

CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Municipal Court Room
Monday, July 24, 2017
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Bill Coburn called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa (arrived 4:20 p.m.) and Councilors Bill Coburn, Dick Olsen, Ray Kopczynski, Mike Sykes, Rich Kellum, and Bessie Johnson

Councilors absent: None

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Catherine Miller said that she came to Albany from New York City 26 years ago, and she loves this town. She has a great love of carousels; she enjoyed the carousel in Central Park when she lived in New York, and she has watched the progress of our beautiful Albany Carousel. She has friends who have carved on the animals, and she has taken visitors to see the progress. She believes that the Carousel will bring tourists and business to town. She suggested that the City make the Albany Historic Carousel its logo.

Wendy Kirbey with the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum said that the Carousel is important to her; however, she would love to have a City logo that includes several things that are attractive to our town, such as the Carousel and Talking Water Gardens. She said we have wonderful local artists, and she suggested having a contest to come up with a pretty logo with some of the things that are important to our town.

Following brief discussion, Coburn said that he would bring the idea of a new City logo to the Mayor's attention.

Tom Cordier, 2240 NW Park Terrace, said that the City tracks costs for water in an Enterprise Zone, which means that it is to be operated as a private business, that it is not a tax, and that fees are based on rates and schedules. He has recently learned that sanitary sewer system charges are based on winter water use so that the excess water usage of people watering outside in the summer months is not included in the calculation. However, in April/May, when he used only one-third of a month's usage, he received a sewer bill that is the same as if he had used the full amount that he normally uses. He contacted staff who told him that they can't credit his account because then they would have to do that for everyone. He doesn't know of any private business that can charge a fee for services not rendered. He suggested that the calculation being used is inaccurate and unethical, and should be adjusted.

Coburn asked why Cordier's water usage was reduced in April/May. Cordier said that he was out of the country and used only one unit of water but was charged for sewer as if he had used three units of water. He is being charged for a service he didn't use, he gets no recourse talking to staff, and he thinks that Council needs to look at it. Brief discussion followed.

Mayor Sharon Konopa arrived at 4:20 p.m.

RFP FOR COPIER SERVICES

Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer Jorge Salinas said that the City went out for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Citywide copier services. Proposals were received from six vendors and were evaluated based on four requirements (general and technical requirements, cost, customer references, and vendor interviews), as detailed in a table in the written staff report. The expected yearly lease, based on 29 multifunction copiers and including maintenance, support, and toner, is \$33,024 with a cost of \$0.0042 per black copy and \$0.042 per color copy. Staff recommends that Council adopt a resolution to award National Photocopy Corporation with a four-year lease contract. This item will be on the City Council Regular Session agenda on July 24, 2017.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski asked how much the City is currently paying for this service. Salinas said that the current annual lease is about \$38,000; this would be a reduction.

Councilor Bessie Johnson asked whether the contract would include all services and replace machines as needed. Salinas said that the company would own the machines and be responsible for all regular maintenance as well as repair calls. If a machine would break, the City would get a loaner until it could be fixed or replaced.

QUEEN AVENUE RAIL CROSSING UPDATE

Transportation Systems Analyst Ron Irish gave an update on the Queen Avenue Rail Crossing. He reviewed previous conversations about the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s desire to make safety improvements at the crossing, including gates and crossing arms across both vehicle lanes and the sidewalk, and Union Pacific's plan to take advantage of the ODOT work to replace the track crossings. About a year ago, ODOT Rail approached City staff to come up with a design that would allow for all the improvements, at which time Council raised questions about whether it would make sense to lose one of the travel lanes on Queen Avenue. After looking at it more closely, ODOT Rail found that they could place the crossing arms at an angle and accommodate all the improvements behind the existing curbs and inside the railroad property, which means that they no longer need to work with the City to lose the travel lane. The advantage is that the City doesn't have to worry about losing the lane, going through the design work, or coordinating the project. The disadvantage is that the City will not be directly involved in the schedule or design. The project will need to go in the ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). ODOT Rail staff have estimated that the project will be done in the next couple of years, but Irish thinks that it will more likely be three to four years.

In response to questions from Council, Irish provided clarifying information about the project and timeline. It was noted that this will come up at a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting when it is added to the STIP, which would be a good time to submit any suggestions or input.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Rich Kellum asked why an ordinance with changes to the Albany Municipal Code (AMC) was on a regular session agenda before the City Council had reviewed the proposed changes in a work session. Salinas explained that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) had a discussion and decided on the recommended wording changes to be presented to Council. Staff thought that they seemed like minor changes and made the decision to take it to the regular session as an ordinance instead of bringing it to a work session. Konopa noted that ordinances require two readings; if the first reading doesn't pass unanimously, Councilors have two weeks to consider it before the second reading. Coburn said that the AMC clearly states that the HRC will make recommendations to Council, and it can be hard to judge what will be controversial. He thinks that staff made their best judgement; but in hindsight, it may have been better if this had been brought to Council in a work session.

Johnson said that she would like for Council to have an opportunity to review proclamations before they are read. Konopa noted that Council receives the packet on Friday before the Monday work session. She asked whether Councilors want to spend time going over the wording of each proclamation. Councilor Dick Olsen said that if he had a problem with a proclamation on the agenda, he would raise the issue at the Monday work session before the Wednesday regular session. Kopczynski agreed, noting that Council has an opportunity to remove an item from the regular session agenda by giving direction at the work session.

Johnson wondered whether proclamations could be emailed to Council before they are put on an agenda. Coburn said that it may be as simple as changing the agenda item to read Mayor's Proclamation. Kellum noted that it takes four votes of Council to approve a City decision. Discussion followed.

Konopa said that she is hearing that some Councilors are not comfortable with the Mayor doing proclamations; if Council wants her to continue with proclamations, she would want a motion and vote. Coburn said that this may be addressed in the Charter, and he asked that City Attorney Sean Kidd review the matter and bring back an opinion.

Councilor Mike Sykes said that he is concerned about individuals who come to City Council meetings and continue to be disruptive after being told the rules of conduct for a public meeting, including being asked not to clap. Respect is a two-way street, he said, and this behavior is rude and highly distressing. Konopa noted that some people didn't seem to understand why clapping wasn't allowed; next time, she would like to explain that we want everyone to feel welcome in addressing Council and that clapping can intimidate those with the minority view in the room. City Manager Peter Troedsson suggested that staff could draft a statement advising people that Council has rules of order, not out of disrespect or to disregard their freedom of speech, but because the Council has a lot of business to conduct. Konopa suggested that an update with reasons the Council has rules of conduct could be included in the next City newsletter.

Coburn shared a flyer distributed by the First Christian Church encouraging people to attend the July 26, 2017, Council meeting and stating that "we grieve and declare outrage at the Albany City Council's attitude and decision implying not all are created in the image of the divine." Coburn said that he has no idea where the idea is coming from because it doesn't relate to Council's decision on the ordinance language. He has noticed a lot of misinformation out there and has even received emails with hate speech. There was brief discussion.

Konopa referred to the State Transportation Funding Package (HB 2017), and she asked whether staff had information on the gas tax allocation that would be received by the City. Public Works Engineering & Community Development Director Jeff Blaine shared information from the League of Oregon Cities summary document, which estimates that Albany would receive an additional \$575,000 annually the first biennium and about \$1.7

million a year at the end of the process; however, these are only estimates and a more refined number will come out later.

Konopa said it would be nice to know the amount that the City will receive from the state funding package so that Council can decide whether to go to the voters with a local gas tax in November. Blaine noted that to get a gas tax on the November ballot, Council would need to pass a resolution at its August 9, 2017, meeting to meet the state's filing deadlines. Konopa said that she will be attending the Mayors' conference this weekend and may be able to get additional information there. In discussion, Blaine clarified that staff previously received direction to bring back funding alternatives this winter, prior to the budget process.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES AD HOC WORK GROUP

Konopa reported on activities of the Historic Properties Ad Hoc Work Group, which is looking at relocation of the Post Office and the Main Street Church. The Work Group asked that staff contact the Post Office administration in Portland to get preliminary information about what might be needed to relocate the Albany Post Office. Plans to relocate the Main Street Church are moving forward; Bill Ryals has offered to work with a subcommittee to come up with an architectural design and costs, and there has been discussion about starting a GoFundMe to bring in donations. Salinas added that a local contractor has discussed donating foundation work once plans are in place. Konopa asked whether Council approved of the direction the Work Group is taking.

Kellum said he is fine with it if it is funded through donations. Coburn referred to emails from an individual who said he wanted to buy the Main Street Church and didn't feel he received an adequate response from the City. Konopa said that this was discussed by the Work Group early in the process, and she asked staff to comment. Public Works Operations Director Chris Bailey said that the proposal was received, evaluated against the criteria, and found lacking in that it didn't seem to have a grasp of the costs and time involved or the required land use processes, and staff felt that the proposal didn't meet Council's direction to make a historically accurate restoration. Konopa said that Council will receive an update in late August.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Troedsson said that the Greater Albany Public Schools Board conceptually approved the intergovernmental agreement for the Brandis property. It now falls to the City to coordinate a public hearing.

Troedsson reviewed potential dates for a joint meeting with the HRC. Following brief discussion, he agreed to follow up with HRC members about a potential joint meeting in August.

Troedsson said that his meetings continue; he met with the Millersburg City Manager today and will meet with the Corvallis City Manager tomorrow.

Kidd referred to the flyer from First Christian Church and asked whether Council would like to put Business from the Public toward the end of the agenda in order to get City business accomplished in a timely manner. Konopa said that she doesn't think that is necessary. She noted that it is a light agenda and she will speak with HRC members ahead of the meeting to let them know that Council has already heard almost two hours worth of comments and doesn't need more input on Wednesday, unless they would like to have one representative speak for everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Teresa Nix
Recorder

Peter Troedsson
City Manager