

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

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

1. ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

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

PRESENT: Mayor Kight, Councilor Wand, Councilor Thomas, Councilor White, Councilor Kyle, and Councilor Daoust.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Craig Ward, City Administrator; Debbie Stickney, City Recorder; David Ross, City Attorney; Erich Mueller, Finance Director, Dick Bohlmann, Building Official; and Molly King, Recreation Program Manager.

GUESTS: See Attached.

2. PRESENTATION: Presentation of the Fitness Leadership Award to Scott Geoghegan.

Mayor Kight presented the 2010 Fitness Leadership Award to Scott Geoghegan, who is a tennis instructor for the City's Recreation Program.

3. PROCLAMATION: National Magic Week – October 25-31, 2010.

Councilor Wand read the Proclamation.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

4.1 ACCEPT MINUTES: September 1, 2010 Work Session.

4.2 RESOLUTION: A resolution providing for current Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget Transfers and Appropriation Changes.

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

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

None.

6. PRESENTATION: Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Video presentation of Historic Columbia River Highway.

Kristen Stallman, National Scenic Area Coordinator for ODOT, stated I apologize for not having the video available tonight. One of my tasks is to work on the Historic Columbia River Highway. We have a catch phrase, "Remember, Restore, Reconnect". We want you to remember how significant the Historic Columbia River Highway was when it was first constructed. It was the only road going east and west and it was designed to connect you with nature. Today we think about the Vista House and Multnomah Falls, that is the highlight, but the initial construction of the highway originally went from Portland, through Troutdale all the way to The Dalles. Now we have I-84 and so many portions of the Historic Highway were disconnected or abandoned to make way for I-84. We are here tonight to bring you up to date on an effort that ODOT and The Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway are undertaking to reconnect the abandoned portions of the Historic Highway as a trail through the Gorge. When the highway was first constructed it was considered the "King of Roads", and our idea is to create the "King of Trails" through the Gorge. To date we have constructed 12 miles of trails, including sections at: Cascade Locks, Eagle Creek, and a section between Hood River and Mosier. Could you imagine if you had a complete connection through the Gorge. One of the primary reasons for being here tonight is to announce that we have some funding for an important construction project that we call The Missing Link, which is from Warrendale to Moffett Creek. This is the missing link on the section between Troutdale and Cascade Locks. We hope to start construction next summer. Upon construction of the 1.6 mile connection one will be able to ride their bike from Troutdale all the way to Cascade Locks without sharing the highway with I-84 traffic. As we connect up the sections in Hood River we will become a world class adventure and your community is right at the front door being the Gateway to the Gorge. We hope that it will help with the economy of the area as well as just making a recreation destination.

Jeanette Kloos, President of Friends of Historic Columbia River Highway, stated we are a non-profit organization that advocates for the continued restoration of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Kristen Stallman stated we are also here this evening to solicit your input/ideas about how we can be of assistance in your community on the Historic Highway. We are continually applying for grants to restore the highway. You see a lot of bicyclists come through your community and we could probably work collectively with you on a project that would benefit the Historic Highway but also benefit the local community.

Mayor Kight stated what I would like to see happen for Troutdale is Federal or State funding for an interpretative center. Since we are right at the gateway to the Gorge and usually folks start at this point, perhaps we could have something down by Glenn Otto

Park by the Troutdale Bridge. I think it would be a tremendous draw and an economic boost for our downtown merchants, as well as other retailers within the Troutdale area. Is there federal funding available for that?

Kristen Stallman replied there is. One really good funding source for the City of Troutdale is the Scenic Byways funding. Here in Troutdale you not only have the Historic Highway Scenic Byway, but also the Mt. Hood Byway and they are looking for larger projects that are more strategic. There is a 20% match with the Scenic Byways funding.

Mayor Kight asked would you be an advocate for that project?

Kristen Stallman replied interpretative centers require staffing. Maybe we start off smaller with interpretative signs where you don't need staffing. Or you could incorporate it into part of another public facility that you already have and you are already paying someone for the upkeep. You can get funding to build interpretative centers, it is just hard to maintain them.

Mayor Kight asked so that was a yes.

Kristen Stallman replied yes.

Mayor Kight stated I think that would be perfect since we are right at the entrance. I know that Councilor Wand is interested in this as well because we are all looking to have economic viability and that would bring more traffic through our city.

Councilor White asked are you the right person to contact if we see damage occurring to any of the rock structures?

Kristen Stallman replied you can contact me and I will contact our maintenance folks.

Councilor Daoust asked the Missing Link, how much of a job is that going to be, and is it very costly?

Kristen Stallman replied we have secured \$3.4 million for 1.6 miles. It seems like everything in the Gorge is costly because of the topography.

Councilor Daoust stated you mentioned that in the future you would be able to ride a bike from Troutdale to Hood River. A few years ago I rode just west of Cascade Locks and I remember a few stairways that you had to go up and down. Is there anything planned for those?

Kristen Stallman stated that is the Eagle Creek Staircase; one of our projects is to replace that staircase with a ramp in the future.

Councilor White stated Cascade Locks has spent a lot of time developing mountain biking trails and it is becoming a world class bike destination. It would be nice if Troutdale could tie in to that. Last year we were approached about a bike race, which didn't occur last year but it may in the future.

Councilor Thomas stated I understand that what you are going to do at Moffett Creek is build a trail underneath I-84 and then come back up. A while back I went fishing and rode my motorcycle up there and at various points I couldn't get across that bridge. I have always wanted to see that bridge restored. Do you have electronic versions of these documents?

Kristen Stallman replied yes, I will leave that information with your City Recorder (copy put with the packet).

Mayor Kight asked is there anything that the City of Troutdale can do to help facilitate support?

Kristen Stallman replied yes. It is going to take money and for most of that money we are going through federal granting sources, so letters of support from the City would greatly help. As we get further along I may be calling upon the City to write letters of support for the projects.

7. MOTION: A motion to approve holiday lighting in downtown.

Craig Ward, City Administrator, stated I was approached about six weeks ago by some councilors and some downtown business people who were interested in having the City proceed with a plan that really began last year where we invested a considerable amount to bring power to the light poles on Historic Columbia River Highway. My immediate reaction to that proposal was to work with the Chamber of Commerce and say this is for downtown business people, of course they want it and it seems like a very worthwhile thing to do, but is it really an obligation that the City needs to take on at this time. But I asked Mr. Bohlmann to do some research so that we could get an idea of how much it would cost. What you see in the staff report is the result of that. There were also some questions about lighting the Arch. I understand that the Council had quite a history on that question. To me that is a potential add-on. If you want to go down that path we could acquire additional lights and we could install them. I don't think it is as complex as the proposal that you dealt with before, and probably not as expensive as you talked about in lighting the Arch last year. Mr. Bohlmann has run the numbers and frankly they were a little less daunting than I had feared. I talked to the Chamber and they are interested in working with us on this. If we don't act quickly on this we will miss the holiday season this year.

Dick Bohlmann, Building Official, showed the Council a sample of the lights that could be used on the light poles. These lights have a life expectancy of 100,000 hours as opposed to the standard residential lights. These are industrial grade and have a 10 year warranty.

Craig Ward stated the installation is a considerable portion of the cost. The expectation is to install them and leave them installed (not leaving them on).

Mayor Kight asked are the light ropes designed to go around the ornamental light fixtures in our downtown?

Dick Bohlmann replied yes, they will spiral around the poles.

Mayor Kight asked is there any other kind of decorative ornaments that you are going to be putting up? In the past they have had some garlands and bows.

Dick Bohlmann replied we have the garlands and Mike Morasch has committed to donate about 50 wreaths.

Mayor Kight stated the initial cost is the investment of the LED lights. Once we have made that initial investment they could be used over and over again. It is that first year investment that is kind of daunting given the current economy, but we want to support our community and the downtown.

Councilor White asked are the lights low power?

Dick Bohlmann replied this string draws about 12 watts total.

Councilor Wand asked did Mike Morasch also have some LED strands?

Dick Bohlmann replied he didn't have any LED strands, but he has some incandescent strands that he is willing to donate. We may be able to use those in Mayors Square, or someplace where we would be able to take them down each year.

Councilor Wand stated my understanding is that he is prepared to make that donation to the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce (WCGCC). Have you worked with them?

Dick Bohlmann replied I talked to Mike Morasch on Friday and he indicated that to me as well, and then the Chamber would give them to the City.

Councilor Wand stated my understanding is that the downtown merchants have been approached to assist with putting these up and making sure that they keep their businesses open in the evening.

Craig Ward replied I spoke with the WCGCC asking them to coordinate and request donations from the downtown business owners. I know that some of that has gone on. On a side note, we did follow-up on the grant from IEBW which was promised last year. They have reaffirmed their commitment to providing \$4,000 to offset our expenses from last year, or this year.

Councilor Wand stated if you wouldn't mind getting in touch with Erik Anderson, who is a local fellow that I know who has contacted the downtown merchants about the idea of them helping and taking on the responsibility of making sure that these get put up, taken down and maintained, and making sure that businesses remain open. His response was positive from the business owners, but nothing is set in stone yet. This is an opportunity to facilitate and work together with the downtown merchants to make sure that this is a spectacular deal.

Councilor Kyle asked is the grant going to be applied to the \$22,000?

Craig Ward replied my expectation is that the grant would be deposited in the General Fund to offset the \$22,000 expense from last year. This money is unbudgeted as well, and it would also come out of the General Fund.

Councilor Kyle asked are we asking the merchants to help with funding for the downtown lighting project?

Craig Ward replied we have asked the WCGCC, and Councilor Wand has indicated that there may be support for that. That may reduce our expenses in some cases, but there is no commitment from anyone except the IEBW to contribute any funds at this point so we have to assume that it is all on us. Hopefully we will be able to reduce our costs as we receive contributions.

Councilor Daoust stated we are talking about \$6,000 if we light up the Arch as well. How would we light up the Arch?

Dick Bohlmann replied LEDs. We would probably run a single strand, but we haven't really researched that yet. The industrial lights are 150' so we could spiral it or run a continuous line. They would be installed with UV resistant black tie-wraps.

Councilor Thomas stated I am not particularly fond of leaving the lights on the light poles year-round. I think it would be smarter, to eliminate potential vandalism, to put them up for the holiday season and then take them down.

Dick Bohlmann replied we can do that but it will drive the cost up.

Councilor Thomas stated it is really more of a function of the downtown businesses. It will be a lot cleaner look, and there will be less mold and mildew collecting on them if they are only up for a couple months.

Councilor Wand stated my understanding of other downtown areas is that this is something that is facilitated and handled by the downtown merchants. They really have to have buy-in any way. We could throw up all the lights that we want, but if the businesses are not on board and they don't have holiday hours with hot chocolate and everything else, then we are really just wasting our time. I feel strongly that the City's

role here ought to be as a facilitator and not as an exclusive funding source, and not as an exclusive labor source.

Mayor Kight stated I agree.

Councilor White asked are you only talking about the light poles, and you think that the City should do the Arch and Mayors Square?

Councilor Wand replied I am not convinced that we should be lighting the Arch with the LED lights. The reason why is because the Arch is a piece of art and it was not designed to have an LED light strand across it. It was designed to have up-lights and we have talked about this. I am not sold on the idea of Christmas lights on the Arch.

Councilor Thomas stated I personally would rather just do the street lights and leave the Arch alone.

Mayor Kight stated Mr. Leamy, you have heard comments from at least one of the Councilors who wants to see buy-in from the business community for doing the lighting in downtown.

John Leamy, WCGCC, stated I presented this to Terry Smoke last week after Craig and I met. In the interim there was your proposal for the lights. So when I went back to Terry Smoke there was confusion about what the costs were. I since talked to Craig and he explained to me what had happened. There is interest among the merchants and the Chamber of a buy-in, but a misunderstanding as to what the value is and where the buy-in is. My thought is that we are probably going to be somewhere between \$1,000 and \$1,500 of buy-in.

Craig Ward stated there is \$1,700 in cost to extend the power supply to the exterior of the light poles. That is really not anything I would expect the business community to help with. There is another \$2,500 for these lights on the 32 light poles. I suspect that the confusion comes on what lights and whether or not they will be donated.

John Leamy stated originally it was \$6,000 to \$8,000 that we were looking at. Then it was my understanding that there was \$4,000 potentially donated in lights.

Craig Ward stated we don't see the lights as being that expensive to begin with.

Councilor Thomas asked what do you mean by extending the power?

Dick Bohlmann stated as it is now you have to take the cover off, which is about 12" to 14" across and plug the lights in inside of the poles and then you can't put the cover back on. I met with Multnomah County and proposed that we put an outlet on the outside of the poles so that we can plug in the lights. The cost for this is \$1,728 for the 32 poles. The lights for 32 poles will cost \$2,528.

Councilor Thomas stated if the merchants contribute \$1,000 to \$1,500 I think that is a fair exchange.

Councilor Daoust stated it sounds like we need to make a decision tonight but we don't have the buy-in from the business community yet. How long will that take?

John Leamy replied I could probably have that by Friday.

Councilor Daoust stated I assume that would work.

Dick Bohlmann stated I would like to get approval to go ahead with the outlets on the poles so we can get started on that because it will take some time to get that done.

Mayor Kight stated I am hearing from different members of the Council that we want to put the extension of the power supply on the light poles. Are we committing to doing the lighting on the poles? The clock is running down quickly.

Councilor Wand stated how long do we want to have holiday lights up in downtown?

Mayor Kight stated normally they go up the week before Thanksgiving and come down after the first of the year.

Councilor Wand replied ok. I don't want to see them go up November 1st.

Councilor Thomas stated the actual hanging of the lights is the simple part; it is the electrical work that is going to take some time. We aren't as pressured to make a decision on the light piece, and we could wait to find out whether or not we have the buy-in from the merchants before deciding on the lights. I think it is smart for the City to go forward with the infrastructure because we can use it for other events. I am okay with giving direction tonight to go forward with the electrical work but let's see what happens with the merchants when they come back and we can make that decision when we have better numbers on the lights and there is a possibility that we will get some donations to offset some of the costs of the lights.

Councilor Daoust stated if we are only talking about \$2,500 for all of the lights for all of the poles and the business people are willing to come up with \$1,000 to \$1,500, it only leaves the City with \$1,000 to \$1,500 for all of the lights.

Councilor Kyle stated plus the maintenance.

Councilor Thomas stated and the \$1,700.

Mayor Kight stated the \$1,700 we have to do anyway.

Councilor Daoust stated I don't see why we wouldn't do both - agree to move forward with the lights, we wouldn't have to buy them right away we could wait and see how

much the business folks are willing to contribute and how many lights we get donated and in the end we will know how much we need to buy. At least we give the approval to go ahead and do it.

Councilor Kyle stated I have a problem with this because we have a hard time budgeting money to maintain our flower baskets downtown in the summer. I see the positive of having power at the poles because I have been involved in the events downtown and it would be wonderful to have some of our vendors be able to utilize power. I see the logic of that part but I am struggling with putting anything else downtown that the City has to maintain. We chopped money out of the budget to maintain the flower baskets. I want you to know that I am having a real struggle with the lighting.

Councilor Wand stated I am having the same difficulty as well. I am on board with the outlets; that is something that is useful for the City and is something that could be used at several other events. The reason why I have been trying to find a better way is because this is something that our business owners should be involved with and that is why I was suggesting that we should be a facilitator. My thought process was to go out and see if we can find people that have lights that they are willing to donate so that nobody has to pay anything. If that doesn't work, then lets keep looking and see if we can bring the people in our community together to make this happen first. I think there is value in that. There is a lot of value in our businesses coming together and working together with us facilitating to make it happen without spending their tax money to do it. I would like to spend a little more time seeing what kind of commitments we can get and what people are willing to do.

Councilor Kyle stated and what kind of commitments we get from the downtown.

Craig Ward stated approval of the money to put the outlets on the poles is Option A in my staff report. Then with that maybe you don't approve any other funding subject to a proposal from the WCGCC to install the lights themselves. That way we can move ahead with the critical path at this stage and the WCGCC can continue to do their work to get an agreement with the business community as to their contribution.

Councilor Daoust stated I think that the maintenance of these lights is much better handled with a centralized organization rather than each merchant being responsible for two or three light poles and they maintain them in different fashions.

Councilor Wand stated I am not suggesting that at all. What I am suggesting is lets get a proposal put down where our downtown merchants are an integral part of holiday lighting every year and lets see what that looks like before we jump in and say that the City is going to do this.

Councilor Kyle stated my concern is that we don't budget for maintaining the flower baskets and eventually the budgeting for the light maintenance will go the same way as the flower baskets.

Councilor White stated I think we should have the discussion about lighting the Arch. I was looking forward to that for Christmas. That is why we put outlets there and that was discussed during the construction of the Arch. I think the City's role should be to light possibly the Arch, Mayors Square, City Hall and then provide the ability to do the rest of the downtown in front of the shops by having the outlets installed.

Councilor Thomas stated we already do Mayors Square and City Hall.

Councilor White stated I think a row of those lights on the Arch would be real festive for that six week period. It would draw attention to our new Arch. I think it would add new excitement and energy for our downtown. I also agree not to leave them up permanently; I don't think that would be a good look.

Mayor Kight stated Troutdale has gone out of its way to promote our Troutdale's Open For Business Plan. I think a material demonstration of that would be that during the Christmas season when clearly those in retail generate 30% to 40% of their revenue within that six week period. Absent that the businesses in a lot of cases close because they just don't have enough carryover cash and with today's banking system trying to get loans to carry your business is simply not available. From my perspective I concur with Councilor White, we want to carry that theme forward that Troutdale is open for business and we want to show support for our downtown. Christmas is an integral part of the survival of our businesses in the downtown area and as many of us know on this Council we are losing businesses down here. There are another 2 or 3 in the midst of closing. I am hoping that the City Council would show support for our downtown and do the lighting. I realize it is a commitment on the part of the City but these are difficult economic times and if we have the resources to pay for the lighting we should do that. We are getting a \$4,000 grant back from the IEBW, which was negotiated when they did the undergrounding of the wires to all of the light poles. Our long-term vision was to have those poles used for holiday lighting. I think it would be short-sided on the part of the City Council if we didn't do that. I like Councilor Wand's idea of getting buy-in from the community so they are not just there for a handout, but to partner with the City and offset some of the cost of buying the lights. Frankly you can't see the Arch at night. I recognize that we have gone back and forth on this argument, but the Arch is only good if you can see it. After the holiday season I would like to see the lights come down.

Councilor Daoust stated I agree with the Mayor. I think a good incentive to get businesses to go in with us is for the City to match what the businesses come up with. I think that would show them that we are willing to partner with this by matching what they come up with.

Councilor Wand stated I would be willing to do that.

Councilor Thomas stated I agree with Councilor Daoust in the fact that we don't want individual merchants decorating certain individual poles and maintaining those. I really think that the City ought to be the repository for storage of the lights. I think that all of

the lights should be purchased at the same time so they look uniform. I am not as convinced about lighting the Arch. But if we do the Arch I would like to do it right versus just stringing up some rope lights over it. I am not real fond of rope lights on just a long strand. For tonight what I would prefer to do is to move forward with getting the electrical work done, get the agreement with the merchants through the WCGCC and then move forward with the rest of it.

Councilor Daoust stated and make the match part of the motion.

Mayor Kight asked Mr. Leamy to ask the merchants what their expectations are. Is it just to do the lights on the poles, or is it to do the lights on the poles plus the Arch. Could you get some feedback on what they would like to see and of course find out what level of commitment they have.

MOTION: Councilor Wand moved that we authorize the installation of the exterior light outlets at each of the 32 downtown light poles, and authorize the City Administrator to facilitate matching funds for the purchase of strands of lights. Seconded by Councilor Daoust.

VOTE: Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Kight – Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Kyle – No; Councilor Daoust – Yes; Councilor Wand – Yes.

Motion Passed 5 – 1.

8. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Ward stated HM3 Energy has selected a site at 2077 W. Historic Columbia River Highway for their research facility. We have been working hard to help make that happen and it appears that it will happen now, subject to the necessary administrative permits. David Eatwell and Rich Faith worked very hard to make this happen.

Craig Ward stated I was informed that Mr. Eatwell has been invited to serve on the Oregon Economic Development Association's Board of Directors.

Craig Ward stated we had some progress on the Business Incentive Program. We have 3 granted applications now. Partially that is because I directed staff to go back and inform businesses that had made applications for improvements to their business after this program started that they were eligible for the Business Incentive Program. I felt it was only fair to go back to them and let them know that had they known about the program they would have been eligible for it. What that means is that they won't be paying some fees that we will now be paying for them. We have two other applications pending.

Craig Ward congratulated Detectives Vining and Leahy for the work resulting in convictions for five defendants who have now plead guilty to robbing the Walgreens in Troutdale.

9. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Kight stated Mr. Ward and I met with Hiroshi Morihara who is the principal behind HM3. We look forward to working in a collaborative effort to make sure his operation is successful.

Councilor Daoust stated over the last two weekends there has been a large number of volunteers going door-to-door educating the public about the police bond. I think they have gone to probably 90% of the homes in Troutdale.

Councilor Wand stated for the last couple of weeks residents of Troutdale may have received a mailer that mislead them about some of the activities in the City of Troutdale and I feel like I have an obligation to let my fellow City Councilors and citizens who have served on the Budget Committee know what has been going on. First and foremost it is very important for our citizens to understand that we did not cut the police budget in the same year that we went out for a police bond levy to replace the facility. I would consider such an act to be quite a violation of the public's trust. In fact we increased our police budget for the 2010-11 Budget by over \$100,000, and in fact we increased the amount that our Chief initially asked for during the budget process by an approximately \$20,000. We did so based upon the Chief's recommendation about what he wanted us to fund as the next highest priority. True to form, the Chief asked us for more training because in his words that is what keeps the police officers safe. The second issue is that we have been attacked with an allegation that we created a slush fund for city councilors. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact what we did was institute a greater level of control and oversight over reimbursements for personal expenses that elected officials in our city incur and we replaced it with a \$50 per month stipend which will save the taxpayer money and saves staff time reviewing reimbursement requests. I have never taken a stipend from the City of Troutdale, nor have I received a check of any kind for any reimbursement for any expense since the day I began serving. I would also like to apologize to staff because I know that there has been staff time incurred dealing with these.

Mayor Kight stated Councilor Wand is correct. The police budget was not cut. The City of Troutdale's Mayor and Council for many decades have been extremely supportive of our police department. We recognize that public safety is our first priority to this city and we will continue to keep it as our first funding priority. The majority of our general fund budget is designated for our police department. We feel that Troutdale has one of the finest police departments in East Multnomah County. We are pleased and very happy with the level of service and support that we get from our police department and it is reciprocal on the part of the Mayor and City Council. We want to squash the rumor that we cut the budget, in fact we increased it.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION: Councilor White moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Kyle.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Mayor Jim Kight

Approved November 9, 2010

ATTEST:

Debbie Stickney, City Recorder