

Garibaldi City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

CONVENING OF MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 5:32 PM, Mayor Katie Findling officially commenced the meeting. In attendance were Mayor Findling, Council Members Cheryl Gierga, Sandy Tyrer, and Linda Bade. City Manager Jake Boone represented the staff. The Pledge of Allegiance was duly recited.

PRESENTATIONS

City Manager Jake Boone offered an apology to the City Council and residents of Garibaldi for losing his temper at the previous meeting. He acknowledged that regardless of the situation, he should maintain professionalism and not respond in kind when tensions rise. He committed to staying calm and "staying above the fray" in heated discussions moving forward, stating that the city deserves that standard of conduct from him.

At 5:33 PM, Mayor Findling recessed the City Council meeting for a joint meeting with the Garibaldi Urban Renewal Agency (GURA). The GURA meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM, and the City Council meeting reconvened.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Findling requested adding a Garibaldi Business Association (GBA) update to the agenda.

Motion to add the GBA update to the agenda.

- **Moved by:** Councilor Cheryl Gierga
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Sandy Tyrer
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Mayor Findling noted that based on community feedback from her recent tea and conversation event, the council would make efforts to clearly repeat motions when made and voted on to improve transparency.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilor Linda Bade inquired about miscellaneous revenues in several funds that appeared significantly over budget in the financial report:

- General Fund: approximately \$4,400
- Street Fund: \$31,995.04
- Water Fund: \$33,618
- Wastewater Fund: \$33,618.60

She requested a more detailed monthly financial report to track budget variances. The council has agreed to have City Manager Boone research these items and provide a report at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the consent calendar.

- **Moved by:** Councilor Sandy Tyrer
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Cheryl Gierga
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL POLICY UPDATE

City Manager Boone presented draft financial policies for council review, noting they were still working in progress. He requested feedback to refine the documents before finalization.

Councilor Bade commented that the policies were a good start but had concerns about reconciling the high-level policies with existing, more specific city policies. She specifically mentioned Resolution 2011-03 regarding ending fund balances, which sets specific percentages that aren't reflected in the draft policies.

City Manager Boone explained that his intention was to have a broader policy reference resolution since council might change specific percentages from time to time. Councilor Bade suggested potentially making the resolution an attachment to maintain clarity. She also noted that terminology should be standardized, as the drafts refer to a "finance director" while the city uses "finance officer."

January and February Council Meeting Dates

City Manager Boone explained that the regular January and February council meeting dates (third Monday) both fall on holidays. He asked the council to determine alternate dates.

After discussion, the council agreed to hold the meetings on the following Mondays (January 26th and February 23rd) at 5:30 PM, based primarily on Councilor Gierga's availability due to her night job.

Motion to schedule the January council meeting for January 26, 2026, at 5:30 PM and the February council meeting for February 23, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

- **Moved by:** Councilor Sandy Tyrer
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Cheryl Gierga
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

COUNCIL TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

City Manager Boone presented information regarding council travel reimbursement policies, noting that while the city has a policy for staff travel and reimbursement, he couldn't find an existing policy specifically for council members.

He explained that typically, councils follow similar policies to staff, covering "actual and reasonable expenses" for conferences and workshops, including registration, standard accommodations, meals at per diem rates, mileage, and parking.

Councilor Bade shared her experience with the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference, where she paid for registration four months in advance but wasn't reimbursed until after attending, as per standard practice. She expressed concerns about potential fraud if reimbursements were made before attendance.

Mayor Findling suggested that council should receive pre-approval for travel expenses, noting that the city can often access discounts and scholarships. She also suggested formalizing a rotation system for conference attendance since the budget doesn't allow for all councilors to attend all events.

City Manager Boone indicated he would draft a policy incorporating council input for consideration at a future meeting.

GARIBALDI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Valerie Schumann provided an update on the Garibaldi Business Association (GBA), highlighting accomplishments from their two years of operation. She distributed materials showing their creation of a business trifold, website, Facebook page, and logo. She noted monthly meetings include emergency preparedness discussions and that the GBA had facilitated communication with ODOT during highway construction.

She requested council approval to hold the annual tree lighting on Saturday, November 29th (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) rather than December 6th as initially planned by the city. This would coordinate with the Port of Garibaldi's ornament hunt kickoff and avoid competing with Tillamook's tree lighting event.

Motion to hold the tree lighting in Garibaldi on Saturday, November 29th instead of December 6th.

- **Moved by:** Councilor Cheryl Gierga
- **Seconded by:** Councilor Linda Bade

- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Schumann also presented concerns from the business community about the highway project, noting that Garibaldi has lost 18 parking spaces and is uniquely impacted by having bike lanes on both sides of Highway 101 compared to other coastal communities. She requested follow-up on removing one bike lane, addressing parking confusion, and possibly having ODOT donate the Seventh Street lot across from Shell for parking.

OREGON COAST SCENIC RAILROAD UPDATE

Paul Daniels, President of Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (OCSR), announced personnel changes including the appointment of Trevor Park as permanent Executive Director and a new Roadmaster named Nathan. He stated that OCSR would be cleaning up their right-of-way in December. The Candy Cane Express will begin operations the day after Thanksgiving, running Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. He also reported on improvements to the Wheeler loading area, which will prevent trains from blocking the main crossing.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- City Manager Boone reported on his attendance at the National League of Cities conference in Salt Lake City, describing valuable learning and networking opportunities. He mentioned connecting with a lobbyist who might help with Coast Guard matters that had stalled following recent changes.
- He announced the tree lighting for Saturday, November 29th at 5:00 PM, noting that a new Santa suit is now available at City Hall.
- Mayor Findling requested an update at the next meeting regarding the ODOT business district concept, which would enable lowering the speed limit to 20 mph in the business district.
- City Manager Boone also announced the launch of the city's new website at Garibaldi.gov, encouraging everyone to explore it and report any issues.

COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Councilor Bade reported on attending the Small Cities League of Oregon Cities meeting in Rockaway, where they received an analysis of their website and information about legislative priorities. She provided materials to the mayor and city manager.

Councilor Tyner shared insights from the mayor's tea event, suggesting that department heads could be available via Zoom during council meetings. She noted public concerns about code violations and policy conflicts.

Mayor Findling discussed her recent community tea gathering, highlighting issues raised including culverts, clear cutting on Goat Hill, and a manhole on Driftwood. She mentioned the need for a charter review committee and plans to host another similar event soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Terry Kandle expressed appreciation for council and board members' service and supported the deposit of the \$12,500 check. He questioned the practice of giving funds to a project without building permits, especially with potential FEMA restrictions.

Ann Richards described challenges with her construction project at 624 Fir Avenue, where despite following all permitting requirements and engineering recommendations, they face repeated complaints from a neighbor. She suggested the city consider an ordinance implementing fines for erroneous repeat complaints that waste city resources.

Carolee North thanked the firefighters' association for lighting the "G" with red and green lights. She also expressed concern about the lack of progress on city audits and a public hearing scheduled for December 23rd regarding state zoning that bypassed the Planning Commission.

Gary Owen detailed a conflict with City Manager Boone regarding culvert permits on his property, requesting council investigate the matter due to an alleged conflict of interest.

Shirley Peters questioned why the city had conducted a camera inspection of her sewer line, stating her cleanout met code requirements and had been approved by the proper authorities.

Kim Schuldtmeier raised concerns about increased traffic and water runoff issues on Fir Avenue, requesting the city consider additional drainage solutions when resources permit.

Valerie Schumann requested the council consider returning to the previous room setup with council facing the public rather than each other for better acoustics. She also reported a light outage in the Third Street parking lot and acknowledged community members' contributions to the food bank and Christmas gift baskets.

Phillip Mashke noted deteriorated parking space markings in the Third Street lot, requesting repainting to maximize available parking.

Judy Riggs suggested implementing a formal complaint system with response timelines and tracking. She expressed frustration with the lack of back-and-forth dialogue at council meetings and concerns about chlorine levels in the water.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Findling adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

The next regular council meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.



Katie Findling, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jake Boone, City Manager