



**A. OPEN COUNCIL WORK SESSION.**

Mayor Joshua Drake opened the work session at 6:30 PM at the Bridgeport Church.

**B. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

Councilors present: Mayor Joshua Drake, Council President Leslie Gifford, Councilors Gary Paul, David Streicher (via Teams), and Sean Lee

Councilors absent: None

Staff present: City Administrator Jordan Parente, Administrative Assistant Wyatt Bean

Visitors: CWS Interim Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Rick Shanley, CWS Chief Utility Relations Officer Joe Gall, CWS Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Leader

**C. CLEAN WATER SERVICES RATE PRESENTATION.**

Clean Water Services (CWS) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Kathleen Leader, with support from CWS Chief Utility Relations Officer Joe Gall and CWS Interim Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Rick Shanley, presented the results of their cost-of-service study, financial plan, and projected rates. They explained a cost allocation review started in 2021 to reevaluate how sanitary sewer and surface water management costs are divided between regional and local services. CFO Leader reported that Durham's average monthly residential combined sanitary sewer and stormwater rate was \$66.95 in 2026 and was proposed to increase to \$71.23 in 2027, a \$4.28 monthly increase, or 6.4 percent. CWS representatives noted that projected future rates could change and emphasized efforts to moderate increases by limiting staffing growth, smoothing capital spending, and using reserves. They also explained that Durham customers pay both regional rates, which support treatment plants, large infrastructure, and broader regulatory and restoration work, and local rates, which support services such as sewer cleaning, inspections, street sweeping, and stormwater maintenance provided directly in Durham.

CWS representatives further explained that local sanitary sewer and stormwater rates had not fully covered program costs, making reserve use necessary to avoid steeper short-term increases. The average Durham customer's local sanitary increase was described as roughly \$2 per month. In response to Councilor Paul, CWS representatives confirmed that the comparison chart reflected Durham's proposed 2027 rate, while other cities were shown at their current 2026 rates pending completion of their own budget processes. They also reviewed major capital and reserve trends, noting substantial planned sanitary sewer and surface water investments over the current and next five years, followed by a gradual rebuilding of reserves. They concluded by outlining the upcoming rate adoption schedule, with board action on methodology and reserve policy set for April 14, budget review in May, final rate adoption in June, and implementation on July 1, 2026. It was noted that Clean Water Services is also beginning a utility billing feasibility study that could include customer assistance options.

**D. DURHAM 60TH CELEBRATION 4TH OF JULY CIVIC EVENT.**

City Administrator Parente introduced a discussion of options for a July 4<sup>th</sup> event at Durham Park to recognize the City's 60th anniversary. He explained that the City had already included a notice in the Spring newsletter because the Summer newsletter will likely be too late to provide sufficient notice. The

preliminary concept is a midday gathering from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with modest refreshments provided, such as ice cream or shaved ice.

Council discussed the event's purpose and scale. Mayor Drake supported a casual format similar to the City's 50th anniversary celebration. Councilor Paul suggested lawn games, and Councilor Streicher suggested small commemorative items bearing Durham's name/logo. City Administrator Parente stated that such ideas could be considered during the upcoming budget process and invited additional suggestions for the April 28 budget meeting.

Council also discussed whether to offer food beyond dessert items. Councilor Streicher asked about serving hamburgers and hot dogs, while City Administrator Parente noted that doing so would increase both cost and logistical complexity. Mayor Drake asked that staff gather more information on potential costs.

Councilor Lee suggested using the celebration not only as a social event but also as a community engagement opportunity, with possible participation from partner agencies such as police, fire, Clean Water Services, and Metro. Mayor Drake and Councilor Streicher agreed that the event could help connect residents with the City and other agencies.

City Administrator Parente noted that limited staff capacity would affect the event's scope and said volunteers or Planning Commission participation could help. Council President Gifford emphasized keeping costs low considering broader budget pressures, including upcoming police contract negotiations. Council generally agreed that staff should continue developing options and return with additional cost and concept information during the budget process.

#### **E. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**

Under miscellaneous items, Mayor Drake reported that he had met with Washington County Commissioner Jason Snyder regarding a proposed county vehicle registration fee increase and would forward additional information to the Council. City Administrator Parente noted that a portion of the revenue would go to cities. He also added that Commissioner Snyder's office had contacted the City about appearing before the Council later in the year, likely in November.

City Administrator Parente also shared legislative and administrative updates, noting that the League of Oregon Cities was expected to provide a summary of the recent short session regarding some enacted bills that would affect cities. However, a beneficial update to the transient lodging tax (TLT) does not impact cities, like Durham, where it is not collected. Administrative Assistant Wyatt Bean reported that the City had received a draft intergovernmental agreement from Metro for the Local Share grant and that staff would review it and prepare any needed edits in advance of contract execution.

City Administrator Parente reminded the Council of the April 25 bulky waste pickup day and invasive weed-pulling event at the treed lot, noting that staff may do some cutting in advance to make volunteer work more manageable. He stated that prior weed-pulling events had drawn a couple dozen participants. He also noted upcoming outside events, including Pride Disposal's 40th anniversary event on March 31 and a Family Peace Center event on April 30.

City Administrator Parente then briefed the Council on early discussions regarding the upcoming Tualatin police services contract, reporting that the initial proposal reflected a significant first-year increase tied to a shift in the designated officer pay step used for the contract. He explained that he has responded with a counterproposal between the historic and proposed amounts.

Council also discussed whether to explore alternatives to Tualatin police service. City Administrator Parente stated that the current agreement spanned five years. Council President Gifford noted that prior annual increases had generally been around 4 percent and explained that Durham-specific police reporting is limited because Durham is grouped within a broader service area. City Administrator

Parente said he has discussed possible service options with the County Sheriff's Office but does not have a written proposal. Council agreed that alternative providers could be reviewed for comparison, while recognizing the value of the City's existing relationship with Tualatin.

**F. ADJOURN.**

Mayor Drake adjourned the work session at 7:24 PM.

**Approved:**

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**Joshua Drake, MAYOR**

**Attest:**

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**Jordan Parente, CITY ADMINISTRATOR/RECORDER**