



MINUTES

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: May 27, 2026

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Johnson, and Councilors Carolyn McLeod, Marilyn Smith, Ramycia McGhee(virtual), Chris Van Drimmelen, Steph Newton, Michael Thomson

Councilors absent:

Adoption of consent agenda

6:00 p.m.

a. Approval of minutes

- 1) February 23, 2026 city council meeting
- 2) February 25, 2026 city council meeting
- 3) March 9, 2026 city council meeting
- 4) March 11, 2026 city council meeting
- 5) April 6, 2026 city council meeting
- 6) April 22, 2026 city council meeting

b. Recommendation(s) to OLCC

- 1) Approve retail off-premises sales, liquor license application for Bite of Nature Grocers, LLC. DBA Albany Grocery Outlet located at 1950 14th Avenue SE

MOTION: was made by Newton and seconded by McLeod to adopt the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed 6-0.

Presentations and Ceremonies

Airport Study Presentation

6:01 p.m.

Public Works Director Paul Trombino and Matt Gray with ECONorthwest presented. Gray said that this is a preliminary assessment of the airport, there is no recommendation for the best pathway, but tradeoffs can be discussed.

Gray said that the Albany Airport was in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), which is basically the freeway system for airports. From research there are zero closures of such an airport in the last 20 years. The FAA and Oregon Department of Aviation basically said that it would be similar to closing I5 between Eugene and Albany, i.e. not going to happen. The City has received a number of grants for the airport, and if the airport was closed today the city would owe \$9.3 million to the FAA and additional to the ODA.

The council discussed the presentation and asked questions.

Draft Strategic Plan Presentation

6:29 p.m.

Deputy City Manager Kayla Barber and Ashley Sonoff, Strategy Associate with SSW Consulting presented*. The Council discussed the strategic plan and asked questions.

Barber said that the budget process is now tied into the strategic plan, the budgeting process for the next biennium would begin soon and would take around 9 months from start to finish.

Barber said that the Council feedback would be considered, and the final draft of the plan would return to Council in a few weeks for adoption.

Break at 7:47 p.m.

Reconvene at 8:00 p.m.

Public Comment

8:00 p.m.

Written public comment was received from Greyson Paynter, and Lindsay Vaughn
Johnson said that written public comment was received.

Matthew van Bommel spoke. He said that he had concerns with the railroad crossing between Pacific and Queen, and accessibility. He requested that the council support repairs to the crossing, pressure ODOT and the railroad community to make repairs.

Bryan Bristow spoke. He said that the Albany Airport is unique, there are several hotels and restaurants accessible through a security gate in the fence. The Salem Airport is more than half a mile to a hotel, and the Eugene Airport has none at the airport.

Bret Kizer said the City Council should keep an open mind about the airport, and it being an asset to the community. The Albany Airport is key to future growth and businesses, the asset is paid for and it takes a bit of money and time to keep it up.

Mel Huffman said that he was the Chair of the Albany Airport Commission. He said the Airport Commission has recommendations. Use the historical hangar for multifunction purposes, as well as for a museum. Develop and lease land inside the fence, identify additional area around the airport for hangars, encourage ODOT to redevelop overpasses, seek FAA funding to extend the runway, put in drainage, and pavement and EPA/FAA permitting to be build ready, build helicopter landing pads for fire suppression, emergency recovery, and military training and consider future technologies such as electric planes.

Luke Doughton said that he has been connected to the airport since 1992. It seems there was more corporate activity for the airport in previous times, although \$6 million in economic activity is good. It should be expanded with more focus on attracting corporate activity to the airport.

Jennifer Roque/Laurie Dyson provided comments about homeless camp removal from Simpson Park. Dyson said that inclusiveness is often talked about in presentations, but the community needs to work together to find the homeless housing.

Informational Briefing/Staff Reports

8:15 p.m.

Local Fuel Tax Discussion

Paul Trombino and Bobby Schuler with Swift Public Affairs presented*. Trombino said that community listening sessions were facilitated by Swift. The Council discussed a potential gas tax, election dates, and transportation utility fee.

Business from the Council

8:37 p.m.

Van Drimmelen said that he had concerns with a recent email the council received. He said that the council received an email from the Mayor, saying that there would be a new process for the City Manager evaluation this year. He said that change was a significant departure from last year's evaluation process. Van Drimmelen said that he was concerned that the council was just notified it was happening, given the council has the authority over the City Manager and evaluation process. He said that he asked the HR Director and the Deputy City Manager some questions and got more details. He said that he would like the council to give the green light to the process, not just change the process and say here you go council this is what we are going to do.

MOTION: was made by Van Drimmelen and seconded by Thomson that either tonight, or at the next council meeting, the process and rationale for the new city manager evaluation process be outlined to the city council in an open meeting, so the council can vote if they would like to proceed with that process. MOTION passed 6-0 in a roll call voice vote (Yes-Newton, Thomson, Smith, Van Drimmelen, McGhee, McLeod) (No-0)

Deputy City Manager Kayla Barber provided information on the evaluation process. She said that historically the process has been designed by staff. The City Manager receives an annual evaluation which used to be done by staff in the City Manager's office directly, then it was moved into the Human Resources Department. Barber said that the HR department solicits feedback from multiple parties, not just the council. A 360 degree evaluation is done by direct reports to the City Manager. There were concerns about having staff as a facilitator in that process, and concerns about the Mayor being a facilitator of the process instead of a neutral third party.

The council asked questions. Barber said that many cities over 50,000 are moving to a neutral third party facilitator for City Manager evaluations. Over the last month and half staff have been talking to other cities, and have gone through a procurement process to interview three firms. Raftelis was selected as the best showing in the interview process, based upon their experience and the process. She said that Raftelis would be doing virtual interviews with the city council.

Newton asked what the cost was? Barber said that it was \$20,000, but that staff spends more than double that in staff time on the process each year.

The council discussed the proposal.

MOTION: was made by Smith and seconded by McGhee to conduct the city manager evaluation under the new process as recommended by staff. MOTION tied 3-3 in a roll call voice vote (Yes-Smith, McGhee, Van Drimmelen) (No-Newton, Thomson, McLeod) Johnson voted yes to break the tie 4-3. MOTION passed.

MOTION: was made by Van Drimmelen and seconded by McLeod that any substantive changes to the city manager evaluation process be brought before the council in an open meeting, and that even if there are not substantive changes, a briefing on the city manager evaluation process be provided to the city council prior to the process being published and pushed out to council and staff. MOTION passed 6-0.

McLeod provided an update on events in Albany. She asked when the school start date sign near the flashing school speed zone lights in North Albany would be changed, as it is outdated. Troedsson said that he would research it and report back.

MOTION: was made by Smith and seconded by Newton to extend the 5-13-26 council meeting past the normal 9:00 p.m. ending time requirement, as needed. MOTION passed 6-0.

Newton said she received an email from a constituent about pedestrian safety in the Spring Hill, Quarry, Nebergall Loop area and hoped to get some clarity on maintenance and jurisdiction. She said that she received an email about the GAPS Water Awareness program being discontinued, and hoped staff could look into other partnerships or solutions the city may have for youth water safety.

Smith said that she received a request from a constituent to consider a program for sharps pickup with monthly garbage service. She said that she received a communication regarding the recycling center/bottle drop near Columbus and Santiam, and concerns with homeless camping in the area. Johnson said that he has also received communications about homeless camping.

Johnson said that Ray Hilts long time community member passed away, and shared remarks about Ray.

City Manager Reports

9:22 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson provided comments about Municipal Clerks week, Public Works Week, and Peace Officer Memorial Day. He said that two public engagement opportunities for automated license plate reader cameras will be occurring soon, one at a Public Safety Commission Meeting and one at the Riverfront Community Center.

Troedsson responded to a council question earlier in the meeting, and said that Nebergall Loop is a Benton County road.

Troedsson and Mayor Johnson presented a recognition award from the League of Oregon Cities. Albany was recognized as one of the founding member cities of the League of Oregon Cities, with a membership since 1925/the founding of the LOC.

City Attorney Sean Kidd provided an update on Simpson Park and homeless camp cleanups. He said that the property is the jurisdiction of the City of Millersburg, and Linn County Sheriff. The City of Albany has a conservation easement for the property.

Next meeting dates

Wednesday, May 27, 2026; 6:00 p.m. meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026; 4:00 p.m. work session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Erik Glover
City Recorder

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing cityrecorder@albanyoregon.org.*