

BRIAN SCHIMMEL: LAND-USE & ENTERPRISE ZONE RECORD

Forest Grove City Council | Crane Data Center timeline and subsequent policy actions

Date	Event / policy action	Schimmel's position in timeline
Oct. 28, 2024	Crane land-use approval. Final local approval for the data-center campus at 3975 Heather Street was granted through Ordinance 2024-04.	Before Schimmel's council term. He was not a sitting councilor when the final land-use approval was granted.
Nov.-Dec. 2024	Council transition. Schimmel was elected in November 2024; his council service began with the 2025 term.	The City's current roster identifies Schimmel as a councilor in the 2025-2029 term .
June 4, 2025	Crane Enterprise Zone contract executed. The agreement identifies about \$275.3M estimated qualified investment and extends the property-tax exemption to five years. It was executed under Enterprise Zone policies adopted in 2018 and 2024 .	During Schimmel's council term. The contract states the City Manager was authorized to enter the agreement. The sources reviewed here do not establish that Schimmel cast a council vote awarding this specific five-year contract.
2025	Industrial development-code changes advanced. The City proposed new industrial-zone height restrictions and setbacks where none previously existed, along with revised buffering/screening standards.	During Schimmel's term. These changes addressed standards applicable to future industrial development after Crane's 2024 approval.
2025	Large-load electric protections. Forest Grove established a New Large Single Load rate structure. Schedule 5 passes through wholesale power/transmission costs and includes a delivery charge reflecting City costs to serve the account.	During Schimmel's term. The structure separates extraordinary large-load costs from ordinary residential service.
June 30, 2026	Enterprise Zone expired. Forest Grove allowed the existing zone to expire, creating an opportunity to reconsider future participation and conditions.	During Schimmel's term. His published position is that the City should reassess future tax-abatement policy and public-benefit requirements before another program is established.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Crane's land-use approval preceded Schimmel's service on the City Council. The City's official project record dates final local approval to October 28, 2024; Schimmel's council term began in 2025. He therefore did not vote on the final 2024 Crane land-use approval.

The Enterprise Zone agreement came later. The June 2025 contract was executed while Schimmel was serving, but under City Enterprise Zone policies adopted in 2018 and 2024. The contract itself says the City Manager was authorized to enter it. Based on the records reviewed for this one-pager, a separate Schimmel vote granting Crane's five-year exemption has not been established.

Subsequent policy moved toward tighter standards and cost allocation. During Schimmel's term, Forest Grove pursued industrial height/setback standards, maintained a distinct large-load electric structure that assigns attributable costs to large users, and allowed the Enterprise Zone to expire for reconsideration.

Crane contract context: The agreement includes a minimum employment requirement, community-service and school-support payments, and other conditions. The \$275.3M figure is the company's estimated qualified investment - not the dollar value of the tax exemption.

Sources: City of Forest Grove, Projects & Land Use - Crane Data Center Campus; Enterprise Zone Property Tax Abatement Contract No. 25-001 (June 4, 2025); Forest Grove City Council roster; 2025 Development Code amendment materials; Forest Grove Light & Power electric rate schedules. Public-record review prepared Sept. 24, 2026.