

# City of North Bend, Oregon

## Town Hall Frequently Asked Questions

March 30, 2026

**This handout is for informational purposes only.**

It is designed to help residents better understand the topics being presented at tonight's town hall in plain language. It is not intended to advocate for any ballot measure or policy position.

### **Why is the City holding this town hall?**

The City of North Bend is holding this town hall to give residents clear, factual information about several important topics all in one place: City finances, the proposed Public Safety Fee increase, the pool levy, Public Works, the Urban Renewal Agency workforce housing project, and the proposed charter amendment.

### **Why are all of these topics being discussed together?**

These topics are connected. City finances affect service levels, infrastructure, facilities, and long-term planning. Some of the topics also involve ballot measures or future community decisions, so tonight's goal is to help residents understand the bigger picture.

### **What is the City's General Fund?**

The General Fund is the City's main operating fund for everyday services. It helps support services such as Police, Fire, Parks, administration, and other core local government functions.

### **What does it mean when the City says there is a budget gap?**

It means the City expects its normal operating costs to be higher than its normal operating revenue. The finance materials show that costs are rising faster than some of the City's available revenue sources.

### **Why can't the City just move money from one fund to another?**

A lot of City money is restricted to a specific purpose. The finance presentation explains this as different "buckets" of money. For example, some funds are dedicated to streets, utilities, or other specific uses and cannot simply be moved into general operations.

### **Why not just use reserve funds?**

Reserve funds can help in the short term, but they are not a permanent solution for an ongoing budget gap. Once reserve funds are spent, they are gone.

### **What is the proposed Public Safety Fee measure?**

The current Public Safety Fee is \$15 per month. The proposed measure would increase it by \$5, for a total of \$20 per month. According to the presentation, that added amount would provide about \$285,120 in annual police funding if approved by voters.

## **What would the Public Safety Fee increase support?**

The materials say the additional funding is intended to help maintain core police services, protect patrol staffing and emergency response capacity, and support a detective position focused on narcotics and criminal investigations.

## **Why is voter approval required for the Public Safety Fee increase?**

The City's charter and code require voter approval for an increase above the current cap. That is why the measure appears on the ballot.

## **What does the pool levy pay for?**

The pool materials explain that levy funding supports pool operations, including staffing, utilities, and chemicals. Major one-time repair work was handled separately through grants and private funds.

## **Why is the pool important to the community?**

According to the presentation, the North Bend Municipal Pool serves more than 1,000 users each week, including public swimmers and organized users such as swim teams and the Coast Guard. It supports recreation, exercise, and water safety.

## **Why is 2026 important for the pool?**

The current operating funding expires in 2026. That means the community will need to consider what comes next if the pool is to continue operating beyond that time.

## **What does Public Works do?**

Public Works handles many basic services residents rely on every day. That includes streets, storm drainage, wastewater systems, engineering, planning, building functions, and related infrastructure work.

## **Why are Public Works projects so expensive?**

Many of the City's systems are older and nearing the end of their useful life. The materials show that street, sewer, stormwater, and pump station work can be very costly, especially when repairs involve underground infrastructure or multiple systems at once.

## **What are some of the City's current infrastructure challenges?**

The Public Works materials describe aging roads, stormwater systems, sanitary sewer lines, and pump stations, along with rising construction costs and the need to prioritize which projects happen first.

## **What is the Annex workforce housing project?**

This is a project of the North Bend Urban Renewal Agency involving the former Coos County Courthouse Annex site. The concept is to explore redevelopment for workforce housing that could serve local working households such as teachers, nurses, first responders, and other employees who are important to the community.

## **Why is the Annex site being looked at for housing?**

The materials explain that the site is in downtown North Bend, near businesses and services, and could help support both housing needs and downtown vitality.

## **Is the Annex project ready for demolition or construction now?**

No. The project is still in the planning and preparation stage. The materials explain that several steps still have to happen before demolition or construction could move forward, including historic review and environmental work.

## **What is Measure 6-229, the proposed charter amendment?**

Measure 6-229 is a proposed package of charter amendments for the City of North Bend. The presentation explains that it would update several administrative and governance provisions in the charter.

## **What changes are included in the proposed charter amendments?**

The materials describe several changes, including extending the mayor's term from two years to four years, changing the title from "City Administrator" to "City Manager," clarifying council procedural rules, and updating vacancy and removal procedures.

## **Why change the title from "City Administrator" to "City Manager"?**

This proposed amendment would **only change the title**. It would **not** create a new position, expand the job, or add any new cost to the City. The purpose is simply to update the title from "City Administrator" to "City Manager" so it better matches modern local government terminology and current practice. As presented for this town hall, **none of the proposed charter amendments come with any additional expense to the City**.

## **What would a "yes" vote or a "no" vote mean on the charter measure?**

A "yes" vote would approve the proposed charter amendments. A "no" vote would leave the current charter language in place.

## **What is the main takeaway from tonight?**

North Bend is working through several important issues at the same time: City finances, public safety needs, the future of the pool, aging infrastructure, workforce housing planning, and proposed charter updates. The goal of this town hall is to help residents understand those issues, ask questions, and stay informed.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Residents are also welcome to speak with staff during the open house portion of the event and follow up with the City afterward. You can also stop by City Hall any weekday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Alternatively, you can reach out to City Staff at [northbendoregon.gov/contact](http://northbendoregon.gov/contact)