

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
MINUTES
May 15, 2023**

Mayor Tonya Graham called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present. Councilor Dahle was not present.

1. New Senior Staff Introductions

The council met with new senior staff.

2. Public Input – None

3. 2023–2025 BN Budget Funding Priorities

Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta provided a presentation on the BN 2023–2025 Unfunded Priorities (see attached):

- Unfunded Needs in Priority Order
- Grant Money
- Questions

Council talked through their priorities. Wildfire fighting, hiring a fire marshal, a fire training officer, and EMS staff took precedence. City Manager Joe Lessard addressed **8. 4 Single Role EMS Staff**. He recommended waiting until the second year of the biennium to see where the revenue was then deciding how many positions to hire. He also suggested focusing on items 1–8 and see what funds remained for item **9. Deferred Maintenance City Hall (Grade F)**.

Council discussed wildfire funding for community members and the need for additional support, possibly from citizens. Concern was expressed regarding residents under property management companies that refuse to address fire mitigation. Mr. Lessard would look into the weed abatement and nuisance ordinances. Council added **10. Additional Wildfire Funding** to the list.

Staff explained **3. Tyler Cloud Hosting**, MUNIS, provided critical infrastructure for utility billing. The city was behind in maintaining systems. Current maintenance drained Innovation Technology Department staff time as well.

Staff summarized the list, 1–8 and 10 would be addressed with 9, and 11–13 rolled into a contingency. Council discussed the economic development position and having staff continue to perform that position's duties but bring back a gap analysis to a future meeting. Council agreed to looking at it later.

Council went on to discuss grant funding and possibly allocating more to the Chamber of Commerce's Travel Ashland grant. Council wanted to retain the small grant funds and postponed the discussion.

Council discussed using the ending fund balance on the electric utility for weatherization. Electric Department Director Tom McBartlett explained the excess was going towards not increasing rates for this year and possibly the next. Ms. Cotta added they could use conservation credits, not utility rates, to move conservation efforts forward. Council wanted a program that would help citizens understand and connect the programs available to them.

Councilor Kaplan expressed his disappointment with the conversation loan program and suggested a study session dedicated to the issue.

4. Oregon Urban Rural Community Forestry Project Presentation

Climate and Energy Analyst Chad Woodward introduced Mike Oxendine, the head of the non-profit organization Oregon Urban Rural Community Forestry. Mr. Oxendine provided background on his organization. He was seeking a letter of support from council to apply for grant funding from the Inflation Recovery Act grant. The timeline was short with a deadline of June 1, 2023, to apply for grant funding. He provided the following presentation (see attached):

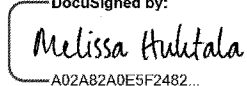
- Oregon Urban Rural & Community Forestry
- How Are We Doing? Urban Forest
- Logo and Partner Logos
- Street Tree Inventory
- Structure of the Urban Forest – Tree Diversity Age and Species
- Percentage of Trees by Species
- Urban Forestry Maser Plan
- The Future of Southern Oregon's Urban Forest What We need.

Mr. Oxendine explained how tree mortality occurred and its impact on the health of people. Alternately, trees increased mental health, energy expenditures, and provided protection from wind events, and firestorms. Since the Almeda fire, the city of Talent documented a 62-degree difference without tree canopy. Council appreciated the information and would sign the letter of support during the business meeting on May 16, 2023.

5. Adjournment of Study Session

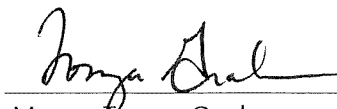
The Study Session adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

DocuSigned by:

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City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:


Mayor Tonya Graham



BN 2023–2025 Unfun Priorities

Unfunded Needs in Priority Order

Priority #	Item	Department	
1	Fire Marshall	Fire Department	\$101,920 +
2	Fire Training Officer	Fire Department	\$97,065 +
3	Tyler Cloud Hosting	Finance/DoIT	\$150,000
4	Incode Update	Courts	\$10,000
5	Server Operating System Updates	DoIT	\$40,000
6	Network Infrastructure Upgrades	DoIT	\$215,000
7	Pre-Approved ADU plans	Community Development	\$15,000
8	4 Single Role EMS staff	Fire Department	\$301,348 +
9	Deferred Maintenance City Hall (Grade F)	City-wide	\$10,000,000
10.	Deferred Maintenance Council Chambers (Grade D)	City-wide	\$1,000,000
11.	Additional funding or Community Center (Grade F) and Pioneer Hall (Grade D)	City-wide	?

Grant Money

Fund	Type	Description	Funds	2024
General Fund	Community	Firewide program	Restricted	\$ 1,264,700 \$
	Community	Fire operations - assistance to firefighters	Restricted	92,500
	Community	Police Traffic Grants	Restricted	14,000
	Social Services	Non-profit grant applications, ie houseless resources	Unrestricted	67,000
Tourism Fund	Tourism	Various*	Restricted	586,338
	Tourism	Grant match for business façade improvements	Restricted	175,000
	Tourism	Grant match for traffice control or other event needs	Restricted	100,000
Community Block	Social Services	Community block grants	Restricted	201,812
				\$ 2,501,350 \$
<i>*Major Breakdown of Tourism Grants - Restricted Tourism (Transient Occupance Tax)</i>				
Ashland Chamber of Commerce				446,338
Oregon Shakespeare Festival				60,000
Other				80,000
Total				586,338

QUESTIONS?

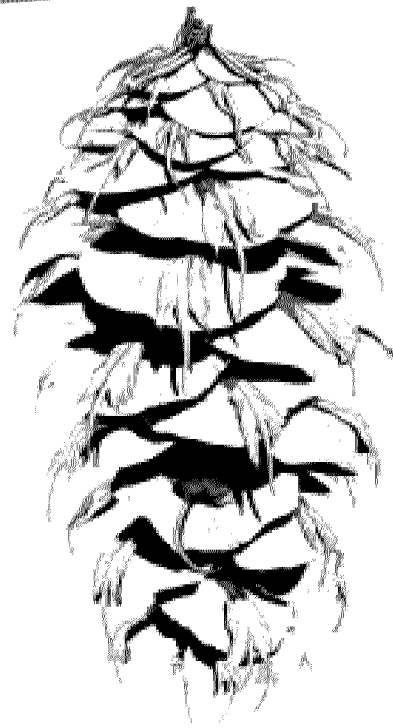




OREGON URBAN RURAL 501 (c)(3) Not-for-profit

HOW ARE WE IMPROVING URBAN

- MORE APPEALING PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK.
- REDUCING URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT.
- MANAGING STORMWATER AND/OR IMPROVING WATER QUALITY.
- IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH.
- REJUVENATING BUSINESS DISTRICTS, THEREBY INCREASING RETAIL SALES AND TAXES.
- ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS (SCHOOL DISTRICTS).
- SAVING ENERGY.
- MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE.
- FOSTERING MORE COHESIVE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS.



OREGON URBAN RURAL
&
COMMUNITY FORESTRY

EST. 2023

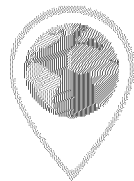
DBH Range

Choose Value



CHARTS AND GRAPHS

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS



Total Tree Value and Savings

Total Annual Monetary Benefit: \$1,807.63

Benefits are only calculated for trees with defined species, DBH, condition, and crown light exposure based on i-Tree research.

CARBON (LIFETIME)



Carbon Storage
1,071,032.20 (lbs) ?

CO₂ Storage
3,927,115.80 (lbs) ?

CO₂ Storage Monetary Benefit
\$91,333.47 ?

CARBON (ANNUAL)



Carbon Monetary Benefit
\$1,512.11 ?

CO₂ Sequestered
65,016.82 (lbs) ?

AIR QUALITY (ANNUAL)



Air Quality Monetary Benefit
\$14.08 ?

Pollutants Removed
394.28 (lbs) ?

STORMWATER (ANNUAL)



Stormwater Monetary Benefit
\$281.44 ?

Runoff Avoided
4,210.37 (ft³) ?

Interception
148,494.33 (ft³) ?



Powered

REPORTS

STREET TR

STRUCTURE OF URBAN FORE

TREE DIVERSITY AGE AND SPECIES

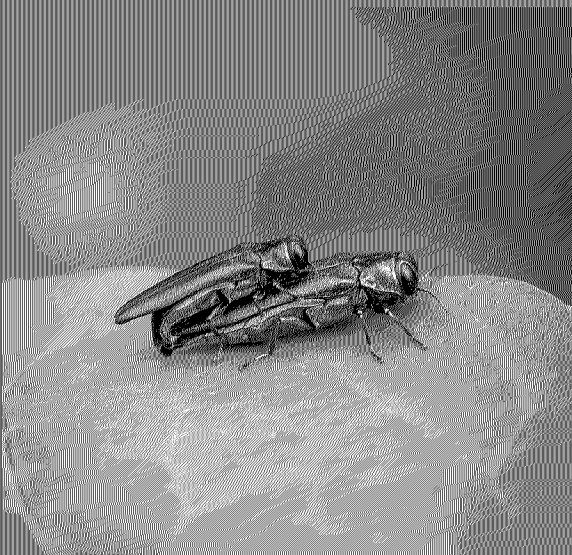
Why is it so critical to have age diversity?

- **TREE SENESCENCE**
- **STORM DAMAGE**
- **LIFE EXPECTANCY**
- **PLANT SUCCESSION**
- **ECOLOGICAL VALUE**



Why is it critical to have species diversity?

- **BIOTIC THREATS**
- **ABIOTIC THREATS**
- **HABITAT VALUE**
- **10/20/30 RULE**
- **ECOLOGICAL VAL**

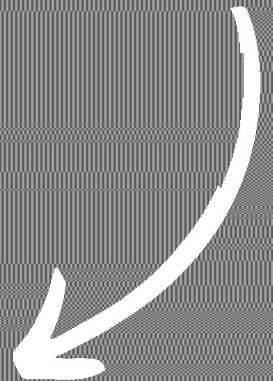


Percentage

- Red maple
- Japanese zelkova
- American sweetgum
- Incense cedar
- Giant Sequoia
- Callery pear
- Norway maple
- Raywood narrowleaf Ash
- Colorado blue spruce
- Flowering plum

Raywood

No





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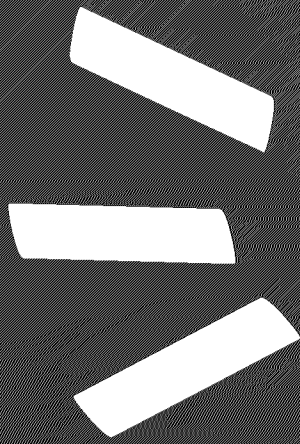
PLANT

EQUITY

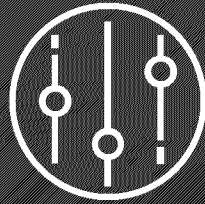
DIVERS

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

GRANT
VOLUNT

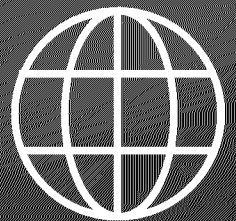


THE FUTURE OREGON'S WHAT



Public engagement and support
to help us find the right trees for
the right spots.

Tree
beginning
maintain



Climate Change resilience
supported by trees in
community.

