

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Council Chambers, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Kenneth Wells; Council President, Karen Leach; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, Ken Jamieson; and Ken Hancock; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Police Chief, Mark Waddell; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; Finance Director, Christina Green; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wells opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda. None.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 9 and 23, 2025

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the September 9 and 23, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.

B. New Comments from Public.

Brad King, 93592 Prairie Road, Junction City, thanked the community for their support at the October 5th Lions Chicken BBQ and noted that the next one would be held the 3rd weekend in May. There would be a Blood Drive Thursday, October 16th at Christ's Center Church.

Kamryn Stringfield, Eugene, shared that he was involved with Lane County Immigrant Defense Network, as well as Eyes Off Eugene, which was pushing to get the Flock AI mass surveillance system out of the Eugene area. He understood that Junction City was considering Flock, and a Flock representative had shared with the Council that this would be a great investigative tool to help solve crime and find missing people. He continued that what neither Flock nor Axon would tell the City were the ways in which this system had been abused and had led to real harm to regular people. The automated license plate readers were merely one part of Flock's capabilities, and it misidentified license plate numbers up to 10% of the time. In Aurora, Colorado, a 2 being registered as a 7 on a license plate led to an innocent family being held at gunpoint, face down on the hot asphalt, which resulted in an over one-million-dollar lawsuit against the City of Aurora. There were plenty of other incidents where Flock cameras had been abused by police departments, the federal government, as well as other actors. He urged the Council to reconsider installing Flock cameras within Junction City. He noted that there were plenty of other ways to keep up public safety and prevent crime that did not involve surveilling everybody in Junction City without their consent. He added that Junction City looked like a great town that he would love to shop in, but he did not know if he would come here and spend his money if he knew he was going to be surveilled.

5. Fire Lock Boxes Discussion

Junction City Rural Fire Protection District Inspector Bob Trout, who had submitted a letter of request for Council to consider an ordinance requiring the installation of fire department lock boxes on certain types of buildings within the city, noted that he was present to answer any Council questions.

In response to Council questions, Inspector Trout shared:

- There were a lot of facilities in town that currently had lock boxes, and the Fire Department's goal was to have them at all commercial buildings, multi-family residential buildings (e.g., apartments with more than four units), and at schools, nursing homes, and other high-occupancy or vulnerable facilities, to provide safe and quick emergency responses.
- The keys to access the lock boxes would be securely locked in a Fire Department apparatus that only Fire Department staff would have access to. Inside the lock boxes would be the key to access the facility.
- They have had calls where they have had to break doors to enter, where someone had fallen and had their cell phone but could not get up to unlock the door. It was noted that replacing a commercial glass door that had to be broken was \$3,000 to \$5,000 to replace.
- In the past, there may have been some Knox lock boxes in town, but the Fire Department was recommending going with Supra boxes, which were less expensive and would cut down on the costs for people.

- The lock boxes were very secure, all Fire Departments in the other local communities used them, and he had not heard any negative situations with burglaries or other.

The Council consensus was for staff to work with Attorney Connelly and bring back a draft ordinance for Council review.

6. Tri-County Chamber Annual Report

Executive Director Rhonda Giles reported: Chamber had 212 members; started doing podcasts and would be doing more live social media reports and shop locally campaigns for local businesses; upcoming events – Downtown Trick or Treat, Distinguished Service Awards Banquet, and Light Parade; and invited Council to attend Chamber lunch forums and other activities.

7. City Attorney Contract Review

Administrator Knope stated that the City had issued a Request for Proposal for City Attorney services and had received one response from Local Government Law Group (LGLG). Based on direction from Council at the last meeting, he worked with LGLG to complete the contract, and it was before Council for approval.

MOTION: Councilor Hancock made a motion to approve the contract with the Local Government Law Group and authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

8. Draft City Prosecutor Contract Review

Administrator Knope presented the draft City Prosecutor contract with Leahy and Cox for Council review.

The Council consensus was that the draft contract looked good, and for staff to bring back for Council consideration of approval.

9. Janitorial Services Contract

Recorder Vodrup presented the contract with Elite Maintenance for Janitorial Services. In February 2025, the Council approved a janitorial services contract, after soliciting written quotes. Unfortunately, that contract had to be cancelled, as the vendor was not fulfilling the scope of services. Staff conducted a second oral intermediate procurement process to follow up on last year's written procurement. Elite Maintenance had been next in line, and they indicated that they could provide services as previously quoted. Staff from the various departments where janitorial services were provided were in favor of Council approving this contract.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the Janitorial Services Contract with Elite Maintenance as presented and to authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Jamieson and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

10. Run 4 Roth 5K Fun Run Street Closure Request

Director Kaping presented the Run 4 Roth Street Closure Request, in honor of longtime Junction City Athletic Director Craig Rothenberger. The Council had previously approved a request for a run in June, but that event had been postponed, due to the passing of Mr. Rothenberger.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the street closure request for the 2nd Annual Run 4 Roth 5K Fun Run on October 19, 2025, as conditioned in Attachment B, with the nonexclusive use of city streets for closures from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hancock and passed by unanimous vote of the Council: Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, Jamieson, and Hancock.

11. Community Meetings Report

Administrator Knope reported on the first set of Community Meetings that were held in September. Eighteen community members attended and there were a lot of great questions and discussion back and forth. Public Works and Police Department staff did an excellent job. Meeting notes were included in the Council packet. Lane County was interested in participating in future meetings. Next meetings would be held in January, and staff would work

on notifications of these meetings to the community, through improved social media and other means.

Councilor Leach shared that she had attended two meetings and they were great. Staff did a wonderful job of answering questions.

Councilor Hancock stated that in the meeting notes, a citizen had asked how to get stop signs installed, and staff had responded that there had to be three accidents in five years. Councilor Hancock suggested that the City review this policy, as he would prefer prevention and deferring to the Police Chief's discretion rather than waiting for accidents to happen. Administrator Knope responded that years ago the Council had a traffic engineer do a study and a stop sign policy was created based on that. He added that staff would be happy to bring that policy to a future meeting, for Council review and discussion.

Councilor Hancock continued that also in the notes, a citizen had asked if Public Works could do pipe work so it did not have to be contracted out, and staff had responded that Public Works could do that but it would be slower. Councilor Hancock asked if a report could be provided on what the Projects Crew was doing, so Council could understand what was being done. Administrator Knope responded that staff could certainly do that and he recommended providing a quarterly report, as some projects were seasonal.

Mayor Wells shared that he attended three of the Community Meetings, and staff did a great job. He continued that citizens had positive comments on the new Community Center. Councilor Leach added that the recent Community Center open house had been awesome.

12. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster. October 28, 2025 Meeting Items: PFM Financial, pool fees, a new standing Administrator Report, and General Fund Projections. He noted that typically the Council did not hold November and December Work Sessions, but he recommended holding them this year, as there were many timely items to discuss, including Enterprise Fund projections, providing accurate status quo numbers for water and sewer rate projections, and talking about sewer opportunities with Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC).

The Council consensus was to schedule Council work sessions on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

13. Staff Reports

Chief Waddell reported: Police Records Technician candidate in backgrounds; interviewed entry level police officer candidates; CAD project with EIS should be active soon; county staff was working on installing a new radio repeater on the water tower; Records Management System should be live in November; IT staff was assisting with setting up MDTs and had ordered 3 more to get to the goal of 11 and would develop a replacement policy; the Police Foundation had raised \$22,000 for a drone program, and 3 officers were going through testing to become drone pilots/operators; Officer Fanning was taking a 40 hour Crisis Intervention Training, which all the other officers had taken; department was increasing internal training instructors and regular trainings: Administrative Assistant Isaac Cox was a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Officer Levi Green was a Firearms Instructor, and Detective Tim Ware was a EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operator Course) Instructor; had received a \$5,000 grant for SIMS equipment; and recently conducted a Pedestrian Safety detail.

Director Kaping reported: Public Works was currently reading meters; he had been in contact with City of Creswell to get their take on connecting to MWMC; the Public Works crew was installing fiber line from 8th and Deal to 9th and Elm; and the maintenance crew was TVing 3rd and Maple basin.

Councilor Leach asked how Creswell felt about connecting to MWMC. Director Kaping responded that their Public Works Director had said he felt pretty good about the process. There would be some code changes needed to make this happen, and Creswell's planner was working with Lane County. Creswell had experienced some of the same issues as Junction City on sewer. Director Kaping noted that the City would have gone down this road sooner but had been told that the whole deal with Creswell was dead and then found out a few weeks ago that it was actually moving forward.

Mayor Wells stated that he was glad the City followed up on this, to see if there was a way to solve the sewer problem at less expense for everybody.

Director Green reported: Just finished the 1st quarter and completed the City's payroll reporting to federal and state; City was on track to receive its first Gold Star for PERS reporting; Accounting Technician Jordan Blair was doing the required yearly Accounts Payable reporting to the state on unclaimed property; the auditors were still asking questions and were on track to have the audit completed before the end of the year. She thanked staff for all of their help, as she had asked Administrator Knope and Department Directors many questions, and staff had been very quick to respond, which was appreciated.

Councilor Hancock expressed congratulations for working towards the Gold Star. Director Green responded that Senior Accountant Ashley Barber had been doing that work.

Mayor Wells stated that he was glad to see the financial reports in their mailboxes, and it looked like the City was close to the budget projections. Director Green responded that the September report should be ready next week.

Attorney Connelly reported: She expressed thanks for the City continuing the relationship with Local Government Law Group. She would add the Lock Box ordinance to her list of things to do. She noted that she had been asked to review the Employee Recognition policy, regarding recent legislation on food and drinks, and asked if she should review for the Council as well. Administrator Knope responded yes, to include the Council.

Mayor Wells noted that at a recent LCOG Board meeting, they had a buffet which was open to the public, so they were able to stay within the rules of OGEC (Oregon Government Ethics Commission). Attorney Connelly responded that certainly would avoid the "but for" problem and would be an option for the City to consider. She continued that it would be nice to be able to provide food in a private setting as well and to have a policy that supported that. She would be outlining all of that for staff.

Recorder Vodrup reported: She, Administrative Aide Tere Andrews, and HR/Administrative Services Manager Ashley Tapia attended the annual OAMR (Oregon Association of Municipal Records) Conference in Eugene last month. Highlights: Senate Bill 580 requires that the City post candidate filings on the City's website; House Bill 4024 requires incumbent candidates running for Council to file their final election paperwork 7 days before non-incumbent candidates; Senate Bill 983 permits public officials to participate, debate, and vote on adoption of a local budget that includes compensation for the public official or relative of the public official, after announcing an actual conflict of interest; she and Aide Andrews served on the OAMR Records Committee, and Aide Andrews sat on a records session panel, where she shared forms and processes that the City was using in archiving records. This information was well received by other cities; and Recorder Vodrup would be bringing information to the October 28th meeting for Council direction, as the state adopted an updated City Records Retention Schedule.

Administrator Knope reported: Finance staff started an internal process to better track and manage grants; regarding Creswell connecting to MWMC, Creswell had been looking at a \$74 to \$77 million project, and the rough draft numbers to connect to MWMC were \$40 million, with a million-dollar charge annually thereafter for treating the wastewater. Depending on how conversations went with MWMC, staff may be coming back to Council to request getting on board with Creswell and the county to be part of the code amendment process and to lend support to Creswell, if this was a path the Council wanted to pursue. Creswell was looking at a \$34 million capital construction cost, but this cost would likely be less for Junction City, because of being closer; Director Green had completed a General Fund projection report, and the General Fund looked a lot better than had been anticipated. Would be doing Enterprise Fund projections next, and there would be some course corrections based on infrastructure and other work that needed to be done; IT staff had been doing a lot of work for the Police Department and would be integrating the new police software with the court software; looking at switching from Verizon to T-Mobile at the end of the year, which would save \$700 to \$800 per month and provide better service; and he was happy with the work Recorder Vodrup and her staff had been doing on records and retention work, which would set the backbone for the City going to a more digital records format.

Councilor Thomas noted that Judge Williams had communicated that he would be happy to provide a court report to council.

14. Previous Month's Expenditures. None.**15. Councilor Comments/Questions**

Councilor Thomas thanked everybody for all their hard work and for all that they had done. She added that they were moving forward.

Councilor Washburne stated that the City had come a long way and still had a long way to go, but if they worked on it, they would accomplish it.

Councilor Ceniga shared that everybody had been doing great work. She noted that Director Green was fairly new and had done a great job, and she expressed congratulations to the Finance staff on working towards the Gold Star. She noted that they had a lot of work ahead to do. She liked hearing Director Green share that department heads had been quick to respond to audit questions. She added that it was all about working together as a team to get things done, and she thanked everybody for doing that.

Councilor Leach voiced her agreement with Councilor Ceniga's comments and expressed appreciation to everyone. She noted that Director Green had done a great job, and she appreciated Chief Waddell and the Police Department participating in the recent Faith and Blue weekend at a local church. She expressed appreciation to Director Kaping for always answering questions, to Administrator Knope for all the work that would not have been done without him, and to Recorder Vodrup for her work.

Councilor Jamieson thanked everybody for doing a great job. He had been on the Council a short time, but it seemed like every department was positive about what they were doing and what they were aiming for. He appreciated everybody's hard work.

Councilor Hancock stated that there was a lot of important information flowing around the room tonight, and he appreciated the briefings from staff. He referred to the lawsuit in Colorado and other problems that were voiced during public comment and asked Chief Waddell if he could research how often those types of things had happened. Chief Waddell responded that he would.

Councilor Hancock noted that he was excited about the opportunity to look at other sewer treatment alternatives, especially when there could be a \$35 to \$40 million savings. He encouraged staff to not hesitate in letting the Council know if they needed to meet to provide further direction. He congratulated staff for exploring other options for sewer. He added that he was thrilled to hear about the financial projections and looked forward to seeing those.

16. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Wells stated that they had a citizen speak tonight about the Flock cameras and noted that the Council had not taken action. He asked if they would have a presentation from Axon. Chief Waddell responded yes and that was scheduled for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Wells continued that the Council and staff were doing great things and working well together, which took everybody's ideas, new and old. He noted that everyone was willing to listen, which he was thankful for. The Council would not always agree, but once they walked out of the meeting, they were still friends and respected everybody. He wished that other levels of government had the same level of respect, even partially. He added that the Council accomplished things and did not leave things for the next guy.

17. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Kenneth Wells, Mayor