



City of Molalla
City Council - Regular Meeting
Minutes – October 14, 2026
Molalla Civic Center | 315 Kennel Ave. | Molalla, OR

CALL TO ORDER

The Molalla City Council Regular Meeting for October 14, 2026 was called to order by Mayor Scott Keyser at 6:00 pm.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Scott Keyser, Council President Eric Vermillion, Councilor Leota Childress, Councilor Terry Shankle, Councilor Doug Gilmer, and Councilor Martin Bartholomew, and Councilor K.C. Bisenius.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Dan Huff, City Manager; Mac Corthell, Assistant City Manager; Christie Teets, City Recorder.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2026- 26: Approving a Contract for Landscape Architectural Design Services
- B. Work Session Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2026
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2026
- D. Work Session Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026
- E. City Council Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026
- F. City Council Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2026

ACTION:

Councilor Childress moved approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Councilor Shankle seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

AYES: Gilmer, Shankle, Childress, Vermillion, Bartholomew, Bisenius, Keyser.

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, CEREMONIES

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Recorder Teets shared written testimonies were received after the Council Packet was posted and copies were printed and placed at Council dias for review and would be included in Meeting Minutes as part of Public Record.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Water Use for Fire Response & Training

Assistant City Manager Corthell explained that the City recently became aware that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) had been using an unmetered City fire hydrant for firefighting and training activities, potentially outside City limits, without being billed for the water. After researching the issue and finding no existing agreement, staff developed a proposed approach and requested Council direction. Staff recommended an intergovernmental agreement requiring ODF to meter all water taken from the City system and pay the applicable bulk water rate for use outside its domestic water service, with exceptions for mutual-aid activities within City limits and qualifying fire emergencies threatening Molalla. Mr. Corthell emphasized that metering the water was important to accurately account for system usage and water loss. Council reached consensus directing staff to further research into how other cities handle similar arrangements and consider inviting ODF representatives to a future meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

- **City Recorder Teets:** shared that the Molalla Public Library Board has two vacancies and is accepting applications for appointment, which are available on the City's website. She also announced that the library's bookmobile would be parked at City Hall for downtown trick-or-treating on October 31st.
- **Assistant City Manager Corthell:** provided an update on the Ona Lane construction project, noting most of the work was complete and PGE would address the installed light pole connections soon. He shared that lighting upgrades along Toliver Rd would use Type A LED lighting, which residents had expressed excitement about. In response to Mayor Keyser's question regarding costs, Mr. Corthell explained the City owns and maintains Type B lighting, while PGE owns and maintains Type A lighting, with the City paying the power bill and a smaller portion of maintenance costs. He noted the City is transitioning toward Type A lighting to reduce maintenance costs and workload for Public Works. Mr. Corthell also provided an update on the Council's Dark Skies policy goal, explaining that the City is working toward replacing City-owned lights with Type A lighting as they reach the end of their useful life.
- **City Manager Huff:** reminded Council that he, Mr. Corthell, Mayor Keyser, and Mr. Zinder would be attending the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference Thursday and Friday.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- **Councilor Bisenius:** no report.
- **Councilor Bartholomew:** no report.
- **Councilor Gilmer:** no report.
- **Councilor Shankle:** no report.
- **Councilor Childress:** no report.
- **Council President Vermillion:** thanked Assistant City Manager for his leadership while the City Manager was on vacation.
- **Mayor Keyser:** thanked Assistant City Manager and City Attorney for their work, and expressed appreciation to the City Recorder's Office. He also noted the upcoming League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference and reminded the community to prioritize safety during Halloween activities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Keyser announced Council would enter Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or likely litigation to be filed.

Audience members were advised they could wait for Council to reconvene or leave and follow the City's YouTube livestream for any announcements.

Mayor Keyser recessed City Council Meeting to executive session at 6:24PM

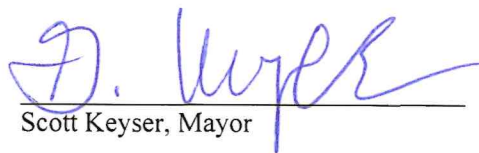
RECONVENE

Mayor Keyser reconvened Council Meeting at 7:12PM confirming no decisions were made during Executive Session.

[For the complete video account of the City Council Meeting, please go to YouTube
City of Molalla | Oregon – October 14, 2026](#)

ADJOURN

Mayor Keyser adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.


Scott Keyser, Mayor

PREPARED BY:


Crystal Robles, Deputy City Recorder

ATTEST:


Christie Teets, CMC - City Recorder

Meeting Minute Attachments:

- Written Testimony
 - Data Center – M. Ruiz
 - Data Center – K. Jaynes
 - Data Center - R. Higginbotham
 - File Z0402-26 Property Line Adjustment - M. Carroll

From: [kimberley.carroll](mailto:kimberley.carroll@clackamas.us)
To: zoninginfo@clackamas.us; Dan Zinder; City Recorder
Subject: Subject: Public Comment – File Z0402-26 (Property Line Adjustment, 32996 S Adams Cemetery Rd)
Date: Sunday, October 11, 2026 6:08:40 PM

Subject: Public Comment – File Z0402-26 (Property Line Adjustment, 32996 S Adams Cemetery Rd)

To: Clackamas County Planning and Zoning zoninginfo@clackamas.us

Cc: City of Molalla, Dan Zinder, Senior Planner dzinder@cityofmolalla.com; City Recorder recorder@cityofmolalla.com

Dear Planning Staff,

My name is Marleen Carroll, and I own the property at 33258 S Adams Rd, Molalla, OR 97038, near the parcels in File Z0402-26. That application would adjust a property line to expand the City of Molalla's wastewater treatment plant property. I ask that this letter be entered into the record.

My property depends on a well for household and irrigation water. A natural spring also runs through my land. This water supplies the home at 33258 S Adams Rd and is used to grow crops on the farm land. We depend on this water staying clean.

The application does not say how the City intends to use the added land. If it will be used for recycled water irrigation or any other wastewater-related purpose, I am concerned about:

1. Groundwater contamination:
Nitrates, bacteria, and other contaminants could reach the aquifer that supplies my well.
2. Contamination of the spring:
Surface runoff or shallow groundwater could carry contaminants into the spring that crosses my property.
3. Harm to crops and farm use:
If my water becomes unusable or unsafe for irrigation, the land may no longer be farmable, and its value could be harmed.

I respectfully request that:

- The City states in writing how it intends to use the added land, both now and in the future.
- The County considers these impacts on neighboring farm use and water resources when reviewing this application, and attach appropriate conditions if approved.
- If the land will receive recycled water, the City commit to:
 - adequate setbacks and buffers from my property line, well, and spring;
 - baseline testing of my well and spring before any application begins, and periodic testing afterward, at the City's expense;
 - groundwater monitoring with the results shared with me.
- The City provides a copy of its current DEQ permit and recycled water management plan for this site.

- I receive notice of the decision on this application and of any future land use applications or permit changes involving this property.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Marleen Carroll

Owner, 33258 S Adams Rd, Molalla, OR 97038
6930 SW Tierra Del Mar, Beaverton, OR 97007
kimanncarroll1969@gmail.com

From: [mari ruiz](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: NO data center
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 10:29:05 PM

To whom it may concern;

I am writing this to express my deep opposition to building a data center in Molalla. I believe it will do detrimental damage to the land, wildlife, and community who call this place home. I strongly believe that building a data center in our small town is completely unnecessary and unreasonable “growth”, and is not beneficial to the people of Molalla. A data center would destroy everything we love about Molalla, and for what? How does it benefit the citizens of Molalla? The risk out-ways the reward (if there even is one).

Some may argue that it would be beneficial in creating job opportunities. Maybe, but few and far between and the permanent damage and irreversible effects it has on wildlife and the environment are not worth the employment numbers to me. Small businesses, that’s valuable employment opportunity. That is the kind of job opportunities Molalla strives for. Don’t allow a data center to destroy this amazing town.

Please, vote yes for a moratorium!

Below I have pasted an ironic statement that is posted on the City of Molalla website. Please, remember what this town is valued for.

Thank you for your time.
Maricela Dewald

From: [kari.jaynes](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: data center moratorium
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 7:32:20 PM

We are in favor of a moratorium on data centers in Molalla. The noise the use of water and electricity is insufficient to support these centers. The areas in our city are too close to neighborhoods. Also in other places the cost of electricity ski rockets for residents. We cannot afford the water use or the cost to residents. Please consider a moratorium for our city.

We have lived here over 30 years and we feel the data centers would affect property values and the livability of our city. Thank you, Kari and Jeff Jaynes

From: [Ron Higginbotham](#)
To: [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Fwd: Data Center Moratorium
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 6:38:03 AM

This didn't show as received on Wednesday.
Ron Higginbotham

Begin forwarded message

From: Ron Higginbotham <ronhigginbotham@ymail.com>
Date: October 7, 2026 at 09:14:26 PDT
To: communityplanner@molalla.city.gov
Subject: Data Center Moratorium

I wish to submit my desire to have the City of Molalla establish a moratorium on any Data Center development in the or around the city. The development of a Data Center will put unneeded stress on an already stressed water supply for Molalla, and all cities downstream on the Molalla River. If not just because of the amount of water available, but the purity of that water supply. Please vote to install a moratorium immediately and make it last indefinitely.

Ron Higginbotham
1820 Toliver Rd
Molalla OR 97038