

CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Konopa led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Bill Coburn, Rich Kellum, Bessie Johnson, Ray Kopczynski, Dick Olsen, and Mike Sykes.

Councilors absent: None

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Adoption of Resolution

**6:05 p.m.**

*Calling for an election on May 15, 2018, to refer to the voters of the city of Albany, Oregon, a five cent per gallon motor vehicle fuel tax and adopting a ballot title*

Konopa pointed out that there was a copy of the resolution that is in the packet on the dais (see agenda file). Councilor Bessie Johnson questioned whether “related required improvements” should be included in the resolution. Konopa thought the language would be helpful in certain instances. She suggested that funds could be put into a separate fund for better oversight and measurable outcomes.

Johnson asked whether the July 1, 2018, effective date for the fuel tax, under Section 4 of the resolution, provides an adequate timeline. Public Works Operations Director Chris Bailey reviewed discussions with state administrators related to cost and timeline. There is a \$30,000 one-time set up cost and a small monthly administrative fee to add Albany to their software tracking system, and this would likely not be done before July 1. It was agreed to change the effective date of the resolution to January 1, 2019, on Section 4 (see agenda file).

Councilor Rich Kellum expressed concern that Albany fuel stations would be disadvantaged by this tax, especially with a new station coming into Millersburg. Konopa said that gas prices in Albany are lower than in surrounding communities and other communities will likely add local gas taxes if this measure is successful.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski agreed that Millersburg will likely add a local gas tax after their new station comes in. Kellum suggested that the City should talk to the city of Millersburg before taking this action.

Kellum thought the measure would have a better chance to pass in the November ballot. Konopa felt that having it on the May ballot would result in less competition for votes.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the resolution on the dais with the effective date of January 1, 2019, under Section 4. Councilor Dick Olsen seconded the motion.

Councilor Mike Sykes said that he cannot support the motion. He expressed concerns that the Federal government is considering a 25-cent tax, that the 5-cent amount is arbitrary, and that this is being rushed. He would like to step back and come up with a better plan.

Konopa said that Council has heard from citizens that we need to repair our residential streets. Funding options include a local gas tax, a street utility fee, or a property tax bond, and no source of funding will be fair across the board. With this action, voters will have an opportunity to approve or deny the gas tax.

VOTE: The motion passed 4-2, with Sykes and Kellum voting no, and was designated Resolution No. 6666.

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BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

**6:27 p.m.**

Johnson advised that the railroad has blocked access at Water Avenue and Davidson, apparently because some people have not been good neighbors.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Work Session: Monday, February 26, 2018; and Regular Session: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Teresa Nix  
Recorder

Peter Troedsson  
City Manager

*Note: Staff Handouts referred to in the minutes as (see agenda file) are available on the website in the "Staff Handouts" column.*