

DRAFT

MINUTES
Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting
Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room
234 SW Kendall Court
Troutdale, OR 97060

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 – 7:00PM

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan, Councilor Ripma, Councilor Lauer, Councilor White (7:02pm), Councilor Allen and Councilor Hudson.

ABSENT: Councilor Morgan (excused).

STAFF: Ray Young, City Manager; Sarah Skroch, City Recorder; Ed Trompke, City Attorney and Steve Gaschler, Public Works Director.

GUESTS: See Attached.

Mayor Ryan asked, any agenda updates?

Ray Young, City Manager, replied no.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment on non-agenda and consent agenda items is welcome at this time.

Paul Wilcox, Troutdale resident, stated first up, it's nice to have the meeting packets available before the meetings and this week they didn't show up online until this morning. The agendas usually come up the Wednesday before and the packets are usually Thursday or Friday at the latest. That's a problem for people who want to see more details of what's happening at the meeting in advance without actually coming down here to read the printed material. Second, on the consent agenda the letter about plastic bags, I'll start by saying I agreed with Councilor Hudson 100% about what he had to say at the recent meeting on the subject. However, it did remind me of 3 years ago when the Council was talking about doing a local gas tax and there were some Councilors that wanted to wait to see if the state legislature was going to raise the state gas tax which the City gets a portion of. Here we are 3 years later. Nothing has happened with the state legislature. I just wanted to point out you can't count on them doing anything, necessarily. Onto meeting minutes, I have one correction I would like to make. On page 8 of the September 25th meeting minutes, the paragraph that starts with my name in the very last sentence of that paragraph. I went back and listened to the video/audio and it was hard to discern

what I was saying so it wasn't clear. From the context of this sentence that's in the minutes I think my correction will make more sense. What it should say is, I'm fine with not requiring the additional parking space because I think it's available the way Troutdale is set up. The point I was making was that most houses in Troutdale have garages and with a garage pretty much every house has a driveway so you've got 2 spaces right there. And then with a 2 car garage you've got 4 spaces. I was essentially saying I didn't think it was necessary to require additional parking spaces for ADU's. We have a couple discussions tonight and I want to mention that those are open to public comment if anyone is interested. Another item, the parking lot where the old police station was behind Mayor's Square, I'd appreciate an update on paving that. I suspect it's not going to happen this fall. I just wanted to see what's happening with that. On a positive note, Imagination Station II, the grand opening is 2 to 4 o'clock this Saturday.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 MINUTES: September 25, 2018 City Council Regular Meeting and October 9, 2018 City Council Regular Meeting.

3.2 MOTION: A motion to approve a letter to state and regional elected officials regarding the regulation of single use plastic bags.

Councilor Hudson stated I would like to pull #3.2 for discussion.

MOTION: Councilor Hudson moved to approve #3.1 on the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Ripma. Motion Passed 6-0.

Mayor Ryan asked, does anyone have an issue with discussing this now?

Council replied no.

Councilor Hudson asked, is this the proposed letter to be sent to members of Metro and State and Senate based on the meeting we had previously?

Mayor Ryan replied that's my understanding.

Ray Young stated I tried to encapsulate what the Council agreed to do last time in a letter. And we put it on the consent agenda just in case it was okay or if anybody wanted to change it or tweak it.

Councilor Hudson asked, would we want the dates to reflect...

Ray Young stated I know I got the date wrong.

Councilor Hudson stated what I was wondering then is, we adopted the intention as a Council to send this on behalf of the Council. Should the letter reflect that?

Ray Young replied it says on behalf of the Troutdale City Council and the citizens.

Councilor Hudson stated I was imagining that this would come from the City Council. But if that is clear I suppose that Mayor Ryan is writing for all of us. I wanted to make it clear that this was a City Council adopted position and not Mayor Ryan's individual position. It seemed that our intent was to send something with the voice of the Council.

Councilor Lauer stated I'm in favor of the letter and with what the letter says.

Mayor Ryan stated it could say, I'm writing this on behalf of the City Council. A lot of energy was put forward on this and I'm not too sure the City of Fairview is moving forward with their deal. This is going to have more weight. If this doesn't go anywhere then we will end up doing something.

Councilor Hudson stated I would be ready to move forward with a motion.

MOTION: Councilor Hudson moved adoption of a motion to approve a letter to state and regional elected officials regarding the regulation of single use plastic bags. Seconded by Councilor Ripma. Motion Passed 6-0.

4. PROCLAMATION: Native American Heritage Month.

Mayor Ryan read the proclamation.

Ray Young stated the Grand Ronde Tribe was very helpful in helping us craft that proclamation and they've been very helpful in helping us add some additions to Imagination Station to also honor that part of the Troutdale heritage and culture. We'll be working with them further to make some modifications to Imagination Station for that reason.

5. DISCUSSION: Multnomah County alternative intersection feasibility evaluation Historic Columbia River Highway and Buxton Road.

Steve Gaschler, Public Works Director, stated tonight we're bringing forward some work that we've been doing with the County for about 2 years now. We're trying to improve the operation of one of the key intersections in downtown Troutdale. I'm sure you are all aware that at certain peak times of day, in the morning and the peak hours in the afternoon, we get a long line of cars trying to maneuver through that intersection. By bringing this to you tonight it will give the property owners in that area a chance to talk to you before we do anything. About a year ago the County agreed to go out and hire Kittelson & Associates who is one of the better transportation and planning engineers in the region here to take a look at this and come back with some alternatives and what they thought. What comes out of that mostly is that that intersection, the way they analyzed it, does meet warrant for a signal. I think that's the good news. I think in the long run that's probably the best solution. The downside of that is to get a signal in there is going to take a considerable amount of money and probably some time working with the County. So

what we looked at then was, what can we do in the interim until the signal is put in? They looked at some concepts and if you looked at the memo there was some stop signs looked at there, which didn't really help much and caused a big concern on how that might affect the intersection at 257th. If we start having cars pile up at the stop sign and back up and plug that intersection with the high volume it is, it would compound the problem. So we kind of put the stop sign solutions off the table. Another thing that was looked at is a mini round about which would actually function fairly well and could fit in there but we would lose some parking. And we know parking is a hot button issue downtown and we thought that probably wouldn't be a good road to go downtown with taking away additional parking. So they came up with a fourth alternative that basically puts a right turn lane in there that can turn freely and that way people going northbound on Troutdale Road can then make the turn when the cars are in the right lane knowing they're going to turn right. Currently there's one lane and you don't know if they're going to turn or not turn. Some people use their signal and some don't. Some people that are signaling aren't actually turning there, they're actually turning into the parking lot into here (Bandits Bar & Grill). That's what backs that traffic up the hill so bad. This is the interim solution that will improve the functionality of the intersection from an F which is failing to an E which is a little better than failing. But we'll fail eventually as traffic picks up which we all know traffic will continue to pick up. The ultimate solution is to put a signal in there. (Steve Gaschler showed the Council a slide of the map included in the meeting packet).

Ray Young asked, Steve, would you like to introduce our guests so they know they can ask questions of the County?

Steve Gaschler replied with the County I have 2 of the lead people in the transportation department, Riad and Carrie.

Mayor Ryan asked, the proposal right now is just that? That's all that's on the table at this point?

Steve Gaschler replied basically it's just a right turn lane which the negative impacts of that is currently there's one parking spot right there at the corner that we'll lose by doing that. This just came to light so it's not on the County's CIP currently and it's not on the City's CIP. It's in our transportation system plan but it's been out there so far it hasn't met the warrant. The next update of our plan we'll put it on our plan if the Council gives us a go ahead, they'll put it on their plan and we'll start working towards getting a signal in or something.

Mayor Ryan stated let's just say everyone loved this idea. Best case scenario, when would it happen?

Riad Alharithi, Multnomah County Transportation Department, replied we would wait for the weather to be better.

Mayor Ryan asked, it could be within a year?

Riad Alharithi replied yes.

Mayor Ryan stated you're talking about the turn lane solution.

Councilor White stated I'm not sure what that baseball bat looking thing is there on Buxton (as shown on the map included in the meeting packet). Is that a divider?

Steve Gaschler replied what they're trying to do is keep the cars in the northbound lane from crowding that center line because when there's a bus or a truck coming westbound trying to make that turn they crowd out there and get over too far and they can't make a turn. And the same thing with a bus or truck going westbound making a right turn. We've seen where people crowd that and then they can't get around that corner.

Councilor Allen asked, didn't we as a Council decide years ago that we would approve the funding for a light?

Councilor Ripma replied no. I think this solution is better than a light. But let's see how it works.

Councilor Allen asked, do you all like concept #1?

Mayor Ryan stated lets have the public who came speak about it.

Councilor Ripma asked, is what is being proposed concept #1 or concept #4?

Steve Gaschler replied concept #4.

Councilor Ripma stated if we do that center divider striping we would lose a few spots of parking.

Steve Gaschler stated my understanding is the only parking spot we're losing is the one that's on E. Columbia River Highway where the right turn lane basically takes it out.

Mayor Ryan stated let's have the public come up.

Richard Weill, Troutdale property owner, stated I own the property where Steve talked about the one parking space which is the law office. I'm an attorney and I bought that building and have operated it continuously since 1995. When I bought that property I really kind of think of myself as really the first person to make an investment in the "new downtown Troutdale" because in '95 there was nothing on the north side. The first that happened there was a street improvement that happened a couple years after I was there where they put those new sidewalks in. (Richard Weill handed out a photo, a copy can be found in the meeting packet). There weren't curb cuts until you reached the bays at the plumbing folks there (Alliance Plumbing). There were maybe 3 parking spaces

immediately right in front of the building to the west. The way I operate my business, first of all, I never park on the street. I don't know why any merchant in downtown Troutdale would park on the street or allow their employees to. In that picture that I showed you you'll see a little space by my building there and in the daytime when you drive by you usually see my black Volkswagen there. That's where I park. That one space was hard fought. I'll tell you a funny story. Last year sometime I got to work on a Monday morning and there were yellow hash marks like the County had come through and just completely like condemned the street in front. Like don't even walk in this area and I probably blew Ray's phone up and I called the County and I just could not believe that that had been done without any input from me. It completely eliminated any parking, the one spot that I always wanted to have for handicap people because I do a lot of elder law and I have people coming in to sign wills. They can't walk down Buxton. They need to be in front there. It turns out it was a gentleman across the street that decided to take matters into his own hands. Recently something happened where they were going to paint a yellow stripe along the whole curb so that there would be no parking. State law, and Riad who is here can correct me, I believe it's 20 feet from an intersection that you're not supposed to park. And formerly there was a marking there but it wore off and then when they repainted it they took out the whole thing. I met with Ray and Mr. Gaschler and we got together with the County with Riad and a temporary solution was reached where they backed off on that yellow mark so that I would at least have that one space. It's not really a great space because it's not a full space. The back end of your car is actually into the curb cut. It just provides a little bit of a consideration for the kind of folks that I service in my business. The problem that I've had in this whole street and I have brought it to the attention of the County many times way before Riad was with the County and I've talked to people in Troutdale and that is this bike lane. I do not understand why this bike lane on that block has to be there. If you go on the other side of the road when you get towards 257th you'll notice there is no bike lane. It's because it's just incompatible with the amount of traffic turning right. And I think that the one thing that's missing from this report is they are still trying to maintain that bike lane. For me, it is just insane. I have been there since 1995 looking out that window seeing the increase in traffic and seeing the recreational bicyclists. The problem with that bike lane is that you've got all these cars that turn right there so they're always turning against the bike lane. The reason why the people coming down Buxton turning left are so confused is that the people turning right are not pulled over at the curb where they're supposed to be. State traffic code says when you make a right turn you are to pull over to the right as far as practical. That's in the rules of the road. Also in the bike lane statute it says, thou shall not enter a bike lane except to make a right turn. So there's nothing wrong with going into a bike lane to make a right turn to go up Buxton. But people don't do that because it's got those nice white lines and they're just afraid so they're out at the double yellow line. I think one solution would be just to recognize this is just too busy of an intersection to have the bike lane and just take it out so you open up the street. The cars that want to turn right will just go to the right. The cars that want to go straight will go straight. You can go to any street and see that action. They also painted the yellow line far more than 20 feet up Buxton. So they took out a lot of parking there. I don't think that they need to do it that much. Councilor Ripma said the trucks aren't supposed to be going up there. I think there could be a few more cars put

on Buxton. With this change I will lose the only parking space that I have which I feel that I need to service my clients. I would just like to see them explore a little better way by considering taking out the bike lane.

Ryan McNaughton, Troutdale resident, stated I own the property just to the east of Mr. Weill's property. My concern is we've looked at developing the lot there next door to my building and that triggered all sorts of things from the County. One of them was where they wanted 15 feet or so of that property for easement. They wanted us to put in stormwater facilities and you don't see that anywhere else where we've developed. It's not happening on the Discovery Block. It's only happening on my property because it can because it's 2 County roads. They said it would happen anywhere else. It feels a little bit like unrealistic to me. That's my biggest concern. I would like to develop that property. So how does this impact that development? The other thing I don't see with this is that the main problem I see is cars turning left up to Buxton and that's where you get the backup. I'm not sure that this really alleviates that problem at all. You're still going to have cars waiting to turn left and the backup is going to go clear up the road. I'm concerned with what I can do with my property. The County is telling me that I have to give them a substantial piece of my property if I do any type of development. I don't think that's fair. Nobody else has to do that downtown. It's unrealistic and just doesn't make sense. I can even see a little cut out there going through my property where the hedge is.

Councilor Lauer stated I think that's just the 75 foot length for that yellow divider in the center of Buxton. That just tells you it's 75 feet from the beginning to the end. You own Bandits?

Ryan McNaughton replied the building and the lot. We've explored developing that and quite frankly we're held up because of the County restrictions they put on us which, in my opinion, are pretty ridiculous.

Councilor Ripma stated this change in the traffic pattern putting in the right turn lane and so on, is that going to trigger the County taking 15 feet of your property?

Ryan McNaughton replied that's why I'm here.

Councilor Ripma stated I mean, that would really be unreasonable.

Ryan McNaughton stated in all my conversations with the County they want that 15 feet of property.

Councilor Ripma stated if you wanted to develop it they would take 15 feet. That's a little more arguable. I'm not saying it's fair or reasonable but if just putting in this stop sign arrangement triggers them taking 15 feet of your property which I'm not fully understanding why it would but if it did I would be opposed to us even doing it.

Ryan McNaughton stated and I'm not sure that it does. I just want to be clear that there has been some discussion of that with the development of that. We do want to see that property developed. If it's not me, I want to see it developed and I don't want anything that happens here to hinder that development. If a light is going in, do we need to give up some property? I'm fine if it helps the whole intersection but I'm not fine with just because I want to develop it I need to give up the property.

Councilor Allen asked, Mayor, can we get some clarification on what the 15 feet for stormwater?

Riad Alharithi replied, I'm not privy to the development to the property but to answer the question, none of the solution to the traffic would trigger any taking from any property.

Ryan McNaughton stated I just hope that this also brings forward the conversations that I've had with the Planning Department and with the County about that property and kind of why. I hope that we're kept in the loop about what's going on down there.

Paul Wilcox stated I had time this afternoon to review this presentation and the 4 options. I was looking for a 3-way stop ideally. I wanted to back up to the attorney's comments. The idea that cars can occupy the bike lane prior to turning right, that's absolutely incorrect in Oregon. That's the rule in California and Washington states. In Oregon, just look at the news. Look at what's referred to as right hook accidents in Portland. The reason for that is cars are required to make a right turn from the through traffic lane whereas you have the through bike lane on their right. If the car were occupying the bike lane it wouldn't happen. As far as that right turn lane, I really like that idea, the right turn lane eastbound on Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH). I had problems with it being a free right lane. The reason for that is that people westbound on HCRC wanting to turn left onto Buxton are going to be facing a continuous flow of cars turning right from HCRH onto Buxton. I think to address that possibly rather than having a full stop for the right turners, possibly a yield sign so they would know that the people turning left onto Buxton would have the right-of-way. Another comment I had on the right turn lane, one problem I did foresee was when you create that right turn lane the people merging into that right turn lane, they're crossing the bike lane. So you have potential for bicyclists being side swiped if they're not paying attention. The one I liked best was option 4 but it didn't have the 3-way stop signs. I did like the addition of the striping between the north and south lanes to allow for larger vehicles to make that right turn. I would go with a 3-way stop and a right turn yield lane eastbound on HCRH.

Mayor Ryan asked, Ray, what's the goal of tonight?

Ray Young replied information and input. The County wants to be a good partner and let everybody know what's happening and get feedback.

Councilor Ripma stated I think the County should provide assurance to the City and the property owner that no land needs to be taken by the County for this modification. We need to provide some assurance.

Mayor Ryan stated this is just painting. Is it realistic to get rid of the bike lane?

Councilor Ripma stated I think Mr. Weill's point is very good that at 257th the bike lane disappears. What's so sacrosanct about Buxton that you have to leave it striped there?

Steve Gaschler replied at 257th you have 3 lanes. You have a left turn, a straight through and right lane. That's why the bike lane goes away. Here we've just got 2. We're not wanting to take anybody's property and I'll give you those assurances tonight. This isn't a property taking. Council has to approve a property taking. We're not asking that. If you take the bike lane away you don't get your parking back because the bike lane is 6 feet and the parking lane is 8 feet. It doesn't gain us anything. You have a lot of bike people coming through here and Ray sees them all the time downtown and it's increasing all the time. We want to make Troutdale bike friendly and try and get them through here as safely as we can. This is what the experts say is the safest way to get them through that intersection. I think if we start playing around with it we're asking for problems.

Mayor Ryan stated this is something that we have to address.

Councilor Ripma asked are any parking places being lost on Buxton by this concept 4?

Ray Young stated we'll give them a chance to look at it. We have the bus stop on the one side and we've got no parking all the way up past Mr. Weill's building on the other side. We should probably get the measurements out and look at the "baseball bat" to see how far back it actually impacts parking. I'll let you know next council meeting, Councilor Ripma.

Councilor Allen stated I definitely feel for the business because you want your customers to be able to park close. I wonder about the "baseball bat". I can understand wanting to push the traffic that is headed north on Buxton over to the right a little bit to make it easier for the bus to make the turn. However, I don't understand necessarily that same bat encroaching onto the southbound lane which seems like it would just crowd out parking near the curb. It seems like if the baseball bat weren't so far to the west that we could have less impact on the parking.

Councilor White asked, is there eventually going to need to be a light there even with these improvements?

Steve Gaschler replied yes. That's correct.

Mayor Ryan stated we have an issue here and we have to do something. I am sensitive to Richard and I get that. I wish there was something we could do there. I'm also sensitive

to Ryan's issue but that's not what we're talking about tonight, that's a different issue. We have to make a decision and we have to do something here in my opinion. I would suggest we move forward.

Councilor Allen stated I like an amalgamation of concepts 2 and 4 with the idea that the bat's not as thick and that lane flow freely whereas the stop signs are actually on HCRH with a right turn permitted.

Councilor Lauer stated there's bulb outs on concept 2.

Councilor Allen stated I don't like the bulb out. It's taking up space unnecessarily in this intersection. I would leave as many legal parking spaces as you could.

Mayor Ryan asked, will you come back to us when you finalize?

Riad Alharithi replied if you want us to come back, of course we will.

6. DISCUSSION: Local homeless problem.

Rip Caswell, Troutdale resident, stated I'm a business owner and a resident of Troutdale. I've been here in Troutdale operating business for about 26 years now. I moved in 1992 and it's always been such a quaint, wonderful community and I always felt safe. About 2 years ago, I don't know what the reasons are, it felt like things started to change. Our home up on 7th was broken into. Somebody climbed into the bedroom window and ransacked our house, stole jewelry and they were even so brazen that they made themselves lunch out of our refrigerator. The neighbors saw them climbing out of the bedroom window and called the police and our Sheriff's department reacted very quickly. Unfortunately they had had enough time to get to their drug dealer and sold all of my wife's jewelry and they were just as high as could be. And really, nothing happened to them. They just got a slap on the wrist. It's just frustrating to see that kind of thing. A few weeks later my wife and I were awakened by somebody pounding on our front door demanding to come in. This guy was high and on drugs and he was screaming and wanted in and rattling the door. I told him to leave and he was just not wanting to go and was there for quite a while. I finally pulled a shotgun and ejected a shell and told him he better leave our front door. He finally did. And then maybe a few months later the front of our gallery was broken into. Somebody smashed the front window, came in, stole artwork and the alarm went off finally and that scared them off. All these people were on foot but I can't say for sure they were homeless but I'm just saying that the town doesn't feel quite as safe as it used to. I think part of the problem is the new bridge that's come in. We have a lot of homeless people out on Thousand Acres and there's camps all over. That bridge has given them access into our downtown. They're able to easily cross back and forth going onto Frontage Road and panhandle. You see them sleeping, urinating and all kinds of things all over around the outlet malls, Frontage Road and they also go underneath the bridge out to our new building on Harlow Road. We just built a new foundry right along the Sandy River and everyday there's garbage thrown all over the place out there. There's derelict vehicles, people camping and throwing their garbage all over the place. Maybe

I'm just overly sensitive to it as an artist but I can't stand seeing all the litter and trash floating down the Sandy River, blowing all around and just really wrecking the beauty that has drawn me into Troutdale. So I wanted to bring this to your attention. I know that everyone is aware of it but I thought maybe if we get it onto the Council's agenda and we could talk about it and look for some solutions that might sort of come up with something so that we don't end up looking like we're annexed into Portland. Believe me, I have great empathy for our veterans that are out there and our mentally ill. I wish that our state and our national government would get back into helping these mentally ill people and providing housing or whatever they can do. We've got a local problem here right now and I'm hoping that we can come to some solutions. I talked to a few people and I talked to one of the sheriffs and he said we're bound right now by kind of the over-reaching rules of Multnomah County. But he said that each town can have home rule and if your Council will give us direction we'll follow that rule. And I know there's a lot of laws and it's going to take some bright minds to come up with some solutions but I think if we look at some of the other cities in Oregon and what they've done. I read an article that Ashland, Albany and Medford adopted a law called the expulsion zone. They were having a lot of problems with homeless causing problems within the town and they created this and it's given them the resources to be able to get them moved on. In Hermiston they have a law that's called the unlawful transfer law so nobody can panhandle. If you're transferring product or cash, that's an illegal activity and they can get them to move on. You don't see a lot of camps in downtown. They're mostly out at Thousand Acres. But they're sleeping under tarps and around and they're very nomadic. They come in here to panhandle along Frontage Road and they're walking quite a bit up and down the Sandy River. But there's also a lot of people living out of their cars and I'm seeing a lot of it. We've got one right in downtown on the parking below the stores along the railroad tracks there. There's kind of an RV sort of vehicle there. Along our road at Harlow there's been a lot of them coming and going. They'll stay there for 2 or 3 days, maybe a week. The police now are aware of it so they've been pushing them out of there. A lot of drug deals. I found a bag filled with needles. They've done several busts down there. There's used gloves and needles all along that trail there along the Sandy coming right out from underneath I-84 where our new urban renewal development's going to be. There's just a lot of traffic coming through there. We have all these wonderful trails but I can tell you my wife refuses to jog on any of those trails or ride a bike alone. She's afraid that she could be abducted. That's a shame to have such a beautiful livability of a city with so many amenities and parks and our residents are afraid to use them. So, what can we do? I'd like us to really talk to our Sheriff and the people that are on the ground and see if they have some ideas. They're living it and working it. The guys that are on the street are working it. Do they have any ideas as to what we can do? And I think if the towing of these vehicles is a problem because what I heard is that it costs \$3000.00 if they find a derelict vehicle that's been abandoned and they go through the whole process to tow, the tow companies refuse to take it because it costs them \$3000.00 to get rid of all the junk and only \$1000.00 in return. I'd like to ask our City to consider a fund that would help subsidize that. If we can start getting rid of these things because they seem to gravitate and it grows. Those are some of the ideas. I'd like us to look at some of the other cities and see what they've done in Oregon. We don't have to put up with this. We can be creative and be different and I really think that

Troutdale is an independent town and we should remain that way. We've all worked really hard to make this a wonderful place to live, work and play. It would be a shame if we lose what we've all worked so hard for.

Luke Bates, Way Out Inn Owner, stated I would like to second and support what Rip had to say. I had a business in N.E. Portland for the last 12 years before we moved out here and we had a serious problem with the homeless in that location for years and it just got worse. Once they got a foothold it got worse so quickly I just decided I'm done. I sold that business and my house in that neighborhood. We live out in Bridal Veil and we work here in Troutdale and we love it. I just wanted to say I'm concerned about the homeless activity that I've seen. We have young people that work for us that are leaving the place alone at 10 o'clock at night sometimes. There's been some campers down below the back side of our restaurant. I'm concerned about their safety and my wife's safety. And like Rip said, it's such a great little town and I'm hoping that we can get everybody behind this before it gets any worse.

Dodi Simons, Troutdale business owner, stated I own a couple of buildings downtown. I came in on a Sunday and all the power was off in 5 buildings that were going down the street. So then I went downstairs looking and there were beer cans all down by my power box and they had cut the switches to the power. In 21 years I've never had to put a lock on that. So then I had to go and put locks on all of the power boxes that are up and down and they're just doing it because they think it's funny. I have all girls working for me mostly and they cut the light to my automatic sensor light to go down below at night. It makes it dangerous for a lot of gals to go out to their car in the back. We can figure this out.

Mayor Ryan stated I actually have a whole bunch of experience with this because at my paying job I oversee bank branches and one of our branches is on 94th and S.E. Stark right on the trail there. There's a wall there and we've seen the increase in the last 3 years where we have overnight security there 3 times a night moving campers. The drug problem there is so bad. Every morning we go and pick up needles, we clean up human feces and blood. What I will say is that if you don't get a handle on it, it will only get worse. I sent 28 emails to the Portland City Council. I got 2 replies in the middle of the 28. They completely just ignored everything. We are going to be responsive to this. But another thing is, the City of Troutdale needs to understand that we can't go just take a baseball bat and start kicking people out. Whatever we need to do for home rule we need to be able to do because this problem will only get worse. The City of Portland is having a really tough time distinguishing between home affordability and just people who are totally addicted and they're zombies. The police can only keep them for about 4 hours. The petty theft that they do, they do little tiny things because the withdrawals are so bad that they can't go in for very long. I'm challenging Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to please help us with this. It's not going to be okay. We have a very dark and quiet downtown. I'll tell you guys, this is not inhumane. The people I deal with are going to the bathroom on our wall. This is a bank branch. He was so high and one of his needles fell out and he's struggling around. It is serious issues. If they find their way out here the drug dealers will find their way out here.

Jay Marquess, Troutdale resident, stated you all have a right to be concerned and it's valid and really sad. On my way here tonight I heard a noise outside of my house and I went out and looked and there's a gentleman with a 5 year old kid getting out of the front of his van and getting inside the back of the van to sleep tonight. And it's not all just drug addicts. It's a very sad epidemic and it's going to take a humanitarian collective effort with cities, counties and states. All of our facilities have been shut down. Unity, which is one of the main ones that we use, try to take your clients or your people down there and there's no place to put them. So what do we do? We're kind of all to blame in a sense because nobody wants to pay any more taxes and nobody wants to facilitate these places in their areas. But being a homeless person for 4 years, I'm telling you, mental health is real. What you seem to think sometimes are drug addicts are untreated mental health. All's I'm asking here is we need to do it together with humanitarian core coming to the table. When you go and break up these camps and you move them, what seems to happen? They go somewhere else. And sometimes maybe it's not easier for them to facilitate themselves so desperate people do desperate things and become a little more extreme the more exposed they get. There is an epidemic called heroin. I hope this discussion has a ripple effect and it brings us together for more discussions. I would like to be involved in those discussions if I may.

Mayor Ryan stated don't get me wrong, I think what we're talking about tonight is criminal activity and vandalizing of property, showing up at your house and breaking into things. That's 2 different issues. We do have issues. I'm almost 4 years sober. I have had times in my life also. This is not coming from a place that doesn't understand addiction because I do. What I'm saying is, there's a difference between people cutting out lights and vandalizing things and throwing trash everywhere and they're disrespectful and then the homeless families that need our help. That's a different deal and I think the HOPE officers are doing very well with that. We've got to be patrolling these areas and making sure that they're not dealing drugs down below.

Saul Pompeyo, Ristorante di Pompello, stated the homeless grows. The homeless go but the garbage stays in the place. You guys need to approve a budget for the Public Works to clean the mess. You guys can use the people that need to do community service. A budget for cleaning and work with the police for community service to clean the mess.

Ray Young stated we have a meeting with the prosecuting attorney and myself and Chris Damgen to talk about changes in parking, RV parking and the codes that we currently have to tighten those up a little bit more so we don't have a problem with people camping and causing a problem. The City of Troutdale has not had one minute of increase in police coverage in this city in over 15 years. And maybe it's time that we need to look to increase our police coverage in this City. We've grown a lot in 15 years and we haven't grown at all in our police and sheriff coverage. We're looking at what that cost might be for next budget year. I've talked to the Citizens Advisory Committee and they're considering whether they'd be willing to examine the extent of the problem if you asked them. What

is the problem? Where is the problem? And then make suggestions for code changes. I think it would be really helpful to have the Citizens Advisory Committee examine this.

Monte Reiser, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Commander and Chief of Police, stated I really appreciate Mr. Caswell sharing his observations and the others as well. We also had an opportunity a couple weeks ago at the Community Forum to discuss this issue. I also attended the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting last week. I can tell you we are seeing and hearing of more issues related to the homeless in Troutdale. I can tell you that I don't receive as many calls as you might think. I think lately 2 or 3 more than I normally do per month. We have the HOPE team (Homeless Outreach and Programs Engagement) as an exclusive resource to try to have some public safety impact on this issue in the County. Those HOPE team members were funded a couple years ago on one-time only money that has been renewed. The 2 deputies do a wonderful job but I can tell you that they are also frustrated with the homeless condition regionally and locally. Their mission is really two-fold. It's one of outreach and it's one of enforcement. We don't see and we haven't seen a tremendous impact in terms of the lower level crimes that's typically associated with the homeless population in Troutdale. In fact, we've seen some lower type 1 crimes in Troutdale, property crimes specifically, has stayed pretty steady or has gone down in the last few years in Troutdale. But that's not to excuse anecdotally what we're actually seeing. We talked about in the past the issue of Frontage Road, that being about 15% of all the incidences that occur in Troutdale. I think we do see a lot more of the transient homeless subjects that are going typically into the unincorporated locations across the river and the Sandy River Delta and the Thousand Acres area as well as some of the camps along the railroad tracks. We talk about solutions and what can we do. The County is involved with the Joint Office of Homelessness with the City of Portland. I don't think the City of Troutdale is associated with that but there might be some experts that are working on the problem within the city. I appreciate the attempts of contacting the City in that regard. I'm familiar with Marc Jolin who is the director of the Joint Office and he would be a great resource that we can work with moving forward. There's some things that we had talked about with Council and Ray and I shared some discussion about being proactive in terms of cleanup or having a citizen's patrol and keeping an extra eye on parks and communicating and led by a sheriff's office member. Business watch might be something that we can pursue downtown with the business owners and having a discussion with them maybe through the Citizens Advisory Committee and those sorts of things. I think that looking at any immediate changes in ordinances or anything at the sheriff's office is asked to pursue in terms of enforcement really needs to be scrutinized thoroughly in terms of the legalities involved in that and the protection of 1st and 4th amendments. There's some recent 9th Court rulings that have come out with impact to what we can do and what we can't do and other rulings out there.

Mayor Ryan stated I think it's important to realize that I think that 9th ruling was that we can't ask people to move.

Monte Reiser stated if there's no available resources for them to go to. That's my understanding. I haven't read the ruling. The one thing that is a resounding statement

from me is just it's such a complex issue. It's a human services issue and it touches upon law enforcement at times. We don't see the violent crime that people may be concerned about association with homeless. Occasionally we have had those but we really don't see that as much. The addiction, the veterans and those that are down on their luck. I too share some of the experiences with seeing and meeting families that are homeless and there's definitely a compassion element that we all feel towards this issue. But we also experience the low level crime like the offensive littering and some thefts. But what we really can't say, I think, is that homeless are causing the crime in our communities. That they are the primary factor in that in the homeless population. We're dedicated to doing what we can in response to that. I'm really hoping that the HOPE team can get refunded in the next fiscal year and continue to pursue their mission of outreach and at times responding to some of the criminal complaints.

Mayor Ryan asked, is there any thought that the HOPE team wouldn't be? We went down and testified last time when it first came out.

Monte Reiser replied just an uncertain budget outlook for next fiscal year. So with that there's always the exercise that we do in terms of trying to meet that constraint. It's one of those specialty units that could be subject to a potential reduction.

Mayor Ryan asked, would you be able to give us a heads up if it looked like it was so we could help?

Monte Reiser replied absolutely.

Councilor Lauer stated the HOPE team is designed to help connect people down on their luck to resources that are available to them that they might not have known. They have to want to use those resources though. If they don't want the help, what's the course of action? If you continuously see the same people over and over again and they don't want help and for whatever reason the HOPE team isn't the answer, what's the course of action then?

Monte Reiser replied we do have that population for whatever reason. They choose the lifestyle. I think at times we can attribute some of that to mental health or addiction but for whatever reason I think there is a percentage of that population that chooses the lifestyle. With that, we enact the enforcement option. When it's on public property we have the unlawful camping ordinance which essentially gives them the 24 hours to vacate after we post that. If they're not there we'll post it and we'll give that 24 hours and if they don't move we'll go in and they're subject to arrest or citation for trespass. If they're not there, by order under the resolution, we confiscate their property and we hold it for 30 days. I like to think that people don't want to die out there and spend the rest of their lives homeless. Our first option is one of compassion and trying to connect them with those services. It's a lifestyle that there's consequences in terms of livability. There are tremendous amounts of garbage and debris and human waste and everything else that

goes with living outdoors without adequate services. The option is enforcing that unlawful camping ordinance.

Councilor Lauer stated I think Rip and the other business owners downtown bring up a bigger topic than homelessness in our area. I think mental services, addiction or just trying to make it and living out of a car in a place where people don't want them to live. We're obviously not going to find an answer tonight but I think getting the ball rolling and starting to talk and starting to at least hear the grievances that are occurring is super important. I've worked for 15 years for public works and I'm on the streets every day in 3 different Cities and I've seen different levels of the problem. It's so hard to deal with trying to help people that don't want the help. How do we get past the epidemic that we're facing and how do we offer them services that might not exist or don't exist to the amount that we need it to so we can help people? This is something that I think the 3 Cities should have come together on instead of plastic bags. I'm not saying plastic bags aren't that big of a deal but this is something that effects people right now. I think this is something worthy of 3 Councils, 3 Administrators and 3 legal teams coming together and trying to think of something positive to help our community.

Councilor Allen asked, do we know if this is a growing problem in this area as far as transferring from other states?

Monte Reiser replied I remember a couple of years ago, I think it was an Oregonian article, that talked about the 3000 homeless citizens in Multnomah County. I looked the other day and I saw the number 4100 so I think it's growing. I don't know where they're coming from but it definitely appears to be on the rise.

Councilor Lauer stated I would absolutely be for sending this to the Citizens Advisory Committee to get them involved and start discussing maybe some topics and solutions. Then even going a little bit further than that and maybe starting a sub-committee and maybe something geared more towards this specifically.

Mayor Ryan stated Ray, I guess we could ask you if everybody's in favor of the Citizens Advisory Committee doing it.

Ray Young stated I think last week Mr. Wilcox was running the meeting and my understanding that they were going to talk about it at their next meeting to see if it's a project they're willing to take on. Let's see what the Citizens Advisory Committee says and then if not we'll come back with a proposal maybe to bring together an ad hoc committee of interested citizens, the sheriff's office and staff to work on solutions if they want. I would first suggest give them the option if they want to do it. If not, we'll come up with another committee to do it. We need to come up with a solution and also the idea of talking to the other 2 Cities is a great idea.

Councilor White stated I wouldn't mind providing some input to the Citizens Advisory Committee. I've been to every League of Oregon Cities (conference) since I've been on

Council and there's usually always a homeless tour or discussion. I've gained a lot of information by seeing those. It's a highly complex set of problems. I appreciate Jay's comments that we can't just live in a bubble and think as long as we're okay and not worry about our neighbors. There's some good people out there but there's also a huge drug problem and I think in Troutdale it's a particular problem because of the area that's not in our City which is Thousand Acres. I know in the past there was a team effort with several agencies because it's a bigger problem than I think even Multnomah County can handle. I think we need to look at ways, instead of pointing fingers and blaming anybody, of coming up with a solution. I'd like to see the mental health being funded like it used to be. I know that's become a big burden on the police officers to have to deal with when that was shut down. Another thing I learned, I think there isn't a big amount of public support for a lot of the programs because they don't make sense to the public. For example, the housing authority you would think they would pick women and children first or a disabled vet instead of the person that gets the first pick for housing is someone that's coming out of jail because the idea is if they reoffend they're going to cost us all more money. So they get top priority over women and children. It's stuff like that that I think needs to be looked at and fixed. Eugene is really ahead of the curve. There's people that have college degrees that are dedicating their life to the homeless. They're non-materialistic and they want to help humanity. My hat's off to those people. There's an underlining theme that they have to not be committing crimes and not be on drugs or alcohol. There's rules. The Union Gospel Mission won't even accept anybody under their program until they're around the age of 28. I asked them why that was and they said because by then they've usually been on the bottom so long that they're looking for any kind of help and they're willing to do anything to get off the drugs and get help. I appreciate all your work. I want to look at this from an approach of, how can we help?

Mayor Ryan stated we're going to ask the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Ray Young stated we'll wait until the Citizens Advisory Committee makes a decision on what they want to do and depending on what they say we'll come back with the next steps.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ray Young stated Saturday at 2 o'clock your wonderful Mayor, Casey Ryan, will be helping with part of the festivities at Imagination Station. Our former Mayor Daoust will also be there saying a few words. We have coffee and punch and cake. We're planning for at least 100 to 200 people. We have our next Council meeting on the 27th which will primarily focus on an ordinance change needed for FEMA compliance for flood areas. There's nothing next week. We will be closed on Thursday and Friday next week. After the 27th, on December 4th, we will have the half-yearly budget meeting. That Thursday right after that on December 6th we will have committee selection interviews. On December 11th we will have a regular Council meeting and we will be saying goodbye to our dear friends, Rich Allen and Larry Morgan and honoring them. After the first of the year we will be swearing in our new Council members, Jamie Kranz and Nick Moon. We

will have an event for that at 6 o'clock on January 8th. Finally, we are happy to introduce Fred Ostler, our new Public Works Director who started today.

8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Ripma stated I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Mayor Ryan stated I had the opportunity to go speak to the Reynolds football team before their second round playoff game Friday. They won their first round. I got to talk to them in the gym before they loaded onto the bus. I really love the culture there and I love the fact that the coach has the sense to greatness. It's kind of like Chip Kelley's "Win the Day". It's spreading throughout the school. They're bringing pride back to Reynolds. Hats off to the football team.

Councilor White stated I just want to let the public know that Rip Caswell is not the only one we've heard from. We heard from a recent resident that came in and spoke about the homeless situation. I like that Rip brought up home rule. In Troutdale we have our own way of doing things and we're trying to maintain a way of life and I think we're doing a great job.

Councilor Allen stated I do believe that we do need to enforce our laws. I think we also have to take a look at the sanitation condition. Whatever we can do to help we should be doing.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Ripma moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Lauer. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Casey Ryan, Mayor

Dated: _____

DRAFT

ATTEST:

Kenda Schlaht, Deputy City Recorder

