

Garibaldi City Council Workshop Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.

A. CONVENING OF MEETING

The Garibaldi City Council Work Session was called to order on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 4:00 PM. Mayor Bade noted that this was a workshop and that no formal decisions would be made.

In attendance was Mayor Linda Bade, Council President Cheryl Gierga, Vice President Bud Shattuck, Councilor Connye Corey, and Councilor Tom Porter. Staff in attendance were City Manager Pro Tem/Finance Director Becca Harth and City Recorder Amy Cram.

B. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hunter Communications Services Franchise

Nolan of Hunter Communications presented an overview of the company's proposal to bring fiber internet services to Garibaldi. Hunter Communications, headquartered in Central Point, Oregon, was founded in 1994 and has over 30 years of experience in Oregon rights-of-way. The company has expanded steadily across Oregon, including markets in McMinnville, Eugene, and Salem, and is now extending services to the northwest coast through its McMinnville network. Construction in Garibaldi is anticipated to begin in late 2027, with service available in 2028.

Key service highlights presented included symmetrical fiber speeds ranging from 500 Mbps to 2.5 Gbps, no contracts, no service bundling, free routers, and free basic installation. A lifeline discount program is available for qualifying low-income customers. Hunter Communications is also pursuing franchise agreements with Rockaway Beach (finalized), Bay City, Tillamook, Cannon Beach, Seaside, Astoria, and Warrenton. Infrastructure deployment in Garibaldi is expected to be predominantly aerial (pole-mounted), with directional drilling used in select underground utility areas.

Councilor Corey inquired about residential pricing and underground versus aerial construction. Councilor Porter asked about the most common causes of service disruption and the proportion of aerial versus underground deployment. Council Gierga asked about storm response times, to which Nolan indicated the company intends to establish a local coastal office to achieve 20–30-minute response times. A member of the public asked whether internet only service was available and whether contracts were required; Nolan confirmed no bundling and no contracts — service is month-to-month.

The Chair noted the Council would reach a consensus and make a formal decision at the next regular business meeting.

2. Proclamation Declaring Safe & Welcoming Communities

Chris Keavny presented a draft proclamation on behalf of a community group, framing it as a response to concerns about immigration enforcement practices nationally. He emphasized that the draft does not call for open borders, abolition of immigration enforcement, or defunding of police, but rather asks that immigration enforcement adhere to the same standards as other law enforcement agencies. He acknowledged that the drafting group did not include representation from farmers, fishers, business owners, churches, or law enforcement, and expressed preference for broad community input before any vote.

The Council discussed the length and accessibility of the draft, noting that its "whereas" format was dense and potentially off-putting to general readers. The consensus was to revise the document to approximately one page, distribute it publicly through city bulletin boards, bright paper, the city's Facebook page, and the local Fence Post publication, and allow a period of community comment. The item will be revisited at the Town Hall meeting on September 28 and again at the October workshop (date to be confirmed, potentially October 5 due to the October 12th holiday).

4. Consideration of Sale/Donation of City Lot 1N10 21BD 00700

(This item was taken out of agenda order at the recommendation of Finance Director Becca Harth for time management purposes.)

A request was presented by a homeowner, Susan Newman, to purchase a narrow strip of City-owned land (Lot 1N10 21BD 00700) adjacent to her property, which she and her neighbor have maintained for approximately 26 years. The Chair noted that any sale of City property would likely require public advertisement and an open bidding process, which could result in a third party outbidding the adjacent homeowner.

Councilor Shattuck advised that a storm sewer line runs beneath the strip, making it a city right-of-way, and that a prior council member had already declined to pursue the sale for that reason. Susan Newman noted the pipe appears to be in a deteriorated state. The Council agreed that Public Works should inspect the infrastructure beneath the property.

Councilor Porter raised the broader principle that the City is responsible for maintaining its own rights-of-way and should not be placing that burden on adjacent homeowners. Mayor Bade concurred and indicated she would contact former City Mayor Tim Hall for background on prior constraints related to City property sales, and that Harth would consult the City Attorney regarding the proper legal process.

3. Halloween Events

Harth relayed that a community member has offered to donate pumpkins from Savvy's Island to the fire department for a Halloween event. The Council discussed options including pumpkin painting (as an alternative to carving for safety reasons), a trunk-or-treat, and distribution of candy. Councilor Corey offered to donate craft paint. Given that Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, the Council discussed holding a community event on the preceding Thursday evening, potentially in conjunction with the fire department's regular drill night.

Mayor Bade also noted that the annual tree lighting ceremony should be scheduled for the Saturday following Thanksgiving (November 28) and raised the possibility of planning for a more permanent tree-lighting infrastructure in the future. Harth recommended placing the tree lighting discussion on the October regular business meeting agenda. Staff also noted that electrical outlets removed during a prior street project need to be restored to support holiday street decorations and confirmed this is on the staff work list.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bade adjourned the work session at approximately 5:05 PM.

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Becca Harth, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Becca Harth, City Manager Pro Tem/Finance Director

A black ink signature of Linda Bade, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.
Linda Bade, Mayor