



COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

City Hall Community Room, 10501 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

February 11, 2025

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Robert Massey, and Council President Will Anderson, and Mayor Lisa Batey

Staff Present: Dan Harris, Events and Emergency
Management Coordinator

Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder
Emma Sagor, City Manager

Mayor Batey called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m. Council President Anderson and Councilor Massey joined the meeting via zoom, Councilor Stavenjord was absent.

1. Events Review and Update – Discussion

Harris provided a recap of recent winter events starting with the Umbrella parade, noting 2024's successes and challenges. The group discussed the sound system failure that occurred which led to the purchase of a new, more weather-resistant PA system, noted speaker spacing was adjusted to improve volume without feedback, and ideas that had been considered around having a professional company operate sound for the event.

Harris noted the Portland Power Pep Band returned for a second year and was well received, and that staff had successfully secured external power access for the tree, as access to historic city hall would no longer be available.

Mayor Batey shared that Pfriem Brewery's new location in historic city hall would have a soft opening the week of March 31, with a grand opening expected in April. **Councilor Massey** suggested a blowhorn as a good backup solution for audio issues at events.

Harris and **Mayor Batey** commented on the biking as transportation to the Solstice event and **Harris** noted that while the new temporary parking for bicycles was not heavily used, it was an affordable addition and would continue to be a part of all city sponsored events. **Harris** shared about the newest addition to the 2024 event – a sponsorship from Sauna Glo, who provided wood-fired saunas. Feedback was mixed, but it offered a great example of how events can highlight local businesses.

Harris reviewed past challenges with pedestrian crossings on McLoughlin during Solstice and 2024 improvements, including a shuttle partnership with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) for those with mobility impairments and Milwaukie Police Department (MPD) presence to support safe traffic. The group discussed event vendors, current cost-effective operations, and the future pedestrian underpass planned as part of the Kellogg Dam removal project.

Harris provided an update on the Milwaukie Community Events Fund (MCEF), including applications received and awarded. The group discussed city advertising and Neighborhood District Association (NDA) funds.

Harris shared the schedule for the three-day Milwaukie Fest, July 11–13, and highlighted partnerships with organizations, businesses, and community members. Harris reviewed sponsorship levels and noted that TriMet and Beer Store Milwaukie had already committed at the major sponsor level. With a goal of \$15,000+, **Harris** encouraged Council to help identify additional sponsors. **Harris** expressed appreciation for the growing enthusiasm and collaboration across departments and partners.

Harris and **Mayor Batey** discussed incorporating Bay Park activities and better coordination across downtown zones. They confirmed that planning for Pride and Juneteenth was underway with community organizers, and that the city’s events team continues to provide support.

2. Houseless Services Update – Report

Sagor asked Council to receive the update while considering whether they’d prefer to continue receiving updates quarterly or shift to a different cadence or format.

Sagor reviewed the cooling center pilot program at Ledding Library, funded through Clackamas County’s City-Led Initiative grants. The funding allowed the city to extend library hours during extreme heat events, with the center activated eight times in 2024 and an average of nine attendees per night. **Sagor** described how the space was staffed and noted that building modifications, such as gating off parts of the library, could increase flexibility and allow for volunteer support. **Mayor Batey**, who had volunteered, shared that the setup worked well but the space sometimes became overly cold.

Sagor highlighted the work of the city’s behavioral health and outreach staff: Glenn Suchanek, the city’s behavioral health specialist, and Don Holden, who served as the county-funded houseless liaison through LoveOne. **Sagor** noted that LoveOne was in the process of hiring a second liaison to backfill Holden’s previous position. **Sagor** shared a breakdown of Suchanek’s interactions between March 2024 and February 2025 and praised the critical role both staff play in community support. **Sagor** noted Holden and Suchanek participated in the 2024 Point in Time Count and shared that LoveOne conducted a significant trash cleanup at Kronberg Park at no cost to the city. Code Enforcement was finalizing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Metro to support future cleanup needs.

In response to a question from **Council President Anderson** about an individual camping downtown, **Sagor** and **Husher** described the city’s process, which prioritizes outreach and connection to services over enforcement.

Sagor reviewed the Ledding Library’s role as a key outreach space and community hub for vulnerable populations, noting Weekly Tuesday outreach events hosted by MPD and community partners which served 78 clients, how library staff assisted with resource referrals and distribution of water and snacks, and the county’s mobile probation and parole unit, which visits the library monthly, served 113 individuals, with 11 entering housing or completing treatment. **Sagor** and **Husher** described the Rent Well Labs program, a partnership with Clackamas County Social Services. In response to a question from **Councilor Khosroabadi** about helping a community member struggling to find housing, **Sagor** and **Husher** confirmed that Holden would be the appropriate point of contact.

Sagor thanked Mayor Batey for spotting on Clackamas County’s agenda the approval for funding for an overnight warming shelter at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church. **Sagor** noted that the shelter would be operated by LoveOne and was expected to open in 2026 following building improvements.

Council expressed interest in adjusting the cadence and asked things be brought back based on need. **Sagor** noted that a spring update would be scheduled to focus on the stabilization center and HEART program, and summarized that future updates may shift to semi-annual check-ins or focus on timely topics.

3. Council Reports

Mayor Batey noted a recent appointment to serve as one of two Clackamas County mayors, alongside Lake Oswego Mayor Buck, in Metro's regional discussion on rebooting the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure, with biweekly meetings starting February 24. There was hope that the group would pursue recurring funding for needs like cooling and warming centers, reducing reliance on IGAs.

Council President Anderson voiced concern over a potential 25% SHS funding cut and emphasized the importance of building ballot measure support with the Portland Metro Chamber. **Anderson** reported on recent Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) discussions around Clackamas County's legislative transportation priorities—the I-205 Corridor Widening and Sunrise Corridor projects—and political opposition and debates around which projects should be prioritized. **Batey** and **Anderson** discussed uncertainties around funding sources for these efforts.

Councilor Massey provided a detailed report from the Regional Water Providers Consortium, noted an upcoming survey about water taste sent to 600 consumers, and confusion about members of the Consortium meeting Milwaukie's new leadership, which staff clarified may have referred to the city's climate manager. **Massey** reviewed a range of proposed state legislation being tracked by the water caucus and noted that Milwaukie staff should coordinate to track relevant bills. **Mayor Batey** added that Water Environment Services (WES) was also monitoring PFAS-related legislation.

Mayor Batey shared there was no update on the electric fencing letter included in Council's packet but would follow up next Tuesday. **Batey** shared highlights from a recent meeting with a local nonprofit, Bee-lieve Educational Foundation, which promotes honeybee-related education. While their focus on honeybees may not align with Bee City priorities, the scholarship program for veterans training as beekeepers was noted as a highlight, and information was offered to interested Councilors.

4. Adjourn

Mayor Batey adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder

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