MINUTES

October 15, 2026
3:30 p.m.
Santiam Room, City Hall/VIRTUAL
Approved: November 19, 2026

Call to Order
Vice-Chair Rodney Moore called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present:	Vice-Chair Rodney Moore, Chuck Kratch, Debbie Origer, Matthew Arck, and Ralph Menweg
Members absent:	Chair Mel Huffman (excused)
Staff present:	Transportation Manager Robb Romeo, Public Works Director Paul Trombino III, and Administrative Assistant Anita Dodd
Others present:	Tony Hann, Yu Takahashi, Richard Bobbitt, Daniel Miltenberger, and Penny Miltenberger

Approval of September 17, 2026, Minutes **3:30 p.m.**
Matthew Arck moved to approve the September 17, 2026, minutes as written, Ralph Menweg seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Staff Updates **3:31 p.m.**
Transportation Manager Robb Romeo reported that the airport passed its FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) flight check and received strong compliments on runway condition and appearance. Project closeouts continue for the FBO, historic hangar reroofing, and lighting upgrades, though progress is slowed by FAA staffing delays. Romeo also attended the Oregon Airport Managers Association conference, which provided valuable networking opportunities with FAA personnel and engineering partners. Coordination remains underway regarding a tall crane near the airport, which has been cleared with proper notifications. Work is beginning on the airport master plan update, with plans to combine procurement for related engineering services to streamline future project work.

FBO Updates **3:38 p.m.**
Tony Hann reported that new security cameras have been installed and that a fuel meter discrepancy has been resolved, allowing fuel sales to resume. A long-stored aircraft will be removed this month, and a new Cessna 150 will be added to the training fleet by late November or early December. The FBO expects several foreign students this year and

plans to cap enrollment at 20 next year, which will require additional staffing and aircraft. Estimated economic benefit from these students is projected at $1.8–$2.1 million. Hann also implemented a new system to collect ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast) operations data for monthly reporting.

Business from the Commission **3:48 p.m.**

Arck reported outreach to Linn-Benton Community College regarding potential development of an A&P (Airframe and Powerplant) program and plans to follow up in person. If necessary, he will contact Lane Community College about potential program expansion.

Debbie Origer shared that the Ninety-Nines are interested in painting "Albany" on the taxiway next spring or summer and recommended using a decorative compass rose due to location and cost limitations. She also proposed creating an airport-themed display for Storybook Land, noting the need for volunteers, design skills, and funding. Origer will gather more information on costs and logistics. She additionally asked about the timeline for decisions on the 1929 Historic Hangar lease to support planning for the 2029 Ninety-Nines Northwest Section Conference.

Chuck Kratch discussed Independence's youth aviation programs and whether a similar initiative could be developed locally, noting that significant funding, tools, and volunteers would be required. The commission considered grant options and the possibility of forming a local EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) chapter to support youth engagement and strengthen community ties. Kratch also inquired about hangar inspection requirements, and staff confirmed inspection intervals are determined locally, with a new cycle likely approaching.

Menweg discussed the need for City support on the HGTV project before engaging further with commissioners, noting the importance of having a city council champion. He also raised questions about developing marketing materials for the airport, including logos, apparel, and a potential dedicated webpage. Menweg emphasized improving accessibility and visibility of airport information online, as well as ensuring ADA compliance. The group referenced an existing draft marketing plan previously shared and agreed to review it further. Menweg will follow up to schedule a meeting to continue the discussion.

Rodney Moore stated that he reviewed Menweg's proposal for the HGTV project and believes it is worth pursuing, provided it follows the proper steps and receives support from the city council and the mayor. He expressed that the idea has potential and could realistically come to fruition.

Public Comment **4:20 p.m.**

Richard Bobbitt provided an update on the amateur radio hardened mesh equipment. Developers are preparing a release-candidate firmware, expected to be finalized within about a month, which he will upload to the airport equipment. He also described

additional “Mesh Casting” equipment operated by a local ham radio operator that uses the LORA (long range) protocol and can be updated on-site with minimal setup. Bobbitt will coordinate with a certified tower climber and arrange a meeting with involved parties, including Mark Taylor and Romeo, to review required documentation and finalize an installation plan.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, November 24, 2026.

Hearing no further business, Vice-Chair Rodney Moore adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Anita Dodd
Clerk III

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Robb Romeo
Transportation Manager

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