

1. For the public, if these motions look familiar, they should. A councilor was dissatisfied with the outcome of a legitimate vote last session, so chose to renew these motions tonight when more of their likeminded councilors are in attendance. But that's OK and completely allowed under Robert's Rules of Order.
2. The real issue here are the fee waivers which deprive the city of much needed revenue. I received a call four days ago from a longtime Oakridge resident. They are disabled and use a wheelchair for mobility. They were concerned at the condition of the Greenwaters bridge and considered it impassable by wheelchair due to deteriorating wood planking. Public Works has twice repaired the decking but does not have the funds to do a complete resurfacing. A complete repair of the bridge would be exactly the type of project rental fee revenue would fund.
3. Yet this council turns a blind eye to any priorities for critical projects like these. They continue to grant fee waivers, happily spending other people's money to curry favor with organizations supporting whatever the current cause of the week is. Not that these are not valid, noteworthy causes. The city just cannot fund every great cause that comes along, just as you and I cannot give to every charity which comes calling for a donation.
4. This council has repeatedly acknowledged the poor financial condition of the city yet refuses to take any action to increase revenues or significantly decrease expenditures. Fee waivers have become an expectation, not an exception. Some will say it is not fair to deny a waiver when so many previous requests have been rubber stamped by this council. The time is now to correct this fiscally irresponsible and reprehensible behavior. For those councilors that argue against this, I suggest you go back and read the "going concern" in the city's 2022 audit to understand how dire the situation is for Oakridge.