

MINUTES
Goal Setting
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MINUTES
GOAL SETTING WORK SESSION
OF
January 29, 2021
10 a.m.
VIA ZOOM

PRESIDING: Mayor Richard Mays

COUNCIL PRESENT: Rod Runyon, Dan Richardson, Timothy McGlothlin, Scott Randall, Darcy Long-Curtiss

COUNCIL ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Julie Krueger, Legal Counsel Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Izetta Grossman, Finance Director Angie Wilson, Community Development Director Alice Cannon, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Patrick Ashmore, Human Resources Director Daniel Hunter, Library Director Jeff Wavrunek, Assistant Public Works Director Eric Hansen, Airport Manager Dave Rasmussen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mays at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Izetta Grossman called roll. All Councilors present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance Director Angie Wilson reviewed the court/finance department summary.

Public Works Director Dave Anderson introduced the Assistant Public Works Director Eric Hansen. Anderson reviewed the public works summary.
In response to questions Anderson reported:

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- Street maintenance was prioritized utilizing a new software program, that could produce an annual list. He said he would have an annual list posted to the website.
- 50/50 Sidewalk rehabilitation program received 23 applications.
 - Top 8 or 9 projects would be funded
 - Focused on those not requiring tree removal or street widening
 - All application would be kept for next year if funding was available

Police Chief Patrick Ashmore reviewed the police department summary. He said he had discussed the goals with the new Police Chief, Tom Worthy, and he agreed with the goals. Ashmore said that between the City Manager and himself the transition should be a smooth one.

Community Development Director Alice Cannon reviewed the department summary.

In response to questions Cannon reported:

Staff working on surveys, processes to gather more public comment on land use and development, and to encourage developers to have neighborhood meetings as part of the permitting process.

Cannon reported that Urban Renewal would receive a financial report in February and then would start a goal setting/visioning process.

Library Director Jeff Wavrunek gave a history summary of the Library District. (attached)

In response to questions regarding reopening the Library he said:

- In July patrons weren't following social distancing and face mask rule
- Staff uncomfortable having to enforce, as it became confrontational
- Stay with curbside services, until reopening is safe

Human Resource Director Daniel Hunter reported top goals for upcoming year:

Preparation for top manager retirements in the near future. This includes budget proposals for increased recruiting costs as well as possible training for existing personnel to transition into those positions.

Employee health incentive program to encourage employees to take a more proactive approach to their health. This includes budgeting for funds paid back by Cigna through their Health Incentive Program.

City Clerk Izetta Grossman reviewed the City Clerk and IT summary.

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In response to a question Finance Director Angie Wilson said Traffic Court would start being held via Zoom on February 1.

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Manager Dave Rasmussen reviewed the summary.

In response to a question Rasmussen said there had been no noise complaints at the airport.

He said Hood River Airport had an issue due to location of the airport.

Mayor Mays opened the meeting to citizen comments.

Carolyn Wood said she wanted to advocate for completion of the period lights on 3rd Street, she said she felt the project had been forgotten.

City Manager Julie Krueger said it had been an Urban Renewal Agency project. She said the Community Development Director would raise it with the Agency Board.

Don Warren, Main Street Program reported the downtown businesses would like one theme, with period light poles, benches, trashcans.

He said he would like to meet with the City Manager and Community Development Director monthly.

Mayor Mays recessed the meeting until 12:30 for lunch.

City Manager Julie Krueger said she felt she had a very well-rounded team and she was proud of the work they do.

She said she looked forward to hearing Council goals for the coming year.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Website

It was the consensus of the Council that it was important to have a company familiar with government websites to redo the website.

Council felt COVID had brought into focus areas where the website could be updated to provide transparency and better serve the public.

City Manager Julie Krueger said staff had been looking into options. She said a full redo of the website could be as much as \$50,000, with annual maintenance fees. She said she would put it in the fiscal year 2021-22 budget.

Downtown Redevelopment

Council identified the following items of interest:

- Vacancies downtown
- Finish 1st Street Streetscape
- Plaza on 2nd and Federal
- Tony's building – Urban Renewal project; housing; shovel ready real estate
- Vertical housing – hard for developer to pencil – ways to help with costs

Councilor Runyon said the City was more than just the downtown. He said bigger companies need to be included in the conversation on what is needed.

Councilor Long-Curtiss said she would like a Council discussion just on the vision for the City of The Dalles as a whole; who do we want to be. She said the Council needs to have a direction, and then invite the public into the conversation. She said she felt this was a first step then work with other organizations for a long-term plan.

City Manager Julie Krueger said a new Visioning project would be very time consuming. She said the current Visioning could be reviewed.

She summarized Council conversation:

- Visioning/Economic Recovery
- 1st Street/Plaza/Vertical Housing – Urban Renewal driven
- Look at whole City not just downtown
- Workshop – future of the City of The Dalles

She said she would provide an outline for visioning steps, cost of consultant.

Houseless Situation

Mayor Mays asked Legal Counsel to review his memo regarding the issue.

Legal Counsel Jonathan Kara discussed the implications of Martin v. Boise and Blake v. City of Grants Pass, two federal cases with authority over the jurisdiction of the City of The Dalles. In Martin, the United States 9th Circuit Court of Appeals effectively prohibited the City from

enforcing criminal statutes against homeless individuals sleeping or camping on public property when the City has inadequate shelter practically available for its homeless population. In Blake, the Medford Division of the United States District Court for Oregon expanded Martin to similarly prohibit the City from enforcing civil statutes and assessing penalties against homeless individuals sleeping or camping on public property when the City has inadequate shelter practically available for its homeless population.

Kara answered questions relating to the ways the City has updated its practices and policies, specifically in its Police Department, to remain consistent with the dynamic laws on this issue.

Kara raised some issues in the Land Use and Development Ordinance preventing the City from achieving some of the goals or options the Council is interested in exploring. One identified issue is the prohibition on non-listed uses in each zoning district within City limits. The second issue is the ban on all temporary uses. Kara explained he had planned on updating our code to incorporate those changes later this year. After hearing the Council's thoughts on these matters, he committed to working with Alice Cannon, the City's Community Development Director, to expedite the code amendment process to allow permanent and temporary shelters as quickly as practicable.

He said the timing was good for the City to be thinking about homelessness and how to deal with tents on public property, because there is legislation being discussed at the State level in a very draft form. He said the League of Oregon Cities would like to come up the rules for the legislature to adopt, defining homeless; shelter; public property.

City Manager Krueger said the City had completed the agreement with Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) for the management and operations of the pallet shelters. She said the agreement was for 3 years at the current sight.

Mayor Mays said the Houseless Taskforce would be starting up in the next two weeks. He said there were representatives from: Police Department; MCCAC; Faith Community; Behavioral Health; Center for Living; St. Vincent de Paul; and the Mayor.

City Manager Krueger summarized:

- Monitor State House Bill development
- Identify other locations for shelters
- Be proactive not reactive

Post Pandemic Economic Recovery

City Manager Julie Krueger reported that \$250,000 had been awarded to local businesses. She

said \$5,000 had been given to the Chamber of Commerce for grant management services. She said the Chamber had been invaluable working on both rounds of grants.

She said staff was working the details of offering sewer rate credits for restaurants that cannot have dining in. She said charging for only 1 unit seemed logical, since restaurants didn't have customers using the restrooms, and the dishwashing was greatly reduced.

City Manager Krueger summarized:

- Council would like a work session/brainstorming session on how the City could take a lead on COVID recovery wave of evictions
- Maybe a temporary part-time position that would lead those in need to the resources available and assist with grant applications (now if possible)
- Do a better job getting the word out – tell our story
- Council interested in funding another round of Economic Recovery funds to the extent possible while maintaining the 10% contingency level
- Proactive outreach to Spanish speaking citizens

Councilor Runyon asked about when City Hall would be re-opened.

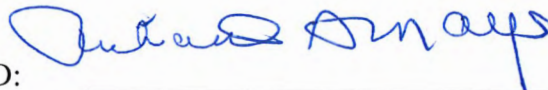
City Manager Krueger said first we had to get out of the Extreme Risk Category; then go back to appointment only operations; opening shorter hours when in the Moderate Category.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

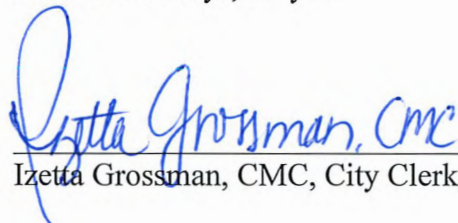
Submitted by/
Izetta Grossman
City Clerk

SIGNED: _____



Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST: _____



Izetta Grossman, CMC, City Clerk