

MINUTES
Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting
Troutdale City Hall – Council Chambers
104 SE Kibling Avenue
Troutdale, OR 97060-2099

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

1. ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

Mayor Kight called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Kight, Councilor Ripma, Councilor Anderson, Councilor Thomas, Councilor White, Councilor Allen, and Councilor Daoust.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Craig Ward, City Manager; Debbie Stickney, City Recorder; David Ross, City Attorney; Erich Mueller Finance Director; Charlie Warren, Public Works Director; Scott Anderson, Chief of Police; and Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer.

GUESTS: See Attached

2. OATH OF OFFICE: Reserve Officers Nick Bohrer, Aaron Eveland and Benjamin Sanchez.

Mayor Kight administered the Oath of Office for Reserve Officers Nick Bohrer, Aaron Eveland and Benjamin Sanchez.

Chief Anderson stated the Troutdale Police Department just got better. There is something special about each of these young men. First of all they are volunteers and that says something about their character. They were willing to go through 320 hours of training on their own time, taking time away from their families in order to come and serve us here in Troutdale. I am very proud of all of them. Nick Bohrer started as a police cadet in Portland. He decided that education was important so he went to Western Oregon and got a bachelors degree in criminal justice and then went on to get his masters degree. Benjamin Sanchez has a background in engineering. He also has a private public safety background with high recommendations. Aaron Eveland has a bachelors degree from Multnomah University. He and I share something in common; we are both lifeguards. That will come in handy at the Sandy River when he is working with AMR this summer. He also comes to us with a background in public safety in the private sector. I was one proud Chief to have attended their graduation from the academy because I know what it means. To the families and friends of these men, my job as the Chief is to keep them healthy and safe and I will do the very best that I can

with equipment and training. They are going to need your support because they are starting something that is different than anything they have done before. It is going to be very challenging and there will be times when they are not going to want to talk about the things that they have done or seen. I want to thank everyone for coming tonight.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 ACCEPT MINUTES: January 25, 2011 Regular Meeting.

3.2 RESOLUTION: A resolution approving the agreement for the 2011 Edgefield Summer Concert Series.

3.3 MOTION: A motion to recognize the Horseless Carriage Club of America Portland National Tour stop in Troutdale on July 27, 2011 as an event of citywide interest.

MOTION: Councilor White moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Daoust. Motion Passed Unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Please restrict comments to non-agenda items at this time.

Jay Anderson shared a concern he has with skunks in his neighborhood and asked what can be done to get rid of the skunks. He stated that he has tried numerous ways to prevent the skunks from coming around his house such as putting out mothballs, closing off all access underneath his house, he stopped feeding the squirrels and birds and he even trapped 8 skunks and relocated them.

Mayor Kight suggested calling Multnomah County Animal Control to see if they have any suggestions on what can be done, and suggested talking to his neighbors to see if any of them are leaving food out for their dogs and cats, which is a major attractor for skunks.

Councilor Thomas stated I did some research and I found out that Multnomah County Animal Control does not do anything about skunks. We need to do some research on this and find out what can be done to detour the skunks.

Councilor White stated the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website has information on how to deal with problem skunks. I would suggest putting out some mouse traps because that is one of their food sources.

Councilor Anderson stated I think the idea of putting an article in the Champion should be explored.

David Brown, President of the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce, informed the Council that there will be a Business AM meeting held at the Troutdale Library tomorrow morning. Also on Thursday Representative Matt Wand will be at the Troutdale Library for a Town Hall meeting.

5. MOTION: A motion authorizing the Mayor to submit a Declaration of Support for the Multnomah County Food Action Plan on behalf of the City of Troutdale.

Diane McKeel, Multnomah County Commissioner, stated this initiative has been an exciting opportunity to work with an engaged and dedicated community. Through the Multnomah Food Initiative Multnomah County has worked as a conveyor to bring together stakeholders from across the food system to develop an action plan for a thriving food system. I want to thank the City of Troutdale for your partnership with us on the CROPS program which is at McMenamins Edgefield. Through this partnership you provided water that was used for growing 12,000 pounds of fresh produce on unused county land. All of this produce was donated to SnowCap charities right here in our community. This Action Plan lays the foundation for developing further partnerships. Thank you for considering this opportunity to join us in this community effort.

Keith Falkenberg, Policy Advisor for Commissioner Shiprack, stated this region is known for its thriving food culture. The food system is really a strong economic driver in our community. Multnomah County saw what a critical role providing food was and we wanted to see how we could engage and partner with our community members. We started out with a set of recommendations from the Portland Multnomah Food Policy Counsel and they suggested that we create an Action Plan and that we convene through a food summit. On May 1, 2010 we held a Multnomah Food Summit and we had over 200 folks from the food system attend a day-long conference. Farmers, growers, retailers, health advocates, and economic development folks all came together to talk about food system issues. At the summit we focused on a vision for our food system and developed the framework for the Action Plan. After the Food Summit we had a series of workshops that focused on four areas: local food production, healthy eating, social equity and economic development. The workshops were held in different areas across the county including one at McMenamins. Out of that came the Food Action Plan which was put out for public comment and is being presented to you tonight for your consideration and support. When we started this Multnomah County wanted to make sure that we brought together some real leaders that could help us move forward on this so we pulled together a very large steering committee of experts.

Kat West, Director of the Office of Sustainability for Multnomah County, stated this is not a plan that the government made. Multnomah County simply convened the community and experts together to create a plan. We helped the community develop a shared vision for our food system for the very first time. The Plan rests upon four action pillars - local food, healthy eating, social equity, and economic vitality. Within the Action Plan there are 16 goals with 65 actions that community organizations can collaborate around and 40 individual actions that everybody can do on a daily basis. The Plan has a shared vision, shared goals and then actions. To date almost 500 organizations and individuals have signed a Declaration of Support declaring their public support for the community's effort and vision. Of these 475 organizations some like Metro have said we support the community's effort and vision. Other organizations like the City of Portland have said we support the Plan but we are also

committing to a list of actions. We also have a lot of individuals saying they are going to plant a garden in their back yard, or they are going to go to a restaurant that serves local greens. There are many ways that individuals and organizations can support the Plan. Grow and Thrive 2025 was the slogan for the Multnomah Food Action Plan. Multnomah County did not come up with this; we had a contest and someone in the community came up with this slogan. Now that the Multnomah Food Action Plan has been released to the public, and organizations and individuals are starting to organize underneath it, we are going to hold the Second Annual Multnomah Food Summit in June where we will be asking community leaders and organizations to come together as partners and begin implementing the Plan. We want to thank you for your partnership around the CROPS farm and all of the wonderful collaboration that has happened with the food that has been given to SnowCap charities. We would like to invite you to come to the summit, and we invite you to be a supporter of the Multnomah Food Action Plan.

Councilor White stated on page 12 it talks about minimizing the expansion of the urban growth boundaries. Can you elaborate on what that means and what we can expect?

Kat West stated this is not a government plan, so it is not Multnomah County's Plan; it was the community's plan. There was a lot of disagreement about specific actions in the Plan. I don't personally agree with everything in the Plan, nor does Commissioner McKeel, but it is a collective community plan. My understanding of that action is that there was going to be an attempt to maintain the agricultural land base in Multnomah County in order to have a resilient community, food security and more jobs.

Councilor Daoust stated can you give me some ideas as to what the City of Troutdale could do to support you in addition to written support. Like on the Edgefield property, what types of things could we do?

Keith Falkenberg replied one of the things that the City of Portland Parks Department has done is they have made a dedication to the number of new community gardens that they are going to establish over the next five years. Continuing to providing water to the CROPS program at the Edgefield site would be a significant commitment.

Councilor Daoust stated we do have one community garden in the works that should be online next season. Is it a big deal for the city to supply the water?

Craig Ward stated I am not sure how much they use but water has value. If they had to pay for that the reimbursement to the city for the water would come out of the food that could otherwise be produced and distributed, so I think it is significant.

Mayor Kight stated we had to run the waterline under Halsey to get the water to that site, so there were costs absorbed by the city.

Councilor Thomas stated regarding the urban growth boundary, there are a few hundred acres to the south of us that we would like to see incorporated into Troutdale.

My concern is if we sign on to this program does that put us in a position where we can't go after that property?

Kat West replied no, it does not lock you into anything. Depending on how you sign on, you can simply sign on saying that you support the community effort and the vision. Then if you want to you could actually support specific actions within the Plan and that may not be one of them. We will be launching an economic development project on the CROPS property that will be a pilot project and will be called the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship program. We will be inviting students and new farmers to come in and learn how to farm on that land. Every week I receive calls from young folks who want to become farmers and the barriers to get into that profession are astounding. They can't get land, they can't get capital and they don't have training.

Councilor Ripma stated I am delighted to hear about the program and particularly the fact that if we do adopt this Declaration of Support it doesn't commit us to every single line item in it. On page 25 the statement that local governments will actively support federal public policy and it mentions the farm bill and immigration reform. I would contend that the federal government doesn't have a public policy; I mean it is in debate. I was concerned that this language was somehow committing us one way or another on those issues. I am taking from what you have said that isn't the case and we can support the broad goals of the community effort. Our packet includes two specific goals as well as the general support. One is continuing to supply the water and the other is making community awareness through articles in the Champion newsletter. I can enthusiastically support both of those, and the general support.

Councilor Anderson stated the Oregonian article that I read really focused on just the farming aspect and this is so much more expansive than that. I appreciate you coming here and pointing out the entire food program.

Councilor Allen stated I really appreciate this.

Councilor Daoust asked did this Action Plan come out of the summit? Was it developed at the summit?

Keith Falkenberg replied yes. We took ten years worth of reports and recommendations that had been done in this region and pulled those together. In looking at those we came up with this framework of local food, healthy eating, social equity and economic development and we took that to the summit and asked is this right? We received overwhelming support for that. Then we asked in these areas what are the top things that we need to focus on and what are the priorities and these action items are what they told us.

Councilor Daoust asked when is the next summit and what will be the goal of that summit?

Keith Falkenberg replied it will be in June. The goal will be to inventory what different organizations are working on so we can see where folks can focus their attention and where there are opportunities for new partnerships.

Councilor Daoust stated so after the second summit then the City of Troutdale will be expected to fill out a questionnaire as to what we are doing so that you can incorporate us into the mix.

Keith Falkenberg replied you are invited to attend and bring the information on what you are working on.

MOTION: Councilor Daoust moved to authorize the Mayor to submit a Declaration of Support for the Multnomah County Food Action Plan on behalf of the City of Troutdale. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Councilor Thomas stated I would like to have County Pig Farm property changed to just read County Farm property. I also think that the phone number should be the City's main phone number and we should list a generic email address.

Councilor Daoust agreed with the changes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING / RESOLUTION: A resolution exempting the Troutdale Community Police Facility Project public improvement contract from competitive bidding in accordance with ORS 279C.335(2) and TMC 2.24.190.

Erich Mueller, Finance Director, stated tonight is the next step in the process that started at the work session on January 25th where we talked about the upcoming construction project for the police facility. We discussed the various alternative contracting methods and the pros and cons of four different acceptable approaches. We discussed staff's recommendation related to the CM/GC process for selecting the general contractor. As a reminder, we talked about how it is still a competitive proposal process that allows us to select a contractor not solely based on price, but allows us to take into account important aspects such as qualifications and prior experience capabilities. It gives us a much better chance of being successful in having an effectively delivered project. It also gives us a much better opportunity to avoid the ever escalating challenges of numerous change orders. At the conclusion of the work session the Council concurred to move forward with the process. The process from that point forward required us to publish a notice of the public hearing related to the Council acting as the Local Contract Review Board in their consideration of granting an exemption from the competitive bidding requirement which would allow us to make use of the CM/GC alternative project delivery method. That notice was published on February 4th in the Daily Journal of Commerce in order to allow us to comply with the requirements of the ORS and the Troutdale Municipal Code. In your packet, attached to the staff report as Exhibit A, are the draft findings that we also provided to you at the

work session, as well as made available as part of the public notice that was published. The draft findings were made available at City Hall and were posted on the web site. Those findings have been attached to the resolution that you will be asked to take action on; there has not been any changes made to the findings. During the work session we discussed that the findings address the eight areas that are outlined in the statute that have to be considered before you grant the exemption. The statute requires that the Local Contract Review Board make the finding that by granting the exemption it is unlikely that such an exemption would encourage favoritism or that it will substantially diminish competition for a public improvement contract. As we talked about in the work session, the CM/GC process is still very much a competitive process. It simply reconfigures the sequence and the timing on the competitive selection. It is a competitive proposal process to select the general contractor, and the contract that we ultimately sign with them also requires competitive bidding for all of the sub trade work for all of the work that is performed by the subcontractors. The second finding that is required as part of the statute is that awarding of the CM/GC contract under the exemption will result in substantial cost savings. We talked through the various aspects of that during the work session, that in particular bringing the contractor on board early in the process achieves significant savings in the design process and helps to avoid the change order problem because we have had the contractor on board from the beginning. It allows us to have better control over having a team that is working together and generally provides for a method that moves the project in a more timely fashion. All of those aspects allow the Local Contract Review Board to find that this is an appropriate project to grant the exemption. As a reminder, this is a method that is used across the state by public agencies. It is the method used almost exclusively by school districts, which tend to construct more buildings than others. The methodology has been used extensively in Oregon public sector for the last twenty years, it is just the first time that Troutdale is considering using this process.

Councilor Daoust asked how will the architect be brought on board?

Erich Mueller replied the architect is being selected in accordance with the formal procurement process outlined in the Troutdale Municipal Code for purchasing. It is a competitive proposal process; an RFP process. It is the same code section that we used to select the project manager. The architect process is underway. We are using a two-step process where we are soliciting for statement of qualifications, and then subsequently that short list will be asked to provide proposals.

Councilor Daoust asked is that much different than this?

Erich Mueller replied some of the processes are very much the same. The difference is that the code and the ORS explicitly provides for that process for architectural and engineering services, so there is no need for an exemption request to use that method for those services, just for the construction contract part.

Mayor Kight asked did we use this process when we built the treatment plant or the parks building?

Erich Mueller replied to the best of my knowledge, no.

Mayor Kight opened the public hearing at 8:03pm and asked, is there anyone here to speak to us regarding this resolution?

No testimony received.

Mayor Kight closed the public hearing at 8:03pm.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to adopt a resolution exempting the Troutdale Community Police Facility Project Public Improvement Contract from competitive bidding in accordance with ORS 279C.335(2) and TMC 2.24.190 with the attached findings. Seconded by Councilor Anderson.

VOTE: Mayor Kight – Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Allen – Yes; Councilor Daoust – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Anderson – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes.

Motion Passed 7 – 0.

7. RESOLUTION: A resolution naming three greenways within the City of Troutdale.

Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer, stated the city owns and maintains a number of greenways throughout the city. These greenways serve a number of purposes, mainly recreational and in some cases storm water management. They are maintained as open spaces with very minimal improvements. Most of those greenways are named. Recently we identified three greenways that are not currently named. There is a reason to name these areas. It serves a practical purpose and gives us a terminology to refer to them in the operation and maintenance of these greenways, and in some cases for historical reference purposes. We took this issue to the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and asked them for some recommendations. First we polled city staff and came up with a few ideas of our own to present to the PAC. The PAC generated some ideas at the meeting and discussed them. They have put forward some recommendations for the City Council to consider, which are included in the draft resolution. However, you are not limited to those names. The Council could come up with names of your own. The staff report lists the names that were considered. In the PAC's recommendation (shown in the staff report) you will notice that they listed two names for the 3.68 acre site; they couldn't settle on one name. The PAC also wanted me to mention that while they did select the name "Lower Beaver Creek Natural Area" for the 1.41 acre parcel adjacent to Beaver Creek, they also had two second choices that they wanted mentioned that they ranked equally for you to consider which are: Valerie Lantz Natural Area and Carolyn Taylor Natural Area.

Councilor Thomas stated on the 1.41 acre parcel I would like to see that named as the Carolyn Taylor Natural Area. She was very instrumental in establishing the Friends of

Beaver Creek organization and she was an active member of the Parks Advisory Committee.

Mayor Kight asked Councilor Ripma, as the PAC discussed the name for this parcel what happened when it came to Carolyn Taylor's name?

Councilor Ripma stated I agree that Carolyn Taylor was a major contributor to the City and it would be nice to name something after her. I think what came up at the meeting was that there was something else named for Carolyn Taylor in Glenn Otto Park.

Councilor Thomas stated there is a plaque.

Travis Hultin stated that is correct. At the PAC meeting that was one of the reasons that it came up originally and someone said that it is near the plaque that is adjacent to the bridge across Beaver Creek on Columbia River Highway adjacent to Glenn Otto Park. Others said it was near but it was not really connected. I believe that is why there wasn't consensus for that.

Councilor Ripma stated I would endorse Councilor Thomas' idea to name it after Carolyn Taylor. I don't know if everyone on the council knew Carolyn Taylor. She was a benefactor to the city and a great volunteer and she lived right next to Beaver Creek and loved it.

Councilor Thomas stated a lot of the park system would not be what it is if it hadn't been for her.

MOTION: Councilor Ripma moved to adopt a resolution naming three greenways within the City of Troutdale as set forth in the packet, except under item C, the 1.41 acre parcel adjacent to Beaver Creek be named the Carolyn Taylor Natural Area. Seconded by Councilor Daoust.

VOTE: Mayor Kight – Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Allen – Yes; Councilor Daoust – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Anderson – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes.

Motion Passed 7 – 0.

8. DISCUSSION: A discussion regarding the downtown flower basket program and funding.

Charlie Warren, Public Works Director, reviewed his staff report (copy contained in the packet).

Charlie Warren stated we are looking for clear direction from the Council whether or not this is a priority A-1 project, and should it be identified in the upcoming budget. If this is

a priority and if we have to make budget reductions then we will have to start going down through the list of parks and reduce the services.

Mayor Kight stated the cost is split out between two fiscal years. If I did the math correctly the cost for this fiscal year is \$4,345 (through the end of June), and in fiscal year 2011-12 the cost is \$2,655 for the remaining balance of the summer.

Charlie Warren stated for just watering that is correct. Some of that is paid for by the existing \$40,000 that we have budgeted for seasonal workers because they do some of that watering.

Mayor Kight asked does that also include the maintenance of the large planters?

Charlie Warren replied those are not included in this request. We have the capability to absorb that within the existing program. We do want direction from the Council that you want those to be included in our program, but the cost is insignificant compared to the flower baskets.

Mayor Kight asked is the same company that will be planting, hanging, maintaining and watering the flower baskets going to be watering the planters as well?

Charlie Warren replied no. The quote that we have provided to you is the cost for preparing the flower baskets, it is not for watering. The \$7,000 includes watering but it will be done by city staff or we will hire that out. The \$1,845 is purely for putting flowers into these existing baskets that we have.

Mayor Kight asked is there a cost savings if the city did the watering?

Charlie Warren replied in the past it was done by a contracting service, but for the last several years it has been done by city forces.

Councilor Daoust stated I am having a hard time adding everything up to \$7,000. If it was \$5,000 the previous year why is it \$7,000 next year?

Charlie Warren replied that was two years ago and I can't say that the \$5,000 was accurate at that time. It appears to me that \$7,000 might even be light. I know that we have a quote for \$1,845 for planting the baskets and then we have estimated another \$2,000 to get us through the end of June. We are estimating how much time it is going to take to water the baskets and we also have to guess how long the season is going to be. \$7,000 is an estimate; \$5,000 simply wasn't enough in my opinion.

Councilor Daoust asked are the seasonal crews capable of watering the baskets? They have done it before.

Charlie Warren replied yes. We did have some problems with that last year.

Councilor Daoust asked what is staff's proposal?

Charlie Warren replied I haven't given one. I really need the Council to consider whether or not this is a priority. If I hear from the Council that the flower baskets are a priority, then I am asking you to allocate funds for it. If I don't hear that then my recommendation would be that you discontinue the program.

Councilor Allen asked is there any indication from the businesses that they would help?

Charlie Warren replied as I understand it the businesses were involved in it in the past years but that didn't work out well. I think it would be great if the businesses could be involved in the program.

Councilor Anderson stated I don't know if I would rank this as A-1, but it is very very important to me for tourists, our downtown businesses and the chamber. Is there any value to a nursery like 7 Dees, or a wholesale nursery, to be the "official" floral provider for the City of Troutdale and they can give us the plants as an in-kind donation in exchange for that designation?

Charlie Warren replied yes there is value to that. If you can get someone to donate something that is great. At this late date we have to get started planting the flowers. What you are talking about could be for next year.

Councilor Anderson stated I am not talking about a donation. They will give it to us and we will give them something in return. Troutdale is known for a lot of things and I think our downtown flowers are one of those things on the list.

Councilor Ripma stated there is no budget this year for flowers.

Charlie Warren replied correct.

Councilor Ripma stated so if we wanted to go forward with purchasing the baskets we really don't have any money for it.

Charlie Warren replied we have \$1,800 and enough seasonal funds to water them. What I am telling you is that there is a price to pay for that. We can absorb that within the existing parks budget but every dollar and every hour used is another park that will receive slightly less service and funds.

Councilor Ripma asked at budget time, since there was no money allocated, was it the intention that last year was going to be the last year for the flower baskets?

Charlie Warren replied there was discussion about it and I think what Dick Bohlmann stated was that they would handled it. There was no discussion during the budget sessions about the next season.

Councilor Thomas stated based on what I recall from the discussion when Mr. Bohlmann said they would handle it, I assumed that they would handle it for the fiscal year. My concern here is that we have put a lot of effort into this and I understand that this \$1,200 could be a one-time cost because we have to buy baskets this year. In the past we have started the flowers from seed.

Charlie Warren stated we are not purchasing the baskets because we already have them. We did a quick analysis of the staff time to plant the flowers and maintain our greenhouse and determined that it was more expensive to do it in-house than it was to have a contractor do it.

Mayor Kight asked do you know of another park within the city that has as much traffic and gets as much visibility as the downtown flowers do?

Charlie Warren replied probably our next busiest park is Columbia Park where we have Imagination Station. But as far as visibility, probably not.

Councilor Allen asked if you had to make a choice of not maintaining something else in order to maintain the flower baskets, do you have something in mind?

Charlie Warren replied in the last several years parks personnel has been reduced and the area that has been receiving secondary treatment is the Beaver Creek Canyon because we don't have the personnel to go down there to maintain it. We are seeing significant destruction and we are losing ground. With the reduced parks staff those canyons are in serious need of additional work and the day-to-day maintenance is suffering.

Councilor Daoust asked how much time during a week do your crews spend on this?

Charlie Warren replied we usually have a seasonal person watering the flower baskets and the planters. They go out first thing every morning and they water all of those. Michelle Rosenberger gave me a spreadsheet estimating that it takes approximately 350 hours of a seasonal workers time and her time to water and maintain the flower baskets.

Councilor Daoust stated that is a substantial amount of time.

Charlie Warren stated I am very open to having a private firm come in and try to reduce that. We are also looking into water crystals that you add to the flower basket and then you only have to water the flower baskets every other day.

Councilor Daoust stated I like the idea of a private firm coming in. I would be willing to put this in the budget and not do work on greenways, parking strips, pedestrian ways, reservoirs and detention basins; any piece of the city that doesn't receive high public use.

Charlie Warren stated what you have a choice on in parks doesn't include the reservoirs, wells and facilities. For example, Reservoir #4 is out of sight but it has grass and trees. We are required by law to maintain it to a certain level; it certainly doesn't look like a park. If you allow the grass to grow too tall in July then you have a fire hazard and it is next to a major water supply for the city. The same applies to some hybrid park/facilities in the city such as Sweetbriar which is a combination of a park and a water source. Some of these have to be maintained at a park level even though it is a facility and a portion of it is paid for from facilities. Any reduction in personnel is going to have to come from the parks part and not the facilities because those are already at the minimum level and they are paid for from user fees not the General Fund.

David Brown stated I concur with Councilor Anderson that we need to look at all of the alternatives when it comes to the baskets because I think they are very valuable to our city and our businesses in downtown. From garden clubs to 7 Dees to other things, I would really strongly encourage you to look at all of the alternatives to make sure we have the baskets.

Mayor Kight asked what do you think the impact is of having the flower baskets and planters?

David Brown replied impressions. We have visitors from all over the world that come not only to the Visitors Center but to our city. It can be something simple like the baskets, but they are beautiful and that could be something that possibly brings them back. I understand the budget issues, but I really think that we should look at all of the alternatives when it comes to keeping the baskets. I would like to look for some partnerships as far as making sure that we have the flower baskets.

Councilor Thomas stated I have seen the city both with and without flower baskets and without the flower baskets it looks bleak. I think it is absolutely imperative that we find a way to keep the baskets going. When you look at different tourists magazines what do they have pictures of, the downtown with all of the flower baskets. I hear a lot of comments about that and people really like the look of the city. When you take the flower baskets away I think you lose a lot. As I drive through other communities on vacations I notice that.

Councilor Anderson stated when you referred to an A-1 designation, I assume that you were referring to your maintenance priority list.

Charlie Warren replied that is correct.

Councilor Anderson stated I would put the downtown flowers as an A-1.

Councilor Daoust stated I am okay with the \$4,345 for this year and then the \$7,000 budget amount for next year.

Charlie Warren stated to be clear for this year the parks budget is large enough that I can absorb the \$4,300. We will need to put \$7,000 in the budget for next fiscal year if this is a priority for the Council. During the budget discussions you could elect to reduce the \$7,000 to only cover the rest of this summer and not fund the program the following year, or you can decide to fund the whole \$7,000 because this is going to be an ongoing program. That is not something that you need to address specifically tonight, but it is important that you address the authorization for staff to proceed with the project and take it out of the current funds.

Erich Mueller, Finance Director, stated if the council wants to proceed as Mr. Warren just outlined and have staff make this happen out of existing funds, then I think it would be appropriate for the Council to make a motion to do that. That doesn't necessarily mean that there needs to be any budget action tonight or in a supplemental budget because you are indicating that he needs to make it happen out of the existing appropriations. If you want to provide him with additional funds for this, then you need to make that statement in your motion and I would bring that, along with other budget changes, to Council later this year.

Councilor Daoust stated to be clear you said you only had \$1,800 for the baskets, so in a motion I would include the watering amount also, which is an additional \$2,500 for this fiscal year.

Councilor Ripma stated and that the amounts are to be taken from existing funds, or am I hearing that you are going to propose that we transfer funds from somewhere?

Councilor Daoust stated I am open to options. I am not saying to take it from any particular place.

Mayor Kight stated didn't you say that the resources are there to get the baskets up and watered this fiscal year.

Charlie Warren replied the funds are there. However, when you take \$4,300 out of the maintenance fund for parks I will have to prioritize down. I have shown you the list of all of the parks and we would then get \$4,300 less service somewhere else.

Councilor Daoust asked and you could do that via contract?

Charlie Warren replied the \$1,800 is going to be contract, but the watering will probably need to be done in-house utilizing city personnel.

Councilor Daoust asked but with \$7,000 next year you could contract the entire thing?

Charlie Warren replied I will certainly look into that. We will contract out the flower basket planting this year. I think it is a more cost effective method than planting them ourselves.

MOTION: Councilor Anderson moved to delegate authority to Charlie Warren to spend \$4,300 of existing funds for the downtown floral program for this summer. Seconded by Councilor Daoust. Motion Passed Unanimously.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Ward, City Manager updated the Council on the following:

- The Chief informed me that last weekend they conducted interviews and testing for both new police officers and reserve officers to develop a pool of candidates. There were 109 candidates.
- We have received a resignation from Melody Thompson, Administrative Assistant to the Chief. I have spoken with the Chief about restructuring the department in order to fill that position and try to find some cost savings.

10. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Thomas stated I would like to have work sessions on rental housing inspections (similar to the program that the City of Gresham has) and predatory towing. I would also like to see us pursue the skunk nuisance issue that was brought to our attention under public comment tonight.

Mayor Kight stated the League of Oregon Cities has a Mayor's Day and a City Councilor Day in Salem and I would recommend that you spend the time to attend to meet our representatives and senators.

Councilor Daoust stated as you head west on Stark Street and you turn in by Starbucks and the Albertsons gas station, when we had the heavy rains last week that entire roadway was under water. I assume that is a city street. Every time we get heavy rains that entire roadway is filled with water.

Councilor Anderson stated that is similar to what happens on Troutdale Road as the "S" curves.

Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer, stated I am familiar with that problem Councilor Daoust. It is something that we are concerned with. As we have been developing our project list for our proposal for next year's budget that is one of the items that is on the list. The problem is a failed drywell; it doesn't have enough capacity. The "S" curves on Buxton have been a long-standing problem that we have communicated with the County on several times. They haven't come up with a solution for that yet and they are extremely strapped for money.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Councilor Anderson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Daoust. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Mayor Jim Kight

Approved April 12, 2011

ATTEST:

Debbie Stickney, City Recorder