



# CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Information and updates for the Mayor and City Council

May 8, 2026

## Upcoming Events & Meetings

Meeting/Event	Date	Time	Location
<b>City Council Work Session</b> Art in Public Places Reception at 6 p.m.	May 13, 2026	4-5:45 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
<b>Public Contracts Subcommittee Meeting</b>	May 19, 2026	3 p.m.	Virtual
<i>Executive Session (start time pending)</i> <b>City Council Business Meeting</b>	May 20, 2026	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
<i>May 27 – No meeting</i>			
Budget Committee <i>(start time pending)</i> <b>City Council Business Meeting</b>	June 3, 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:

**LOC Opportunities:** The League of Oregon Cities is offering virtual trainings on public contracting, grant writing, and Oregon land use planning. Further, registration is open for the 2026 Oregon City/County Management Association’s summer conference in Ashland, July 7-10. Additionally, the LOC and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development are co-hosting a May 20 webinar on changes made to the state’s One-Time Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Program.



---

**Free Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is continuing to offer a free “Real Water Technical Assistance” program intended to help drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities and local governments address infrastructure and compliance challenges.

---

## Department Updates

### ***City Awarded Housing Infrastructure Financing Program Grant***

The City of Bend has been **awarded** \$350,000 in grant funding from Business Oregon through the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program (HIFP) to support affordable housing. This program supports partnerships between local governments and affordable housing developers to address critical infrastructure needs that could otherwise delay housing projects. While HIFP typically operates as a revolving loan fund, the City received this funding as a grant, making the award especially impactful.

The City of Bend submitted three applications in support of local developers, but due to funding constraints and competition from across the State of Oregon, one application was awarded. The grant funds will be passed through to Thistle & Nest to support on-site infrastructure improvements at their Larch Grove development, which will provide 13 homes for households earning up to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

The funds will be used for improvements to Thistle & Nest’s site, including paved vehicular approaches and access roads, a fire turnaround, public and private pedestrian pathways, water service laterals and improvements, sanitary sewer laterals and connections, stormwater improvements, grading, and electrical improvements. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall.

For more information, contact Chris Ogren, Grant Coordinator, at [cogren@bendoregon.gov](mailto:cogren@bendoregon.gov)

---

### ***AA+ Rating for City Water Revenue Bonds Reaffirmed***

The Finance Department is pleased to report that Standard & Poor’s Global (S&P Global Ratings) has **affirmed the City’s “AA+” rating** on its Water Revenue Bonds, with a stable outlook.

According to S&P Global Ratings, key factors supporting this strong rating include:

- Continued strength in financial performance, particularly debt service coverage.
- Demonstrated water conservation efforts, amid some water scarcity risk.
- Stable reserve levels, including rate stabilization and debt coverage reserves.
- Comprehensive capital planning and long-range financial planning that accounts for cost of service, future water demand, and proactive asset life extension.



This affirmation reflects the City's sound financial management and ongoing commitment to maintaining reliable, resilient water infrastructure.

For additional information, contact Samantha Nelson, Chief Financial Officer (snelson@bendoregon.gov).

---

## ***Neighborhood Commercial: Status Update and Next Steps***

As a follow-up to the January Council work session on this topic, the City continues to advance short-, medium-, and long-term actions to support neighborhood-scale commercial uses. The **attached memo** from Sarah Hutson, Senior Policy Analyst, provides a status update on these efforts, including legislative changes, ongoing market analysis, longer-term planning groundwork, and preparation for a Planning Commission and Neighborhood District Roundtable next month.

---

## ***May Bend Buzz! Employee Newsletter Highlights***

Highlights from the May edition of the employee newsletter, **Bend Buzz!**:

**Employee Recognition:** In recognition of Public Service Recognition Week, Mayor Melanie Kebler and City Manager Eric King express appreciation for City of Bend employees and their continuing work to keep the community safe, connected, and thriving. The May newsletter also highlights the Golden Sparky Award video winner and includes a Save the Date for the 2026 Citywide Employee Appreciation Event, scheduled for Wednesday, July 29.

**Draft Mission, Vision, and Values:** Following the March One City Action Labs, SSW Consultants shared a draft Mission, Vision, and Values for the organization. The draft is provided in the newsletter and is currently under review.

**DocAccess Launch:** The City has launched DocAccess, improving accessibility and readability of PDF documents on the City website.

**Employee Engagement & Culture:** The City welcomes a new Employee Resource Group, Hablamos!, designed to support employees interested in practicing and using Spanish at any proficiency level.

**Volunteers Needed:** Sign-ups will be available soon for employees interested in volunteering at the City's Summer Pride 2026 booth.

**Public Works Campus Grand Opening:** The City will host an open house celebrating the new Public Works Campus on Thursday, May 14, featuring public art, facility tours, family-friendly activities, and recognition of 100 years of City water services. Additional details are available on the City website.



---

**Office Moves & Facility Updates:** Several departments and conference rooms have relocated. A summary is available on page 9 of the newsletter.

**Policy Update – Physical Access Control:** A new Physical Access Control Policy is being implemented to enhance safety and security at City facilities.

**Arbor Day:** In partnership with students at Pacific Crest Middle School and community members, the City planted 31 new trees near the school.

**Employee Appointment:** Bend Fire & Rescue has appointed Drew Whyte as Deputy Chief of Prevention and Fire Marshal.

**Bend Police Department Awards:** Bend Police Department received two awards from the Oregon DUII Multi-Disciplinary Training Task Force: 2025 Enforcement Agency of the Year and Officer Zachary Childers was named 2025 DUII Officer of the Year.

**Council Update:** Mayor Kebler shares highlights from the April City Council meeting, including updates on electrification initiatives, a neighborhood traffic diverter pilot, traffic safety cameras, wildfire-resilient building standards, and more.

---

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.