

# Council Business Meeting

February 2, 2021

<b>Agenda Item</b>	Wildfire Public Forum Discussion and Schedule	
<b>From</b>	Adam Hanks	City Manager Pro Tem
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## **SUMMARY**

At the January 5, 2021 Council Business Meeting, Mayor Akins put forward a request and plan for a Wildfire Town Hall to be held on January 14, 2021 to provide a venue to hear from the community directly in addition to the online survey opportunity that was completed in November. Upon further discussion as a body, it was determined that the event should occur in February or March to provide more time for staff preparation, public noticing, and potential involvement of the Wildfire Safety Commission in the event.

To properly prepare and publicize the event, staff is requesting direction on the desired structure and content of the event, as well as agreement on the date and time for the (zoom) event.

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

N/A

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

[January 5, 2021 Council Business meeting](#)

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Major themes for the event that have been discussed by Council include the following:

- What has happened/is happening post-fire in Ashland
- Summary presentation of November online survey (500+ responses)
- Status on key issues (I-5 emergency access, evacuation traffic study, communications, etc)
- Attendee Q & A (either live or via chat) – This could occur at several spots in the event agenda
- Presentation on existing City programming for residents
- New/expanded efforts currently underway (could be spot for Wildfire Commission)
- Action Steps for residents before next wildfire season

An initial date of February 17 was tentatively assigned for this event. It was recently brought to staff's attention that the State Legislative House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery is conducting a Wildfire Recovery Public Hearing for Southern Oregon on that night so staff is suggesting an event date of either February 24 or March 3 or 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

Event costs are primarily for staff preparation of presentation materials, event outreach/marketing and other similar standard (zoom) event logistics.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is supportive of the concept as proposed by the Mayor and Council.

**ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS**

- 1) I move to direct staff to develop a Wildfire Public Forum utilizing the agenda topics above with an event date of February 24, 2021.
- 2) I move to direct staff to develop a Wildfire Public Forum utilizing the agenda topics above with the following alterations \_\_\_\_\_ with an event date of \_\_\_\_\_.

**REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: State Wildfire Recovery Public Hearings Flyer



THE LEGISLATIVE  
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
WILDFIRE RECOVERY

INVITES YOU TO JOIN

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# WILDFIRE RECOVERY PUBLIC HEARINGS

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>



The **Oregon Legislature House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery** will be holding two public hearings to hear from Oregonians about your post-fire experiences and needs related to shelter, clean-up, and rebuilding. Your stories will help the committee identify where to focus its efforts this legislative session. All members of the public are invited and welcome to join the meetings to share your story.

Testimony will be organized by each region of the state affected by the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. Please note the date and time window for testimony from your region:

### **Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Canyon / Valley (5:30 – 6:30)

Metro (6:30 – 7:30)

Coast (7:30 – 8:30)

### **Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Southern Oregon (5:30 – 8:30)

#### **Committee Chair:**

Representative Brian Clem

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#### **Committee Vice-Chairs:**

Representative Rick Lewis  
Representative Pam Marsh

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#### **Committee Members:**

Representative Jami Cate  
Representative Paul Evans  
Representative David Gomberg  
Representative Dacia Grayber  
Representative Mark Meek  
Representative Lily Morgan  
Representative Bill Post