MINUTES

July 28, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Hybrid – Periwinkle Room
Approved: **October 8, 2026**

Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Chris Hanson, Brent Stutzman

Virtual attendees: Tim Weber

Members excused: Lisa Avery (excused)

Recruitment for vacant position – Sophie Adams, Economic Development Manager, updated the group that Sherrie Payne has resigned from her commission position. Two applications have been passed onto the mayor for review and then will be placed before the City Council to make the decision and then be ratified at their next meeting in August.

Approval of Minutes for January 14, 2026 3:04 **p.m.**
Motion: Commissioner Stutzman motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Weber seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

Public Comment
None.

Scheduled Business

- Business Oregon Presentation
  Heather Stevens, Regional Officer at Business Oregon, was unable to attend this meeting. She plans to come to the next meeting to speak about their organization.

Business from Staff

- Data Report and Project Updates – Adams shared that they have had a request for a letter of support from OSU for Economic Development Administration's Disaster Funding Program, regarding a Disaster Recovery Grant Program. OSU has applied for funding for a stand-alone deep tech incubator at the Corvallis Industrial Airport Park. It would provide a pipeline of companies that could allow for expansion in the region. Economic Development provided a letter of support for that funding. She will keep the group updated on the status of that grant.

  Stutzman asked questions about what the grant program would be focused on. Hanson asked how the grant would be distributed. Weber asked on the size of the grant.

- Albany Airport Project – Adams let the group know that consultants on this project have submitted their report. Adams recommended the group look at the information on the Airport Advisory Commission site, and she offered to send it out to the commissioners if needed. There are no plans to close Albany Airport, but instead to optimize its usage. Paul Trombino, the new Public Works Director, has been working with the Airport Advisory Commission to put together what the next steps should look like. Adams walked through those steps, with the focus being on business and marketing of the current structures, reviewing costs/leases, reviewing and updating the master plan and design standards for future hangers. There is a key component of historic hanger physical improvements as

a potential opportunity for events. They are looking at potential partnerships, leases and other opportunities with the historic hanger.

Weber asked about the 5-acre parcel within the Airport property and if it could have other uses in the master plan. Adams acknowledged that it is part of the evaluation to see what it could be used for.

- Industrial Land and Site Readiness – There is a program called Regionally Significant Industrial Sites, which is a certification that qualifies industrial sites with forgivable loans to be used for site readiness. Adams explained the process and would like to apply for two sites, Kempf and Pepsi. If the group was amenable to this, she asked for a motion to support Albany's application to the program. Hanson asked if the dollar amount was enough to do something as large as the Pepsi. Adams confirmed that the amount was significant. She did say that owners of sites such as these would encourage this type of program to make an industrial site more shovel ready and attractive to develop. Stutzman brought up the potential tax incentive to an investor, which Adams concurred that these sites would have multiple layers of incentives.

  Motion: Commissioner Weber motioned to provide support to the City's application to the Regionally Significant Industrial Sites program. Commissioner Stutzman seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

  The commissioners asked some questions about the details of the program, referring to timeline, scope and process.

- Lands Inventory – Adams followed up on a previous discussion on an inventory of Industrial lands within Albany city limits. Jennifer Wehr, Economic Development Program Coordinator, shared the amount of vacant acreage and developable lands with the group. Hanson asked about the possibility of expanding the spreadsheet to include additional information.

  Wetlands update – David Martineau, Planning Manager, is leading a project to update the city's wetlands inventory. This is for a state funded grant project and at the state's mercy on contracting with the state's consultant. They will provide an update at the next meeting.

- Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor – Adams shared their website and shared information about the initiative. This initiative focuses on the innovation between Oregon State University and University of Oregon along with the different cities in the southern Willamette Valley.

  Valliscor – Adams shared the recent event at ATAMI, that Valliscor led recently and Economic Development's participation in it. They are looking forward to similar events in the future. Hanson shared some information about Valliscor construction. Hanson also shared other recent events centered around innovative organizations.

- Strategic Plan update – Adams shared that the City Council has adopted the strategic plan and the website with the details of the plan. This plan includes a page the shows the different objectives and what departments are leading to that objective, which is different from the past strategic plan. It also includes the status of each objective.

- Linn County Intermodal Center update – The facility has been leased in July by a company named Omni Energy. This company focuses on distribution of renewable energy, namely diesel, from California. The first railcar was processed through the site in mid-July. They will also be handling solid waste.

- Downtown – Downtown Economic Improvement District – This is part of the funding for the Albany Downtown Association (ADA). The funding has been granted for another three years to support part of ADA's program funding. The ADA needs a new Executive Director. The search will start in the next

few months and encourage the group to recommend the position to those that they think might be interested and send them to Sophie.

- Urban Renewal – Adams updated the group on those that were awarded funds through the CARA grant, how much for each awardee and the timeline to have their projects completed. ED will be developing an impact statement on how these projects utilizing the CARA funding will have a positive impact on downtown Albany.
- Data Report – Wehr went over the report in the group's agenda packet, which breaks down the demographics of business opening/closing, job growth, and worker demographics. It also includes available commercial and industrial spaces. The report covers the whole of Linn County and allows the group to compare the growth of Linn County to the state information.
- Small Business Development Center – No longer housed at LBCC. Instead, it will evolve into a consultant model, still located in Albany, but not affiliated with LBCC, which will change the feel of the experience and not have standard office hours. Instead, it will be by appointment with business advisors, located in Albany. They are still recruiting for the Lead Business Advisor position to take the role. Adams encouraged the group to refer potential candidates for the position to the website for position details and to apply. There are other offices that can assist with current needs, but they are not in Albany yet.
- Adams referenced a list of upcoming meetings and events focused on Economic Development involvement, within their agenda packet.
- Tourism – CTP Grant, awarded through the Tourism Advisory Commission. The grant application closes September 1, 2026. Awards will be awarded at their September meeting. The grant is focused on new events, new elements of an event or a new marketing campaign, to bring people outside of Albany into Albany.
- Hanson asked about the Obie Company. The company is still working through the design process, due diligence process and have asked questions about the city on the MUPTE Program. Adams will update the group when she receives word back from them.

Business from the Commission
None.

Next meeting date is planned to be in late September to early October. A meeting request will be sent to the group soon.

Adjournment
Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Talley Richardson
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Sophie Adams
Economic Development Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@albanyoregon.gov.*