

Garibaldi City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.

A. CONVENING OF MEETING

The September Council Meeting of the Garibaldi City Council was called to order by Mayor Linda Bade at 5:30 PM. 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, Fire Chief Tad Pedersen, and Public Works Superintendent Nick Theoharis.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Garibaldi Emergency Volunteers

Representatives Councilor Corey and Shannon Whipple of the Garibaldi Emergency Volunteers presented upcoming preparedness events. The Great Shakeout, a worldwide disaster preparedness drill, is scheduled for October 15 at 10:15 AM. Four assembly areas will be staffed: the location near the school, the Whitney Street site, the Ginger location, and the site near the far side of the creek. Residents were encouraged to attend with their go-bags. The volunteers noted that laminated evacuation maps would be distributed to local businesses.

The group also announced a free screening of *Rumblings: Preparing for Cascadia* on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 AM at the Tillamook Coliseum Theater.

Shannon Whipple reported that the Garibaldi Emergency Volunteers received a brand-new, never-used Briggs & Stratton gas generator donated by the Red Cross, and that remediation work on the volunteer storage container was nearing completion pending a final utility connection. Volunteers meet on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 PM at City Hall and are actively seeking new members.

D. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

No items were added to the agenda.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings were held.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar was presented without edits or questions from the Council.

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar

- **Moved by: Councilor Gierga**
- **Seconded by: Councilor Shattuck**
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Bade recognized the following speakers from the sign-up roster.

Andrea Harrison addressed the Council regarding a right-of-way permit application to install white picket fencing abutting the sidewalk along the Highway 101 corridor at the north end of downtown, rather than along the surveyed property line, which falls in the middle of the yard. Mayor Bade confirmed that the proper process is submission of a right-of-way permit for review and approval by the Public Works Director, and that Council action was not required.

She also raised concern about the accumulation of litter and debris along Highway 101 from Garibaldi Storage to the Bay City sign on both sides of the road, including tires near the railroad tracks. The speaker proposed a coordinated community cleanup using a dumpster, like efforts undertaken in other communities. Mayor Bade suggested exploring the ODOT Adopt-a-Highway program, which provides bags, equipment, and debris pickup at no cost to the city. It was noted that the program is coordinated through the ODOT maintenance station in Tillamook. Corey agreed to contact the ODOT coordinator, and the commenter volunteered to assist with recruiting volunteers. The Garibaldi Business Association's existing adopted stretch was also noted.

Heidi Parker formally notified the Council that she was withdrawing her interest in serving on the City Planning Commission, having originally applied on March 10. She cited a lack of communication from the City Planner and the absence of any organized meeting or orientation in the intervening months. She said that the city and its volunteers deserve more responsive professional service and suggested exploring a planner with more local accessibility. Mayor Bade acknowledged the feedback, expressed regret at losing the applicant, and confirmed that the planning commission position is again open.

Tim Hall addressed the Council regarding the upcoming city manager hiring process. He provided a historical overview of past city manager and finance personnel decisions and urged the Council to use a qualified professional recruiter and thoroughly vet any applicant before hiring. He also noted that his own planning commission application had not been addressed on the agenda.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment on agenda items was received during discussion of the relevant new business items below.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Audit Update

Finance Director Becca Harth reported that she and Mayor Bade met with the city's auditor earlier in the month to work through outstanding requirements for the FY 2023–24 audit. All requested documentation was submitted to the auditor at the end of the prior week. A response was still pending at the time of the meeting.

Mayor Bade noted that the auditor expressed optimism that, if the 2023–24 audit is resolved promptly, the 2024–25 audit could potentially be completed by the end of the calendar year, with the final outstanding audit completed by June bringing the city fully current. Mayor Bade clarified for the public that the Finance Director's role in the audit process is to provide documentation and respond to auditor requests, not to conduct the audit itself, which is performed independently by the external auditor. Records are organized by month and tested statistically by the auditor. A potential qualification related to ODOT payments was noted as the primary outstanding issue being worked toward resolution.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 2026-09 Authorizing the City Manager/City Manager Pro-Tem to Administer and Enforce the Garibaldi Municipal Code

The Council considered Resolution No. 2026-09, which authorizes the City Manager or City Manager Pro-Tem to administer and enforce the Garibaldi Municipal Code, issue citations for municipal code violations, and coordinate enforcement proceedings. Harth indicated no known roadblocks to implementation and noted that coordination with the county justice court or the port was being explored for citation processing.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-09 Authorizing the City Manager/City Manager Pro-Tem to Administer and Enforce the Garibaldi Municipal Code.

- **Moved by: Councilor Gierga**
- **Seconded by: Porter**
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

2. First & Second Reading of Ordinance No. 338 an Ordinance Approving a Franchise Agreement with Hunter Communications for Communication Services

Mayor Bade noted that Ordinance No. 338, granting Hunter Communications and Technologies LLC a nonexclusive communications services franchise, could not be adopted at this meeting. The ordinance was not provided to the public at least one week in advance with public notice, as required. The title was read for the first reading:

An Ordinance Granting Hunter Communications and Technologies LLC a Nonexclusive Communication Services Franchise.

The ordinance will be read by title a second time at the next regular meeting, at which point the Council may consider adoption. Council members noted that Hunter Communications offers fiber optic internet and landline

service both residential and commercial with month-to-month service, 24-hour customer support, and affordability plans. Service is not expected to be available until 2028.

3. Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 338 an Ordinance Approving Franchise Agreement with Hunter Communications for Communication Services

Adoption was not considered at this meeting. The matter is deferred to the next regular Council meeting pending completion of the required two reading processes.

4. First & Second Reading of Ordinance No. 339 an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 145 Section 2 to Identify, Regulate, and Abate Public Nuisances for the Protection of Public Health, Safety, Peace, and Welfare

Mayor Bade conducted both the first and second readings of Ordinance No. 339 by title:

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 145, Section 2 Related to Keeping Excessive Number of Fowl.

Having satisfied all required procedural prerequisites, including advance public notice, the Council proceeded to consider adoption.

5. Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 339 an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 145 Section 2 to Identify, Regulate, and Abate Public Nuisances for the Protection of Public Health, Safety, Peace, and Welfare

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 339, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 145, Section 2 related to keeping excessive number of fowl.

- **Moved by: Councilor Gierga**
- **Seconded by: Shattuck**
- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

6. Consideration of City Manager Application

Mayor Bade advised the Council that one unsolicited city manager's application had been received, although no formal recruitment had been advertised. She outlined the options available: take no action, hold the application and conduct an independent recruitment, or engage a professional recruiting firm. She further noted that to consider the application in executive session, certain procedural steps including the public approval of candidate evaluation criteria would first need to be completed.

The Council discussed the merits of independent recruitment versus using a professional firm. Several members expressed a preference to first attempt a self-directed recruitment effort before committing to the cost of an outside recruiter. One councilor expressed a continued preference for professional assistance. Mayor Bade referenced that Manzanita's recent recruitment through a professional firm yielded a candidate without traditional city manager experience, suggesting that the field of qualified applicants may be limited regardless of the recruitment method.

The Council agreed that a special meeting would be called for September 28, 2026, at 4:00 PM, in conjunction with the previously scheduled town hall, for the purpose of reviewing and formally approving the city manager position description and evaluation criteria. Following that approval, Harth, serving in the City Manager Pro-Tem capacity, will be directed to advertise the position independently. The Council agreed to determine the application deadline at the September 28 meeting. Suggestions were made to also post the listing with the League of Oregon Cities and the Oregon City Managers Association.

K. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Finance Director / City Manager Pro-Tem Becca Harth reported ongoing code enforcement activity, response to public complaints, and evaluation of grant opportunities, including one being developed in partnership with the fire department. She noted that planning and development matters had required significant attention during the prior month. Harth confirmed that the City Planner had been on-site the prior Tuesday, and that the first planning commission meeting is scheduled for October 13 at 4:00 PM, with agendas and notices to be distributed to commission members. That initial meeting will focus on orientation, roles, and procedures rather than formal training.

The Council expressed concern regarding the delay in convening the planning commission and the lack of proactive communication from the contract City Planner. Mayor Bade and several councilors agreed that a

planning commission meeting should not require the planner's presence and encouraged the commission to organize independently if necessary.

M. DEPARTMENT HEAD MATTERS

The Fire Department reported that an open house is planned for October 3 in conjunction with the Garibaldi Emergency Volunteers. Activities will include a ham radio demonstration, fire prevention materials and handouts for children, a coloring contest in local schools with prizes, a 911 demonstration, and a potential visit from the bloodmobile. Firefighters also completed hydrant testing throughout the city and rural district, with all hydrants confirmed operational with one exception.

The Public Works Department reported that the one-ton truck is currently out of service due to a failed driveline and is also being inspected for suspension and brake issues. The vehicle is approaching the end of its useful service life, and Mayor Bade directed that replacement be included in the upcoming budget process.

Finance Director Harth confirmed that mold remediation work at City Hall is scheduled for Wednesday at 9:00 AM.

N. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION REPORTS

No affiliated organization reports were presented.

O. COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Councilor Corey expressed a desire to see city business moving at a faster pace. She also inquired about the status of a draft immigration-related proclamation and whether it had been made available to the public. Harth confirmed a condensed version had been prepared, and Mayor Bade committed to distributing it for public review prior to the September 28 town hall, where it will be a discussion topic.

Councilor Tom Porter noted plans to attend the League of Oregon Cities conference the following month.

Mayor Bade introduced the topic of city-branded merchandise ("swag"), noting resident and visitor interest in Garibaldi-branded apparel and goods. She proposed that the city consider purchasing a stock of branded items such as hats, shirts, and pens potentially funded through Tourism and Recreation Tax (TRT) revenues, with items sold at a modest markup to recover costs. She indicated that the city's logo and the ongoing wayfinding project would need to be addressed before any orders are placed and asked the Council to be prepared to discuss the matter at the next regular meeting.

P. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Linda Bade adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

ATTEST:



Becca Harth, City Manager Pro Tem/Finance Director



Linda Bade, Mayor