

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information and updates for the Mayor and City Council

February 6, 2026

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Meeting/Event	Date	Time	Location
City Council Work Session	February 11, 2026	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
City Council Business Meeting (follows Executive Session)	February 18, 2026	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
City Council Work Session	February 25, 2026	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
Advisory Body/Council Summit	February 26, 2026	4-6 p.m.	Public Works Campus (Prowell Springs Room, 3 rd Floor)

[View the Full Council Schedule Here](#)

Public Agency & Community Partner Updates

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

Read the most recent [LOC Bulletin here](#). Of note,

- **Legislative Session:** The 2026 legislative session is underway, and cities are encouraged to engage on key bills related to transient lodging tax, small city infrastructure grants, and local and state rules on autonomous vehicles and associated technologies.
- **Released Reports:** LOC Property Tax Report has been released, providing data on property taxes for cities and other local governments. The State Revenue and Economic Forecast has been released.



- **New Energy Incentive:** The Oregon Department of Energy is planning a Building Energy Reduction Incentive for large buildings.

Milken Institute Names Bend–Redmond a Top-Performing U.S. Metro

Katy Brooks, Economic Development Officer, and Cyrus Mooney, Business Development Manager, recently met with the author of The Milken Institute's *2025 Best Performing Cities Report*. Councilors are invited to read the full **meeting notes**.

The report ranks the Bend–Redmond metro area 4th nationally, highlighting strong economic momentum driven by labor market conditions, high-tech growth, and access to economic opportunity. The ranking evaluates 13 indicators, including employment and wage growth, industry concentration, and regional competitiveness.

Key strengths include a strong labor market supported by expanding education and health services. Recreation and healthcare remain the region's largest employers, supporting baseline employment stability. Financial services are growing quickly and contribute to a more diversified and stable economic base. Bend's expanding professional and business services sector further strengthens performance in the report's high-tech and knowledge-based employment category, helping balance an otherwise cyclical economic base.

The report also identifies economic diversification, broadband subscription access, and housing supply as critical factors for sustained regional performance, and discusses potential future impacts from artificial intelligence and automation.

Department Updates

February Bend Buzz! Employee Newsletter

In this edition of the **Bend Buzz!**:

- **A fresh look for the City of Bend!** The Communications Department has officially launched the City's updated brand and new **website**. A big thank-you to the many staff members who contributed to this major milestone.
- **Upcoming Trainings:** Upcoming Trainings on skill-building, process improvement and professional development are being offered in February and March. All employees will be assigned training to review the new 2026 Employee Handbook updates and changes. Two additional dates have been added for the staff Anti-Harassment Training.
- **Join PRIDE in Public Service:** Connect with colleagues at a February Lunch & Learn hosted by PRIDE in Public Service, a City Employee Resource Group (ERG).



- **Employee Resource Groups:** The Employee Experience Program is supporting employees who want to launch new Employee Resource Groups.
- **Metal Shop Staff Resources:** The Public Works Facility Metal Shop offers in-house production support to help staff complete critical repairs efficiently and cost-effectively.

January Social Media and Media Report

For the month of January, the top community topics and themes observed in media and social media by the Communications & Engagement Department included:

- **Construction Projects:** Updates to the various road construction projects occurring throughout the community.
- **Temporary Safe Stay Update:** The City and Deschutes County agree to move forward with extending the Temporary Safe Stay area for six months.
- **Flock Cameras:** Bend City Council decided not to renew the contract with Flock.

For more information, including media coverage of the City and social media engagement, see the **January Social Media and Media Monitoring Report**.

View Previous City Manager's Reports



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.