



CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Information and updates for the Mayor and City Council

May 22, 2026

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Meeting/Event	Date	Time	Location
<i>May 27 – No meeting</i>			
<i>Budget Committee, 5:30 p.m.</i> City Council Business Meeting	June 3, 2026	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
City Council Work Session	June 10, 2026	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
<i>Executive Session, 5 p.m.</i> City Council Business Meeting	June 17, 2026	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual

[View the Full Council Schedule Here](#)

Public Agency & Community Partner Updates

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

The latest **LOC Bulletin** is now available. Highlights from this edition include:

- **May Election Results:** Review the League’s analysis of Tuesday’s election, which featured more than 100 measures impacting local governments across the state.
- **State Economists Release Latest Forecast:** Oregon’s quarterly revenue forecast is now available, offering policymakers insight into the state’s economic outlook and anticipated revenues. This quarter’s report reflects a sluggish economy, elevated energy prices, and a relatively high unemployment rate compared to other states.
- **Grant Opportunities:**
 - The Oregon Department of Transportation is offering funding opportunities to support planning efforts and projects aimed at reducing emissions.



- Oregon's new Affordable Housing Premium Assistance Program is now accepting applications through June 14.
- The League of Oregon Cities is partnering with Syncurrent to help Oregon cities more efficiently identify, qualify for, and pursue state and federal funding opportunities.

Department Updates

Transportation Safety & Connectivity Update

Councilors are invited to review the latest **Transportation Safety Status Update**, which outlines progress on key efforts to improve how people move safely and efficiently throughout our city.

A coordinated set of transportation project areas is underway to make it safer and easier to walk, bike, and travel across the community, while closing key network gaps and modernizing standards. This memo highlights progress on new bikeway and walkway connections, targeted slow-speed and safe-crossing improvements, and updated engineering and transportation standards to better serve all users.

Read on for an overview of these projects, what's been accomplished, what's coming next, and how community input will help shape priorities this fall.

Bend Advocates for Local Flexibility in State Housing Rules

The City of Bend recently submitted **comments** to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development regarding implementation of House Bills 2138 and 2258.

The City's primary request is that the state allow cities to apply local development standards in place of state standards when those standards are more flexible and better support housing production. The City emphasized its long-standing leadership in advancing innovative housing strategies and highlighted concerns about several proposed requirements.

Planning Commission & Neighborhood District Roundtable – June 22

On June 22, the Planning Commission will host a roundtable with Neighborhood District Land Use Chairs to discuss opportunities for neighborhood-scale commercial uses in existing residential areas.

Councilors are invited to review the full **memo** from Renee Brooke, Planning Manager.



This conversation responds to City Council direction from its January 14, 2026 work session and will focus on how Bend’s Development Code currently regulates neighborhood commercial sites and how those standards may impact the ability for smaller-scale businesses to locate within neighborhoods. The goal is to explore ideas that could support thoughtful, compatible commercial uses while maintaining neighborhood character.

In advance of the meeting, City staff will provide background materials and questions to help Neighborhood Districts gather input and share perspectives during the discussion.

The roundtable will take place during a Planning Commission work session (no public testimony) from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, with a hybrid attendance option available.

Staff will also provide a brief update on recent changes to state law related to public notice requirements for land use applications.

Grand Opening Showcases Public Works in Action



The Public Works Campus Grand Opening was a great success, welcoming more than 400 community members to the new campus on Thursday, May 14. Attendees enjoyed public art installations, guided facility tours, food trucks and a variety of family-friendly activities. The event highlighted the important work of Public Works while offering an engaging, behind-the-scenes look at daily operations.

A community member provided this feedback the following day:

“This is just a short note to say how much we enjoyed and learned at the event yesterday. I expected to dart in/out in an hour, but we were there from 4-6:30.

My thanks to Dustin (did I remember that right?) in vehicle maintenance in the Fleet building and Joe (sewer maintenance) in Operations for their time, patience and sharing their expertise.



We also appreciated meeting the art installation artists. Best wishes to all of them for continued future success.

PS - Please make this a yearly event, with a teaching aspect - either as a series of classes or an all-day event with seminars. We could have learned so much more."

Celebrating Continuous Improvement: 2026 Spark! Awards

The City of Bend recently held its second annual **Spark! Continuous Improvement Awards**, recognizing employees who are driving positive change in how we serve our community. For the past five years, the Spark! program has empowered staff across the organization to improve processes, enhance services, and build a culture of continuous improvement.

This year's event featured 33 nominations representing 141 employees, with more than half showcasing cross-departmental collaboration.

Councilors are invited to review the **nominees/winners** and watch the **Golden Sparky Video**.

2026 Spark! Award Winners Summary:

This year's Spark! Awards recognized innovative efforts across the organization:

- **Service Superstar Award:** *Lindsay Wengloski* – for leading the Citywide Language Access Program, expanding translation services and improving equitable access for the community.
- **Better Together Award:** Fire & Rescue Dispatch Alerting System Team – for successfully implementing a new alerting system with no service downtime through strong cross-departmental collaboration. The project improved audio and visual capabilities, enhanced safety and response readiness for crews, and remained under budget.
- **Firefly Award:** *Permit Center & Housing Team* – for creating simple, customer-focused handouts that help community members more easily access services and resources. These improvements respond directly to customer needs and make navigating City services more intuitive.
- **Paddle Through the Rapids Award:** *Parking Code Team* – for navigating complex technical, operational, and policy challenges to implement a new parking code. Their persistence resulted in a more transparent, consistent system and improved coordination between departments and Municipal Court.
- **MacGyver Award:** *KC Mastrud* – for creative, cost-effective solutions that improve efficiency and safety in water system repair and replacement. KC relocated a valve-turning system from a trailer to a truck bed, improving maneuverability on narrow streets, enhancing both crew safety and operational efficiency without requiring new resources.



- **Golden Sparky Award:** *Water Repair & Rehab Program Team* – for developing an in-house program to prioritize water system upgrades using existing tools and staff expertise, improving infrastructure planning while saving significant consultant costs.

A special thank you goes to the Spark! Team: Rachel Ruppel, Stephanie Byrne, Kaitlin Ikenberry, and Amy Willis, for organizing the event and championing continuous improvement efforts year-round.

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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1 1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.