



CITY OF PRINEVILLE
Regular Meeting Brief
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City Council Meeting Brief
March 10, 2026

Council Members Present:

Scott Smith
Marv Sumner
Steve Uffelmann
Jerry Brummer

Shane Howard
Jason Beebe
Janet Hutchison

Council Members Absent

None.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Regular Meeting Brief 2-24-2026

Councilor Sumner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded. No discussion on the motion. Motion carried.

Visitors, Appearances, and Requests

John Heylin, new sales representative for Republic Services in Prineville, said he just wanted to introduce himself and see how we work.

No one else came forward. No one online raised a hand.

2. Relocation of the “Y” Spurs – Phil Burgess

Phil Burgess, who has become sort of the team leader of this effort to relocate the Spurs.

Mr. Burgess introduced some of the people in the audience who came regarding this proposed project and are a part of the team.

Ellen Waterson is going to provide a few words and introduce herself. Ellen was responsible for the original construction of Spurs in 1982. She is the catalyst for the idea to relocate Spurs. Seth Crawford, after being advised to talk with the county, immediately stepped up and has become active in the group as well. Councilor Sumner, who first heard of this through the Crook County Foundation Board, has become the liaison for the City Council. Dan McNeary is part of the team, who is not here this evening. Wayne Looney, representing Kiwanis, who provided some of the seed money. Joel Hoff, Interim Crook County School District Superintendent, is also part of the team and here.

Mr. Burgess continued with his presentation, explaining that Ms. Waterson came up with the relocation idea about a year ago. The community effort has grown significantly. We have identified two possible locations. According to Arron Smith, an ODOT, the city has the authority to manage the process of moving Spurs out of the ODOT right of way. The city also has the required performance bond. We have the commitment from Don Profily, Jr., to act as the contractor for the physical moving of Spurs. The idea is to move to the high school, where Dan McNeary's welding class can make the necessary modifications to its base for installation at its new location. Once the modifications to the base have been made it will be in the Round Up parade, transported by Ron Cholin and then transferred to the Crook County Fairgrounds for all to see at the Saturday evening rodeo.

Ms. Waterson explained that she is delighted that there is so much interest in this project, which is vintage Prineville. Prineville is a precious community and hopes to see it keep that way.

Ms. Waterson continued with the history of how Pauline Shelk and herself became interested in public art, and the background on how the Spurs originated. She thinks it would be great to see it in a more visible location since it was student-born and student-constructed.

Seth Crawford, Crook County Commissioner, explained that he learned of this several months ago when it was initially proposed to be in the city plaza. After hearing some community input, quite a few people thought it would be good in the roundabout on Combs Flat Rd. He said the roundabout gets the highest amount of votes to relocate it there. He thinks it might get lost in the background in the plaza, whereas there are hundreds of people through the roundabout every day. Talked about the plaque with all of the original contributors' names and putting a bench right at the trails that go through there, where people could sit and read it, and also doing a new plaque with the names of everyone involved in the relocation effort.

Mr. Crawford complimented the city on the trail system up there and how well it was done.

Joel Hoff, Crook County School District Superintendent, thinks it is a great project and talked of the ways his students can be involved. One is by building bridges between the students and the community. Having the students connect with the legacy of the Spurs. Second, it is for the students to be learning those skills where they are welding and cutting. Working with other industries and partnering with them. It is a great opportunity for students to get connected in the trade.

Wayne Looney, Kiwanis, talked about Matt Wiederhold, Railroad Manager, showing him a bench that had been made of railcar wheels, and Mr. Wiederhold suggested using them in Stryker Park III for benches. Mr. Looney thought it would be worth considering something like that for the bench that Mr. Crawford talked about, since they are also part of the Prineville culture.

Mr. Burgess continued with his PowerPoint presentation that illustrated the two possible locations and has since become fond of the Combs Flat Road roundabout location. He went over the various organizations that support the project, as well as public art aesthetics, especially Western.

There were discussions regarding the Spurs being in the center of the roundabout, being on a different base closer to the ground, and orientation.

Jered Reid, City Attorney, asked for clarification of what the ask to Council is.

Mr. Burgess explained that the ask is to get approval from the Council since there is no clear ownership of the Spurs, and the Council can decide whether it can be relocated or not. ODOT is in favor of it being moved and gave it a big thumbs up, asking to just be informed when it happens.

Mr. Reid asked for further clarification and stated that the Council has not interpreted the ownership of the Spurs.

Mr. Burgess is asking for the Council to approve Spurs being picked up, moved, and managing that process.

Councilor Sumner added that he liked the location next to War Paint, where it can be walked up to and looked at. It can appeal to visitors as well as the residents, as opposed to the Combs Flat Road roundabout or the other locations that they looked at.

Discussions continued regarding this being the start of an effort for other Western public art and if it is up to the Council to decide where it goes. Mr. Reid said right now it is just whether the Council wants to participate in moving the Spurs and not the location, since that requires further work, and that the basic level decision is whether this Council is in agreement to direct public works staff and city administration to work with Mr. Burgess to move this statue/artwork. There are going to be costs associated with this, such as landscaping to support it, safety analysis for potential locations, and additional questions and information before vetting any location, and voting on. The Council can certainly decide on the whole concept of moving the spurs and assisting this committee with city resources, and certainly move forward with that tonight.

Mr. Burgess agreed that it is certainly the central question.

Councilor Brummer stated that he was very involved with War Paint and initially wanted it to go up in the roundabout. When the dedication for War Paint happened, a lot of people said War Paint should really stay in the plaza, because a lot of people will want to look at it and read the

plaque. You don't want people slowing down to look at it there in the roundabout, and he could see the same thing happening here in the Combs Flat roundabout, because people would still have to walk in front of traffic to look at it, and he doesn't think that is a good location. He is in favor of moving the Spurs so they get good exposure. Maybe even the fairgrounds, which would be up to the fairgrounds and the county, there are 150 events a year there.

Mr. Burgess said that he asked Greg Congleton (Maverick and War Paint artist) about this several months ago, who recommended the roundabout or at the flag pole by the high school, and said that the fairgrounds had come up before.

Councilor Howard said that he is confident in voting on whether to move Spurs or not tonight. However, regarding where to put it, feels that maybe if we could get input from constituents, we could put a poll out and see what the people want. He thinks the roundabout is great, but wants to take some time and talk with people, and fully supports moving Spurs.

Councilor Hutchison asked Mr. Reid if kids were climbing on it, and if it is a liability to the city.

Mr. Reid said it is certainly worth looking into, adding that the location tonight is really premature. The question here tonight is whether the Council agrees to have city staff and administration work with this committee to get this project moving. This is what you would be doing.

Council Smith moved to have the city staff participate with Mr. Burgess to relocate Spurs to a yet-to-be-determined spot. Motion seconded. Councilor Uffelmann asked if this means staff, as opposed to the Council, to decide on the siting? Mayor Beebe said no, it is just to assist in moving forward with moving it, and come back later. Councilor Smith said, and to get it to the high school to get it refurbished. Mr. Reid added that recommendations for a location would be forthcoming. No further discussion on the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Presentations

None.

Council Business:

3. Intent to Award Main Street Paving & Stormwater Project – Mike Kasberger

Mike Kasberger, Assistant City Engineer, presented the staff report and provided a project overview.

Mayor Beebe asked which street was going to be a full rebuild.

Mr. Kasberger responded that it will be on South Main Street from the Catholic Church to the Parks & Recreation building. It is a very poor sub-base there, so it is just going to get rebuilt.

Councilor Smith asked who submitted the bids, and Mr. Kasberger read who submitted the bids that were received.

Councilor Smith said he reached out to Mr. Kaiser to make sure that the project wasn't going to interfere with the fairgrounds activities, such as the rodeo, and believes it is June 19th when the project is completed.

Councilor Hutchison moved to approve the intent to award the Main Street Paving and Stormwater Improvements to Taylor Northwest in the amount of \$621,057.11. Motion seconded. No discussion on the motion. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of a Proclamation – Dark Skies Week – Sponsors Councilor Uffelman & Councilor Sumner

Councilor Sumner read the proposed proclamation for consideration of a formal reading.

Mr. Reid clarified that the proclamation would be proclaimed at the March 24th meeting, and asked if Councilor Sumner could provide information on the event.

Councilor Sumner said that this is about creating a better atmosphere without light pollution and Dark Sky Week, and talked about Antelope and Sisters. He likes the proclamation.

Councilor Uffelman asked for a modification in the last portion of the draft proclamation, it says Bend and it should be Prineville.

Mayor Beebe asked during Dark Skies Week if they are asking for everyone to turn off lights to enhance the night sky. Councilor Sumner explained that this is just to bring awareness to the benefits of dark skies.

Discussions continued regarding the meaning and just making the community aware that turning off the lights, and pointing lighting down can be helpful all the time and not just during one week. To look at reducing the amount of light pollution we cause.

Councilor Howard made a motion approving the reading of the Dark Skies Week proclamation at the next Council meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports and Requests:

5. City Manager's Report – Steve Forrester

Steve Forrester, City Manager, presented the report highlighting recent activity in all departments.

Mr. Forrester added an OID and reservoirs update. The Prineville Reservoir is at 70% capacity. It is better than what they had thought it would be, and should be okay this year. A second year of low snow levels is what can really make it bad.

Mr. Forrester provided an update on attending the Governor's Data Center Committee meeting. It was about a three-hour meeting that Councilor Uffelman and he attended, with Mayor Beebe participating virtually. We had a great opportunity to present our experience in Prineville. We were asked a lot of very good questions, and had some really good responses to our answers. He suspects we haven't heard the last from this committee and thanked Mayor Beebe and Councilor Uffelman for their participation.

Councilor Uffelman said that Mr. Forrester did an excellent presentation and that it was well received.

Mayor Beebe wanted to reiterate and mentioned that Jason Chaney put a good article in the Central Oregonian the committee in today's paper. He said that the committee is made up of unbiased people who have nothing to do with the tech industry. They had some really good questions and genuinely do not know anything about the data centers and what they do. A lot of good information came out of it, and it seemed that many were happy with the information they received.

Councilor Smith asked Interim Chief Wilson if they are successful in getting the grant and doing a bike rodeo, and if they could name it the Mark Monroe Bike Rodeo. He explained that he had worked with Mark when he used to put on the bike rodeos.

Interim Chief Wilson said that would be an excellent idea. He used to do the carnival back behind city hall, and has since partnered with the schools to do it.

There were no further questions.

6. Seahale Property Acquisition Discussion – Josh Smith

Josh Smith, Planning Director, announced that he received a call to invite Prineville back to the Governor's Data Center Committee meeting to discuss water.

Mr. Smith said that Parks & Recreation had contacted the city about this property and whether or not we want to take this opportunity.

Mr. Smith went through a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted maps of where the property is. This is a very wet part of town that has drainage problems. With the hazards on the property, it would be hard to develop.

Mr. Smith provided background on the property over the last approximately 20 years, explaining that Parks & Recreation bought it to preserve green space, which took some of their SDC's for capital improvement projects. He then went through the strategic value to the city to acquire.

There were discussions regarding where it could be developed, not being able to dig two feet without hitting water, any city infrastructure that could be installed would be underwater, how the surrounding neighborhood drains, and the big problems it caused.

Councilor Uffelman said that this is an opportunity for floodplain mitigation.

Councilor Brummer added that the best use for this property is floodplain mitigation.

Councilor Howard said there is a reason why private developers haven't developed it. The cost to develop, the cost for flood insurance, and those reasons not making it worth it to develop.

Mr. Smith said we are not looking for a motion to purchase this evening. We are looking for consensus to move forward with the acquisition, and a resolution would come back for an official vote.

Mr. Reid added that if the Council wanted additional information, the Council could do that, or if the Council feels they have enough information to move forward, a resolution could be brought back to the next meeting.

Steve Waring, Crook County Parks & Recreation Director, said this discussion came up about three years ago. They did a comprehensive look into how they can increase capacity and enhance existing facilities. They looked at possibly purchasing properties for more ball fields as the community grows. He thinks it is a win-win solution, and if there were any trails that would be built on the property in the future, they would just be added to the existing Parks & Recreation agreement with the city.

There were discussions about illegal dirt bike riding back on the property, illegal bird hunting, people having signs in their driveways to stay out, gates being put up to keep people from being able to access their neighborhood from this property. Parks & Recreation really doesn't know the best use for the property, and the city can use it for floodplain mitigation.

Mayor Beebe said that he loves the idea of using the property for floodplain mitigation credits.

Mike Warren, Crook County Properties and Realtor of Record for the city, explained that the eight acres that could be developed were an estimate as one of the ways to determine the value of the property.

Council concurred that no further information is needed and to bring a resolution forward.

Council Reports

Councilor Uffelman said the EDCO luncheon was good and wished more people had come.

No further reports.

Ordinances:

None.

Resolutions:

None.

Visitors, Appearances, and Requests:

Mike Warren, Crook County Properties, talked about EDCO and CV International, giving the city amazing kudos for the way the city worked with them. He explained the good working relationship that he has with city staff and how he hears from commercial brokers, not only just in Central Oregon, but even down in the valley, how well they are treated when they call the city for questions.

No one else came forward, and no one online raised a hand.

Adjourn

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. No discussion on the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Motions and Outcomes:

Motion:	Outcome	Beebe	Brummer	Howard	Hutchison	Smith	Sumner	Uffelman
Consent Agenda as Presented	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion to have the city staff participate with Mr. Burgess to relocate Spurs to a yet-to-be-determined spot. Motion seconded. Councilor Uffelman asked if this means staff, as opposed to the Council, to decide on the siting? Mayor Beebe said no, it is just to assist in moving forward with moving it, and come back later. Councilor Smith said, and to get it to the high school to get it refurbished. Mr. Reid added that recommendations for a location would be forthcoming.	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion to approve the intent to award the Main Street Paving and Stormwater Improvements to Taylor Northwest in the amount of \$621,057.11.	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motion approving the reading of the Dark Skies Week proclamation at the next Council meeting	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Adjourn Meeting	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Public Records Disclosure

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<https://www.cityofprineville.com/meetings>.