

[illegible]

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

- [illegible]

1 final surface of the track being installed around the fields will be. **Council**
2 **President Dunn** replied that he believed it would be asphalt.

3 **5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- 4 **A. FY27 Budget Schedule Draft: City Manager Dann Cutter** stated that if any
5 current Budget Committee members decline participation, the city will solicit
6 letters of interest by the February meeting. He then reviewed the proposed dates
7 for the budget schedule as follows: January 15th, 2026, to amend or approve the
8 schedule. February 12th, 2026, to appoint final budget members. March 20th,
9 2026, to submit the completed budget to finance for printing, and to publish
10 notice of budget committee hearing and state revenue sharing to the website
11 and to the paper of record. April 11th to hold the initial budget workshop. April
12 25th, 2026, to hold a public hearing on budgets for all departments. May 1st,
13 2026, to publish the financial summary, notice of budget hearing, state revenue
14 sharing, print in the paper of record, and post to the city website. May 21st, 2026,
15 to hold a Special City Council Meeting to hold a budget hearing and
16 deliberations, and thus adopt and make appropriations to the budget, declare
17 and categorize taxes, and elect to receive state revenue sharing. June 30th, 2026,
18 to submit tax certification to the County Assessor, and send the complete
19 budget to be documented by the County Clerk, submit required forms to the
20 state, and publish the final budget to the City website. **Councilor Woodruff**
21 invited the public to attend the budget meetings, as they are very informative.
22 **Council President Dunn** stated that it can be a long day, but they go through the
23 budget line by line. **Councilor Severson** noted that she has a schedule conflict
24 for April 11th, 2026, the date of the initial budget workshop. **Councilor Woodruff**
25 **moved to approve the proposed Budget schedule for 2026 for FY27.**
26 **Councilor Townsend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
27 **B. Grinder Pump Property DEQ Results: City Manager Cutter** stated that there
28 were several complaints made to DEQ regarding this area. He noted that the city
29 met with both the DEQ Solid Waste and the DEQ Water Waste departments.

1 DEQ Water Waste representative, David Walt, determined there was no intrusion
2 into the water, but that, should a catastrophic failure of the roadway occur, it
3 might create an intrusion. He suggested a seismic study and possibly installing a
4 culvert in the waterway. The DEQ Water Waste representative's final
5 determination was that no violations occurred and that no hazardous materials
6 were detected. The on-site tour with Greg Phillip, the DEQ Solid Waste
7 representative, determined that there were no violations, the fill was
8 appropriate, and provided guidance on a clean fill determination form to be
9 provided to contractors, which will certify that any relocated fill material is clean.

10 **City Manager Cutter** noted that the City is awaiting written confirmation of
11 these determinations, but DEQ has verbally confirmed the findings to City staff.
12 He noted that it took a significant amount of time and city resources to address
13 these complaints, not only with DEQ but also with the Department of State
14 Lands and DLCD, and that all agencies reached the same conclusion: no
15 violations, with the primary recommendation to install a culvert. The city is
16 aware that installing a culvert could alter the habitat and become problematic;
17 guidance from the City Engineer will explore other options. **Council President**
18 **Dunn** requested that the city push for these findings in writing. **City Manager**
19 **Cutter** noted that the request has been submitted and that it will be made public
20 as soon as it is received.

21 **C. LC Water System Alliance Discussion:** **City Manager Cutter** noted that the
22 City of Waldport had tentatively joined this alliance roughly a year ago.
23 Additionally, the concerns he raised last year have essentially come to fruition.
24 The group is requesting additional money. The group has asked the City to add a
25 monthly surcharge to water bills; other communities that have joined have
26 pushed back on this request. Also noted was that the original statements made
27 during their presentation on coordinating with OSU have not materialized, and
28 they are now focused on hiring consultants. Many of the group's mission
29 statements are being achieved through partnerships with groups the city already

1 partners with. Noting that it is the staff's opinion to withdraw from the
2 organization, and after a few years, and once they are organized, to reapproach
3 it. **City Planner Jaime White** stated that he had attended their most recent
4 meeting, but that there was no clear direction and they appeared
5 underprepared. **Councilor Severson moved to withdraw from the LC Water**
6 **System Alliance. Councilor Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed**
7 **unanimously.**

8 **D. Ordinance 816, Corrections to Outdated Language on Water Shutoffs: City**
9 **Manager Cutter** explained to the Council that the original Ordinance references
10 job positions that no longer exist, and a process that dates back prior to any
11 current staff. He noted that the average monthly shut-off count is 1-2 properties.
12 The process, as described in the original ordinance, would require monthly
13 postal mail to alert roughly 170 customers, based on a timeline to ensure the
14 mail arrives in time. This ordinance allows for a more practical notification
15 process, including a door-hang alert and calls to both homeowners and renters.
16 Noting that the city is willing to work with customers should they reach out
17 regarding hardships in making payments or disputes over bills. This includes
18 fixing any errors found, directing them to South Lincoln Resources, which
19 provides utility assistance, and a promise-to-pay system built on good faith.
20 **Council President Dunn** read Ordinance 816 twice by name, an Ordinance
21 replacing Chapter 13.04.240 to reflect the practices of the last 20 years and
22 declaring an emergency. **Councilor Townsend moved to adopt Ordinance 816.**
23 **Councilor Severson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
24 Discussion ensued, focused on new meter installations, remote water shutoff
25 capabilities, and real-time leak detection. Water forgiveness options for
26 customers experiencing significant leaks, including a review of the policy history.
27 It was noted that approximately two years ago, the Council granted the City
28 Manager authority to approve a one-time-per-year leak adjustment per
29 customer, subject to proof of repair. It was noted that Public Works is installing

1 the new meters as time and weather permit. To date, approximately 400 meters
2 have been installed, with about 1,000 remaining.

3 **6. CITY MANAGERS REPORT: City Manager Cutter** presented the City Manager's
4 Report and provided several project updates. The Crestline Sidewalk Project is
5 complete, with only minor restoration work remaining to reestablish affected yard
6 lines. Additional safety improvements, including lighted crosswalks and a stop sign
7 near the school, will require County jurisdiction. Once the contractor signs off, the
8 City will paint the curb, install reflectors, and complete roadway striping. Phase 1 of
9 the sewer project for the animal shelter has been completed. The Wastewater
10 Project is scheduled to begin in early summer. Improvements are underway at
11 Southworth Park, including a new walking track and a pathway connecting the
12 parking lot to the playground. The City is also preparing bid documents for Cedar
13 repair projects. The new City website is scheduled to go live on February 16, with the
14 most significant update being an improved public notification system. Issues have
15 been identified with the interpretive center's new roof caps, which are causing
16 leaks. The proposed solution is to remove and reseal them with a hard sealant. The
17 City has been awarded a \$397,000 Safety Action Grant, administered by the Council
18 of Governments, to be shared among multiple Lincoln County cities. The grant will
19 fund the creation of a uniform system of lighted crosswalks and ADA accessibility
20 improvements throughout the county. Flooding on Highway 101 south of town,
21 caused by a property owner filling in a culvert, resulting in a roadway collapse, is
22 being addressed by ODOT. City employee Jimmy Rodrigues has retired, and the
23 position will be posted following review by the City's HR firm. An additional cleaning
24 position will also be posted. Representative Gomberg confirmed that the Fire Hall
25 Funding request is a top priority. Approval would allow the Fire District to repay the
26 loan, make building improvements, and enable the city to address water pressure
27 upgrades. A high-wind-rated gazebo will be installed over the wastewater lift station
28 generator. The Sheriff's Contract has encountered challenges due to the new
29 sheriff's prioritization of countywide staffing needs, leading to the reassignment of

contracted deputies. With one deputy promoted to Sergeant, the city now has one remaining deputy, shared with Yachats. Positively, changes to the alerting process for the Sergeant and Sheriff have improved response to issues. Work continues on the Drinking Water Protection Plan, supported by a grant to identify and mitigate risks to the City's drinking water supply, and a public meeting will be held on January 29 at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center to discuss. City staff have been addressing numerous formal complaints and allegations from citizens and the mayor that include false statements provided to the police, citizens, the Council, and the Sheriff's Office. It was noted that responding to these complaints, which includes legal responses, site visits, records requests, and discussions, has required significant staff time and has greatly impacted the City's ability to focus on other operational priorities. Two tentative dates have been identified for the required public meeting and budget training sessions. Councilor Townsend will deliver a presentation to be incorporated into the City Council training, with the Council to select a date for the February meeting. The consensus was to poll Council members on their availability for February 7 or February 21.

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND CONCERNS: Councilor Severson noted that there was a fundraiser happening to support a local business, Skosh, and the Crestview Heights Boosters. Councilor Townsend noted that the library is doing a fundraiser in a couple of weeks with Papa Murphy's to raise money for the Library Foundation. Council President Dunn noted that several lights on Crestline are not working and plans to record the serial numbers and address the issue.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:33 PM, Council adjourned into executive session.

- a. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e), to conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions.
- b. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f), to consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from your attorney.

9. ACTIONS IF ANY FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:07 PM, Council reconvened into open session. Councilor Woodruff made a motion that the City Council

1 authorized and ratifies the City Manager's actions with regard to the release of
2 documented information to the press, to law enforcement and to citizens
3 detailing the results of the city's investigations; and that all actions taken in the
4 regard, including advocacy to other governmental entities, are an expected part
5 of the duties of the job of City Manager to uphold the law and protect the
6 citizens of Waldport. Council President Dunn seconded the motion, and the
7 motion passed unanimously. A discussion was held regarding the motion, during

8 which members of the local press asked follow-up questions. The Council
9 confirmed that it had authorized the City Manager to share information that was
10 collected with the appropriate authorities and as public record. Councilor
11 Woodruff clarified that these actions were requested by the Council. City Manager
12 Cutter stated that, as the employee involved, he was authorized by the City Council
13 to take the actions in question; however, the manner in which those actions were
14 carried out is the subject of the complaint and will be reviewed. He noted that these
15 actions were taken under the City Manager's responsibility to protect the citizens.

16 Council President Dunn explained that the Council authorized the City Manager to
17 engage in discussions with affected outside entities but did not direct the specific
18 content of those discussions. City Manager Cutter added that, under CIS
19 guidelines, the Council cannot address certain aspects of the matter until an official
20 hearing on the complaints is held. He expressed a desire for the hearing to proceed
21 in order to resolve the issue, noting that the matter is currently being handled by
22 attorneys and CIS. Council President Dunn further stated that the Council relies on
23 CIS to initiate and manage complaint reviews.

24 **10. GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Council President Dunn stated that he had viewed a video
25 in which the Mayor claimed she had drafted a resolution addressing ICE-related
26 concerns in the community, had shared it with the Council prior to the December
27 City Council meeting, and that the Council rejected it. Council consensus indicated
28 that no Council member had received a proposed resolution from the mayor. City
29 Manager Cutter stated that he has not received any direct communication from the

Mayor since September. He added that the only communication the city had received from the Mayor related to the December meeting concerned a citizen with electromagnetic sensitivity. Council members agreed that, had a resolution been submitted, it would be present on the City's server, and that the mayor did not provide any such resolution. **Councilor Townsend** stated that during his 13 months of service on the Council, he has had only one brief conversation with the Mayor, and questioned whether other Council members had experienced a similar lack of communication. **Council President Dunn** reflected that during his previous service on the Council with Mayor Lambert, there was a sense of camaraderie, and expressed hope that such collaboration could be restored. A member of the press requested clarification regarding the City Manager's discussions with the owner of the Alsi Resort related to housing ICE agents. **City Manager Cutter** responded that no financial negotiations took place and that no City resources were offered. He clarified that he offered only his personal time and expertise to assist the owner in navigating the potential sale of the property to avoid any contracts with ICE. **Council President Dunn** concluded by stating that, ultimately, the Council made the correct decision in passing Resolution No. 1328 to protect the community.

11. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council.

Council President Dunn adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Torres, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED by the Waldport City Council this 12th day of February, 2026.

SIGNED by the Mayor this 12th day of February, 2026.

X

Heide Lambert, Mayor