers Collective for its work on the community mural project and recognized Public Works staff and community volunteers for cleanup efforts throughout the City. He also encouraged residents to celebrate Independence Day safely and recognized the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

Mayor **Brajcich** presented former City Manager Greg **Hinkelman** with a plaque in recognition and to honor his eighteen years of dedicated service to the City of Clatskanie and congratulated him on his retirement.

8. Mayor Brajcich adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM



City of Clatskanie

Meeting Date: August 5, 2026

Subject: Consideration of Continued Participation in Oregonians for
Floodplain Protection

Prepared By: N.J. Johnson, City Manager

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the Bird Alliance of Oregon (then the Portland Audubon Society) filed suit against FEMA over its implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Oregon, alleging that the NFIP did not comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). In response, FEMA agreed to partner with the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop and issue a Biological Opinion (BiOp) on this matter. The findings of their 2016 BiOp concluded that NFIP floodplain regulations were potentially still resulting in adverse impacts on endangered fish species.

In 2024, FEMA released three options for participating jurisdictions that permit floodplain development to select from, known as Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM, phonetically “pickum”). These options included:

- 1) Prohibit all development in the floodplain;
- 2) Adopt FEMA’s model ordinance for floodplain development standards; or
- 3) “Permit by permit”, where each development completes a habitat assessment demonstrating that there would be “no net loss of floodplain functionality” if their project were completed.

The City of Clatskanie selected option #3 prior to the December 1, 2024 deadline.

Since then, lawsuits have followed from agencies and interest groups in Oregon given its unique land use system. In 2025, the City provided \$5,000 in legal support to Oregonians for Floodplain Protection, one of the groups who filed suit and has been advocating for alternative solutions to implement the ESA that comply with Oregon’s land use and farmland protection rules. They are requesting another \$5,000 contribution this year to continue their efforts.

ANALYSIS:

As indicated in the letter submitted by Oregonians for Floodplain Protection (**Exhibit A**), the litigation is on pause while their attorney negotiates with FEMA on a more

amenable solution. There are active legislative and executive efforts at the national level to reclarify future direction. During this period, FEMA has effectively not enforced jurisdictions to comply with their chosen PICM. Staff believes these efforts and the work of Oregonians for Floodplain Protection are contributing to an improved approach that can be implemented in local communities and comply with the State of Oregon's regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If approved, the City would contribute \$5,000 from the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend contributing \$5,000 to Oregonians for Floodplain Protection for their continued efforts in advocating for PICM reform.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move to contribute \$5,000 to Oregonians for Floodplain Protection for their continued efforts in advocating for PICM reform.

EXHIBITS:

- A) Letter from Oregonians for Floodplain Protection



1501 SE Devils Lake Road # 552
Lincoln City, OR 97367
<https://floodplainprotection.org>

Good morning, N.J.

Thanks for being a member of Oregonians for Floodplain Protection. I am writing today to see if Clatskanie would be able to make a contribution to our ongoing efforts in 2026 to prevent FEMA from implementing its disastrous plan to reform the National Flood Insurance Program in Oregon. Right now, our litigation is paused while our attorney, Molly Lawrence, negotiates with FEMA to get a resolution to the PICM's and FEMA's use of the National Flood Insurance Program to force jurisdictions like yours to comply with these burdensome regulations. From what we hear from many of our members and other jurisdictions is that FEMA isn't doing anything at the moment to enforce the PICM's. The reason for that is largely our litigation. We need your financial support to continue our effort and get a satisfactory result.

On the legislative front, there is a bill in Congress right now that Representative Cliff Bentz has put forward (The National Flood Insurance Program Clarification Act of 2026 (H.R. 7862)). We are actively working to get Co-Sponsors for the bill and secure a hearing in the House Committee on Financial Services, to encourage them to move the bill forward. We will keep you posted on how that goes.

On the Executive Branch front, the FEMA Review Council Report released in May contains an explicit recommendation that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) be directed to 1) rescind all Biological Opinions (BiOps) relating to FEMA's implementation of the NFIP and 2) statutorily exempt the NFIP from the ESA. Inclusion in the report is a result of advocacy that we have done to elevate this issue with the federal agencies and administration.

FEMA has until the fall of 2027 to do something with the Oregon Implementation Plan. Our litigation has FEMA at the table, and we are making progress on the legislative front and with the federal administration. With your continued support, we can continue these efforts and make sure that flood insurance remains flood insurance, and is not used as a weapon to force jurisdictions in 31 of Oregon's 36 counties to adopt FEMA's unreasonable standards.

Please let me know if you need more information, or if I can answer any questions. Again, thanks for your support!

MD

Michael Desmond
Oregonians for Floodplain Protection
1501 SE Devils Lake Road # 552
Lincoln City, OR 97367

(503) 974-4745

[OFP Website](https://floodplainprotection.org)

Oregonians for Floodplain Protection is a 501c4 not-for-profit social welfare organization. The information in this email is provided for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter.



City of Clatskanie

Meeting Date: August 5, 2026
Subject: City Logo & Branding
Prepared By: N.J. Johnson, City Manager

BACKGROUND:

The City is migrating to a new web domain (www.clatskanie.gov) and a new website layout with more capabilities and information later this year. The migration requires a high resolution digitized logo and official primary colors, which the City currently has neither of. Affordable, local firms are available to help the City complete this kind of work.

ANALYSIS:

Some questions for Council consideration:

1. Should the City essentially retain the layout of the current logo with modern digital techniques to improve quality, usability, and reproducibility or should the City explore other options for a new logo design?
2. If a new logo is desired, should it emphasize the same points of emphasis as the current one (logging, fishing, outdoors, etc.) or focus on something else?
3. How would Council like to be involved in the updated logo?

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The City needs to modernize the logo and select primary colors for the website migration regardless. With this being the primary cost, whether the City chooses to explore a new logo design will not have a substantial cost impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A; Council discretion

SUGGESTED MOTION:

N/A; General feedback acceptable

EXHIBITS:

- A) Current City logo

Exhibit A

