

STATE OF THE CITY 2024 – ENGLISH:

Invitation to Assemble/Welcome Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde –

Council President Garvin

We truly have some amazing citizens and staff that make up this wonderful community, we're blessed to all be a part of a true, live, work & play community!

How about another round of applause for all our award winners and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde!

McMinnville Fire District Residents and City Fair attendees, thank you for attending and engaging with your local government and greater area service providers. My name is Adam Garvin, your Board President of the McMinnville Fire District & also your current City Council President. I come to you today as Fire Board President in collaboration with Mayor Drabkin's State of the City, I'm here to give you a State of the District.

As we mark the conclusion of our first year as a newly established fire district, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our journey so far and share our vision for the future.

As we reflect on year one, I am deeply grateful for the support and collaboration we've received from various individuals and entities within our community. Year One has been a period of significant growth and transition, and it's essential to acknowledge the instrumental role played by the City of McMinnville in facilitating this process.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Mayor Drabkin, the City Council, City Manager Jeff Towery, HR Director Vicki Hedges, IT Director Scott Burke, and Finance Director Jennifer Ceullar for their unwavering support during this transitional year. Your guidance, cooperation, and dedication have been invaluable as we worked together to establish and strengthen our fire district.

Year One has been a very heavy lift and not without its challenges for our staff, infrastructure, and community. With the establishment of the fire district, we embarked on a mission to enhance emergency response capabilities, improved fire protection services, and foster a culture of safety, preparedness, and accountability. I am proud to say that we have made considerable strides

towards our goals, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our firefighters, emergency personnel, administration staff and community members.

Reflecting on our achievements over the past year, I am particularly proud of the following milestones:

1. **Establishment of the Fire District:** The creation of our fire district was a pivotal moment for our community. The ability to greatly improve Fire and EMS services for our entire district; the 98 square miles of Rural and City of McMinnville Residents & the 450 square miles of Ambulance Service Area are going to see continued improved and enhanced service levels that an independent fire district achieves. This new structure has enabled us to better allocate resources, improve coordination with neighboring agencies, and enhance accountability to our residents.
2. **Investment in Training and Equipment:** We have prioritized the training and professional development of our firefighters, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to emergencies. Additionally, we have invested in modern equipment and technology to support our personnel in their life-saving efforts.
3. **Community Engagement and Outreach:** engaging with our community has been a top priority for us. We have hosted outreach events, conducted educational workshops, and collaborated with local schools and organizations to promote fire safety, emergency preparedness, and disaster resilience.
4. **Infrastructure Enhancements:** We have undertaken various infrastructure projects to improve our facilities, upgrade our communications systems and optimize response times. These investments are critical for ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

In Addition to these accomplishments, I am thrilled that we successfully recruited, held a competitive process, and hired our first Fire Chief for the McMinnville Fire District. Fire Chief, Reed Godfrey, who brings with him a wealth of experience, expertise, and dedication to our district. His leadership will undoubtedly play a crucial role in guiding us towards our future goals and ensuring the continued excellence of our Fire and EMS services.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow board members. Your dedication, collaboration, and commitment to serving our community have been invaluable throughout this journey. Together, we have navigated challenges, made tough decisions, and worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership.

Looking ahead to the future, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As we enter year Two and beyond, our focus will remain steadfast on:

- **Emergency response capabilities:** Continuously improving our emergency response capabilities through ongoing training, professional development, deployment plans and strengthening our staffing numbers of both volunteer and career staff.
- **Partnerships:** Strengthening partnerships with neighboring fire districts, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, educational, local, and regional government partners, to enhance our overall collaboration and coordination.
- **Innovation:** Investing in innovative technologies and strategies to address emerging threats and improve service delivery.
- **Investment:** We are committed to the replacement and updating of our aging equipment and apparatus. Currently, we're at full capacity at our existing fire stations. Expanding our facilities will enable us to add resources and better serve our growing community while also reducing response times.
- **Engagement:** Engaging with our residents to ensure your voices are heard and needs are being met as we work together to build a safer and more resilient community.

I am confident that with the continued support and collaboration of our community, we will achieve great things in the years to come. Together we can overcome any challenge and build a brighter and safer future for all.

Thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to our shared mission.

I'll now turn it over to Mayor Drabkin for her State of the City and some closing remarks.

MAYOR DRABKIN:

1. Introduction:

Welcome to McMinnville's 2024 Community Fair and State of the City Address.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, County Commissioners, State Representative and the community for being here today.

Council and Fire Board President Garvin highlighted the achievements of the new Fire District, at the City, we are equally dedicated to collaborating closely with Chief Godfrey the Fire Board.

For her partnership in writing the State of the City, I would like to thank Noelle Amaya and you should thank her for making me keep this to 10 minutes! Thank you Fer Hernandez, for providing Spanish language translation.

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A few weeks ago, I joined State Representative Lucetta Elmer at the Governor's signing of House Bill 4134, Housing Oregon's Workforce (HOW). This historic bill, which passed the Senate unanimously, is a testament to effective governance. I sincerely thank Representative Elmer for championing this powerful legislation and for her collaboration with the City of McMinnville and other cities across the state.

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2. Progress and Achievements

This year, we have made significant strides in planning for future generations, aligning our work with the City's mission to deliver high-quality services in collaboration with partners for a prosperous, safe, and livable community.

Some examples include:

Wastewater Master Plan: Updating for the next 20 years.

Affordable Housing Fund: Created through a construction excise tax.

Solids Capacity Improvement: 50% complete. This \$22M project will reduce odors, increase capacity, and meet future regulatory requirements.

Library Expansion: We added a "Library of Things" thanks to a Yamhill Community Care Organization grant. Library cardholders can borrow tools like electric drills, sewing machines, food dehydrators, games, life jackets, and more!

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And we're living our values of Equity, Courage, Stewardship and Accountability.

Equity: Completed the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS), ensuring clean, welcoming, and safe park access for all.

Courage: AnyDoor Place, an emergency shelter with on-site supportive services, funded by grants, will open soon. During my recent trip to Switzerland, as a United States Delegate, I met the head of housing in Geneva who said, “When there is poverty, there must be a response to poverty.” I say, we must create dignified paths for residents to improve their lives.

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Stewardship: We completed the Fox Ridge Road Area Plan, the first in the new UBG expansion. We deployed \$750,000 in business loans and grants for local workforce development. And we’ve been supporting the development of Stratus Village, a 175-unit affordable housing project.

Accountability: Deployed Axon Body Worn-Cameras for our Police Department, enhancing transparency and interdepartmental collaboration.

We’re preparing McMinnville for a prosperous future.

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3. Community Engagement and Collaboration

We're conducting an Organizational Assessment for Accessibility, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. This includes adopting a Community Engagement Charter for lasting, systematic change.

Last summer’s Dollars & Sense campaign was the most involvement we’ve ever had from a civic participation effort. Over 4,000 people participated in the initiative.

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We’ve partnered with McMinnville High School's Business Pathways program, equipping students with real-world skills and highlighting the importance of public participation and local governance.

McMinnville Water and Light, in collaboration with the high school, built three emergency water trailers, ensuring access to clean water in times of disaster.

We've initiated quarterly meetings with the McMinnville School District board to strengthen communication and trust between our organizations.

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4. Economic Development and Infrastructure

We've made significant progress on the Third Street Streetscape improvement project, a major investment in our downtown. My leadership helped secure \$850K in federal funding for this project, with a focus on supporting our existing businesses.

Our efforts to develop the Innovation Campus continue, aiming to create a regional economic hub that attracts high-wage, high-density jobs for McMinnville and the region.

We are completing an Airport Master Plan, the first since 2004, to ensure the airport serves both the community and regional economic development.

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Our stormwater infrastructure serves around 10,700 acres, it's outdated and lacks proper maintenance programs, leading to issues like sinkholes. We've launched a project advisory committee to find equitable and sustainable funding solutions.

McMinnville's above-ground water is excellent. Not only do we have some of the best tasting water in the state, but we also offer some of the lowest water and electric rates.

In the past year, we've invested \$290K in the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, resulting in \$3.1 million for local businesses, including:

- **EMPWR Nutrition:** \$1M
- **APT (Applied Physics Technologies):** \$1.2M
- **Solid Carbon:** \$242K
- **ExcelTech:** \$250K
- **Blue Raeven:** \$75K

Thank you, Business Oregon for your work in securing these grants!

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5. Challenges and responses

McMinnville faces some serious challenges.

Let's stop talking about "affordable housing" as only one type of housing; everyone should be able to afford a place to live. The city is experiencing rapid gentrification, making housing unaffordable for many residents. We need housing

that serves everyone—emergency, subsidized, workforce, and luxury housing. We must make way for density, update infrastructure, target cost drivers to lower housing prices, and encourage local homeownership.

The enactment of Housing Oregon's Workforce unlocked 290 residential housing lots that had been undeveloped since they were approved in 2007. The bill creates homeownership pathways for those earning 130% or less of the Median Family Income, including teachers, firefighters, and hospitality workers. This year alone, we've secured \$2.2 million for housing initiatives.

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The lack of regional childcare is another major challenge, impacting both economic development and community wellbeing.

Supporting our children's health is crucial, over 24% of our kids live below the federal poverty level. A quarter of our kids under the age of 18 live in poverty. Playing sports comes with well-known academic, emotional, mental, and social benefits. The City offers a robust scholarship program through parks and rec including over 350 scholarships for kids and families. We must do more; the health of our children is the wealth of our community.

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6. Environmental Sustainability

As stewards of McMinnville's future, we prioritize environmental sustainability.

In the watershed, Haskins and McGuire Reservoirs provide 3.5 billion gallons of drinking water capacity, with the ability to treat 22 million gallons per day.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant removed 1,691,225 pounds of Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand and 2,273,422 pounds of Total Suspended Solids in the past twelve months. That's equivalent to 1,880 barrels of wine and 9 Spruce Gooses' of pollutants!

City teams are developing the Total Maximum Daily Load Plan to identify and reduce mercury levels in our waterways.

McMinnville Water and Light has replaced approximately 75 transmission and distribution poles and rebuilt 1 mile of 115v transmission line, enhancing the safety and resilience of our electric system.

My office, in collaboration with McMinnville Economic Development Partnership and other key stakeholders, is working on creating a Mayor's Sustainability

Summit to highlight and support environmental sustainability initiatives across our economic sector.

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7. Future Vision and Priorities

The City's Vision statement is that McMinnville is a collaborative and caring city inspiring an exceptional quality of life.

Our experiences at Harvard and in Switzerland have enriched our city with expert advice from architects, designers, and urban planners. We're receiving ongoing support through Harvard Graduate School of Design for the redevelopment of the 3.5 acre site, formerly known as the Ultimate Rubber Plant. The site is envisioned for mixed-use residential, commercial, and community space. We recognize the importance of providing comfortable spaces for residents and area visitors alike and investigating flexible streets and creative spaces that promote active living and accessibility for all.

In the words of Christopher Alexander, "When you build a thing, you cannot merely build that thing in isolation but must repair the world around it and within it." We're dedicated to building a future for McMinnville that enhances our entire community.

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8. Conclusion:

McMinnville, we work for you!

Your City:

- Filled and repaired a total of 195 potholes using 70 tons asphalt
- Applied slurry seal to 9.1 miles of streets, prolonging the street life for a fraction of the cost
- Police responded to over 32,000 calls for service.
- Public Works collected and Recycled 5,000 cubic yards of leaves, equivalent to 10 McMinnville Swimming Pools!
- cleaned 57 camps and collected and disposed of 1,000 cubic yards of debris
- Swept 3,100 miles of roadway - the distance from McMinnville to Disney World
- Mowed 5,400 acres of turf - about 4,090 football fields
- The Library checked out 10% more books than the year before
- We pruned 500 trees

- McMinnville Water and Light Trimmed 74 miles of trees along powerlines
- Planted 96,00 seedlings in the watershed
- Coordinated over 800 volunteer hours in the parks and adopt a road programs with over 550 participants

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Thank you to all the volunteers, the coaches, the committees, boards, commissions, and project advisory groups, and of course thank you to the Council for your dedicated service to the City of McMinnville.

McMinnville, we have the power to create a culture of trust, build relationships across organizations and communities and embrace our shared values. Together we can continue to build a McMinnville that is focused on wellbeing; a City that is even more vibrant, economically prosperous, healthy, environmentally sustainable and dedicated to civic participation.

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Thank you and God Bless the City of McMinnville.