

Port of Columbia
Special Workshop Minutes
September 15, 2026

Chair Spring opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

Present: Commissioners Spring, and Port Staff Dickinson, Laib, and Clark. No members of the public were present. 1 member of the public and Commissioner Hudson attended via Zoom. **Absent:** Commission Watts, and Port Attorney Boggs.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Opening Statement: Chair Spring stated the purpose of the special workshop was to have an open discussion between the commissioners regarding the 2027 budget. No action or public comment would be taken at this meeting.

Summary of Discussion Between Commissioners and Staff: Dickinson explained the philosophy of how the budget is prepared each year. She reviewed the 2027 draft Capital Facilities Plan with the commissioners. The Bike Trail will need to be placed back on the Capital Facilities Plan, if that is what is agreed upon. No further discussion or changes made. Spring stated he had 3 projects high on his list for the 2027 budget year. He would like to continue work on the Tourism Train, the Bike Trail and the RV Pull Thrus. Hudson had 2 top projects, which were conducting the RFP for the Tourism Train, and working on the Bike Trail.

The Tourism Train RFP would cost approximately \$40-50,000. No hard number has been determined as of yet. Some of the monies can be used from the Consultants and/or the Architecture & Engineering line items to help fund this part of the project. The other source of funding could come from outside stakeholders interested in this project.

The Bike Trail would be a great asset to the community and needs to become a reality. It would be great if it could be started when the city does their sewer line placement. Anderson Perry would be brought back on to help with the Trail build.

Other suggested budget money uses and increases were; hiring a lobbyist/grant writer, reducing attorney fees, updating the Port's website, increasing travel for business recruitment, dropping some of the Port held domain names, offering grant opportunities to community members, and the sale of Port assets.

More discussion on different economic development strategies between the commissions and staff will be held when the Economic Development section of the comp plan is reviewed at the next meeting.

Chair Spring adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.



Scott Hudson, Secretary