



Agenda March 8, 2022

Regular Meeting | 7:00 p.m.

Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room
234 SE Kendall Ct, Troutdale, OR 97060

1. **Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Agenda Update**
2. **Public Comment:** Public Comment on non-agenda and consent agenda items is welcome at this time. *Public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the item is considered. Public comments should be directed to the Presiding Officer and limited to matters of community interest or related to matters which may, or could, come before Council. Each speaker shall be limited to 5 minutes for each agenda item unless a different amount of time is allowed by the Presiding Officer, with consent of the Council. The Council and Mayor should avoid immediate or protracted responses to citizen comments.*
3. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 3.1 **Minutes:** February 8, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.
4. **Motion:** A motion accepting the Selection Committee's recommendation for appointment to the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. - Mayor Lauer
5. **Presentation:** A presentation to request an amendment to Troutdale Municipal Code Section 2.48.030 – Nominations, to allow Council candidate filing by declaration and fee. - Paul Wilcox, Troutdale Resident
6. **Public Hearing / Ordinance (Introduced 2/22/22):** An ordinance amending Troutdale Municipal Code Section 2.20.030 relating to Committees and Commissions. - Ray Young, City Manager
7. **Resolution:** A resolution amending the Capital Improvement Plan adopted in Resolution 2331. - Chris Damgen, Community Development Director & Travis Hultin, Deputy Public Works Director/Chief Engineer
8. **Staff Communications**
9. **Council Communications**
10. **Adjournment**

Randy Lauer, Mayor
Dated: March 2, 2022

Meeting Participation

The public may attend the meeting in **person*** or via Zoom. Please email info@troutdaleoregon.gov by **5:00pm on Monday, March 7th** to request Zoom meeting access credentials. You may also submit written public comments via email to info@troutdaleoregon.gov no later than **5:00pm on Monday, March 7th**. City Council Regular Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 30 (HD Channel 330) and Frontier Communications Channel 38 and replayed on the weekend following the meeting - Friday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 9:00pm.

**Those attending the meeting in person will be required to wear a face mask as required by the State of Oregon and Multnomah County for all indoor public settings.*

Further information and copies of agenda packets are available at: Troutdale City Hall, 219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; on our Web Page www.troutdaleoregon.gov/meetings or call Sarah Skroch, City Recorder at 503-674-7258.

The meeting location is wheelchair accessible. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to: Sarah Skroch, City Recorder 503-674-7258.

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

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7:00PM

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

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

PRESENT: Mayor Lauer, Councilor Ripma, Councilor Caswell, Councilor Kranz, Councilor White, Councilor Moon and Councilor Glantz.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Ray Young, City Manager; Kenda Schlaht, Deputy City Recorder; Ed Trompke, City Attorney; Chris Damgen, Community Development Director and Travis Hultin, Deputy Public Works Director.

GUESTS: See Attached.

Mayor Lauer asked for agenda updates.

Ray Young, City Manager, stated there is going to be one agenda item, a discussion item, added to the end of the agenda after #7. It will be a discussion with Council regarding direction to staff and the CAC regarding the Council stipend issue.

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

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 MINUTES: February 8, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting

<0:02:00>

Councilor White stated he noticed on page 4 in paragraph 5 of the minutes, at the very end of his statement it says he's concerned about skewed information. He doesn't remember saying that. He doesn't want to imply staff would be giving false information.

MOTION: Councilor White made a motion to carry over the February 8, 2022 to the next City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Ripma.

VOTE: Councilor Kranz - Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Moon – Yes; Councilor Glantz – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Caswell – Yes and Mayor Lauer – Yes.

Motion passed 7-0.

4. MOTION: A motion accepting the Selection Committee’s recommendation for appointment to the Budget Committee and Planning Commission.

<0:05:12>

MOTION: Councilor Glantz moved to approve the motion accepting the Selection Committee’s recommendation for appointment to the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilor Kranz.

VOTE: Councilor Kranz - Yes; Councilor White – Yes; Councilor Moon – Yes; Councilor Glantz – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Caswell – Yes and Mayor Lauer – Yes.

Motion passed 7-0.

5. PRESENTATION: A presentation to request an amendment to Troutdale Municipal Code Section 2.48.030 – Nominations, to allow Council candidate filing by declaration and fee.

<0:06:38>

Paul Wilcox, Troutdale resident, read from a self-prepared statement (attached as Exhibit A). He stated the declaration could be done without a fee. A fee isn’t necessarily required.

<0:11:46>

Mayor Lauer stated he’s absolutely for this. He’s for keeping the signatures and making it permanent that we allow a fee in lieu of signatures. He’s also in favor of having a fee and not letting it be free.

Councilor Kranz stated she loved collecting the signatures. At the same time, she thinks the fee should be kept.

Councilor Ripma stated he’s in favor of keeping it the way it is. He thinks it’s good for candidates to go out and gather 25 signatures. It allows them to meet neighbors and corner friends. Having the option of gathering signatures versus the \$25, no one who is sensible would not do the \$25 fee because that is guaranteed.

Councilor Glantz stated she’s in favor of Paul’s proposal. She stated she feels uncomfortable walking up to somebody’s house that doesn’t know me. There could be some unexpected things going on there. It’s easier to not have to deal with it on a face-to-face basis. She suggested collecting electronic signatures.

Councilor White stated he thinks it’s a low bar to only have to collect 25 signatures. To him, it’s a form of a reference check. There’s a major change with top 3 voting coming. He would like

to keep the signature part consistent. There are ways to get signatures in a public place rather than going door to door.

Councilor Moon stated he's in favor of the proposal. When you walk up to somebody with a clipboard and a pen, it's awful.

Councilor Caswell stated she agrees with Dave. Keep it the way it is.

Councilor Kranz stated it's not quite as safe as it was, even a few years ago, to go door to door.

Councilor Ripma proposed extending it through the 2022 election and reconsidering it after that.

Mayor Lauer stated he would entertain that if the emergency declaration wasn't being lifted Saturday. He's not sure it's needed for this election cycle. He would be up to asking staff to go ahead and come back to Council with a resolution and discuss and vote on it then.

Ray Young asked how much the fee should be.

Councilor Moon stated maybe the fee should be raised.

Mayor Lauer opened public comment at 7:23pm.

Paul Wilcox stated there seems to be some confusion about doing away with the signatures option. Absolutely not. That stays.

Diane Castillo-White, Troutdale resident, stated she recommends keeping the signature gathering. She thinks it's an important time to connect/engage with the community and hear the communities needs and concerns.

Mayor Lauer closed public comment at 7:27pm.

Councilor Ripma suggested bringing it back with an option of a permanent change to \$25 plus signature gathering or do a one-time 2022 election only.

Ray Young stated he could just put an added line in showing the options.

6. PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCE (Introduced 2/22/22): An ordinance amending Troutdale Municipal Code Section 2.20.030 relating to Committees and Commissions.

<0:29:46>

Ray Young gave a brief overview of the staff report.

Councilor Glantz stated she's fine with everything, with the exception of B, and the part about any kind of information about prior officers, she doesn't think it's needed. She suggested having a FAQ sheet describing the job and what needs to happen next.

Mayor Lauer stated he likes the suggestion of an FAQ sheet.

Ray Young stated he is more than happy to come back with a resolution and FAQ sheet and Council can approve the FAQ sheet.

Mayor Lauer stated it shouldn't be an ordinance. It should all be in a packet.

Councilor Ripma stated he's okay with Ray's suggestion of a resolution and FAQ sheet. He proposed approving changes 1 and 2 and taking B out and do a FAQ sheet.

Councilor Kranz stated that she likes B because she likes the volunteers to have as much information as they can before they make a decision.

Councilor White stated his concern is he didn't want anybody soliciting their Chair from Staff. The volunteers are capable of making decisions without Council/Staff help. He's for removing all of Section B and leaving it alone.

Mayor Lauer opened the public hearing at 7:38pm.

Paul Wilcox stated he fully supports the way it is written but the mistakes need to be fixed if nothing else.

Mayor Lauer closed the public hearing at 7:39pm.

MOTION: Councilor Ripma moved to adopt the ordinance with the amendments that the word tape be removed from Section E, the last sentence of Section C be removed, Section B removed and the subsequent paragraphs re-lettered accordingly. Seconded by White.

VOTE: Councilor Kranz - No; Councilor White - Yes; Councilor Moon - Yes; Councilor Glantz - Yes; Councilor Ripma - Yes; Councilor Caswell - Yes and Mayor Lauer - Yes.

Motion passed 6-1.

7. RESOLUTION: A resolution amending the Capital Improvement Plan adopted in Resolution 2331.

<0:41:00>

Chris Damgen, Community Development Director, gave a brief overview of the staff report and referenced Attachment A to the proposed resolution. He stated the inclusion of any of the 3 projects mentioned in the CIP is not a promissory that any of the projects are going to be built. It provides the capacity for the City to pursue funding at a regional, state or even a federal level to pursue projects.

Ray Young stated the Second Street bridge is more a business support infrastructure because of the huge increase in residents on the west side of 257th and the addition of the food carts on

the west side and then on the east side there is all downtown and all the downtown residents and businesses, this is a way to kind of bring downtown back together again in a safe way. The County has to approve the pedestrian bridge and the City is looking for money from 3 or 4 different sources and hoping not to expend much more than pocket change.

Councilor Moon stated he took it upon himself to talk to some of the people at Edgefield and they love the idea. One of the big reasons they would like it is because they're trying to attract people who bike the Gorge and they need somewhere for homebase. Nobody wants to cross 257th with their bike.

Councilor Glantz asked if it's standard to have a URA project go into Troutdale's CIP.

Ed Trompke, City Attorney, stated that the CIP becomes part of the comprehensive plan of the City regardless of who builds it or funds it. That also makes it eligible once it's in the comprehensive plan for outside financing, SDC financing and other financing. Otherwise, it would have to come out of the general fund.

Councilor Glantz stated she's not a fan of the Second Street bridge. She has concerns that as the Home Forward project gets built that we'll end up using some of that parking that goes with it to offset things that they need. She thinks it's more important for people to be able to cross a railroad track coming from the URA into downtown. There are less expensive ways to make a crossing at 257th.

Councilor White stated he knows when a lot starts getting added to the CIP it also becomes a driver for system development fees.

Travis Hultin, Deputy Public Works Director, stated depending on funding mechanisms that are intended for those projects, that can affect SDCs. The City does have a transportation SDC and these are all transportation projects. In this case there is no utility rate as it were for transportation systems. Two out of the three projects reflect funding from external sources entirely. None of the projects specifically indicate the use of reimbursement funds from the transportation SDC funds. As it sits right now, it would not be factored into that rate calculation. The only potential thing he sees as close right now is the Second Street bridge where it represents a city share. Unless it says transportation improvement fund, that's not going to be built into that rate model.

Councilor White stated that he wasn't expecting all of this at once. He's getting nervous and he doesn't want to lose focus on the URA which Troutdale is heavily invested in. He would like to delay talking about the Second Street bridge and maybe moving the bridge so it would attach to the parking garage for Urban Renewal.

Chris Damgen stated the bridge that would connect downtown with the parking garage is already in the CIP. What the parking garage does is it suggests that it could be complimented with that already existing project that's in the CIP. When the Framework Plan was adopted, Council stressed not only the importance of the parking garage but that direct connection also.

Ray Young stated working on the URA and the Second Street bridge are not sucking resources from either one. He stated that Marlee, Kimberly and himself are working very hard on the marketing for the URA and Chris and his department are doing a lot of things with Valerie with Home Forward. Staff is pushing the URA hard and fast as best they can. There are hurdles to cross before there can be a bridge from downtown across. One of them being Union Pacific maintenance yard that they're working on right now. Staff is working on all of it. By putting the Second Street bridge in the CIP it's not slowing anything down in the URA.

Councilor White stated he doesn't see a whole lot of pedestrians in the 257th area. He's all for making it safer but maybe there's another way to do it.

Mayor Lauer stated that road is not a safe route for pedestrians or bicyclists. There is going to be a 3-story apartment complex right on the corner and then a regionally oversized food cart pod on the opposite side of that street.

Ray Young stated one of the things staff is paid for is planning and looking at what the needs may be before they happen. Staff is planning for what may happen down the road and want to get ahead of the curve. There is going to be a major increase in residences and businesses right at that intersection on each side.

Councilor Caswell stated she supports the resolution. She appreciates the vision of the future and it's a smart way to get funding.

Councilor Kranz stated she loves the idea of having other agencies pay for and maintain the Second Street bridge and bringing it to the Troutdale community. This is a unique opportunity, and the time is now. To not include it with the CIP she thinks it would be a failure because the CIP just puts it there and says that it's an opportunity, our vision, now we can apply for funding and work with other partners to make it happen. There's going to be an increase in density and the east side and west side need to be linked.

Chris Damgen stated the ratio used there was based on a similar ratio. There was a recent parking facility done in Beaverton in one of their urban renewal areas and it was a larger debt service, so their URA financed it on their own, but it was public/private partnership to the degree in which roughly 15-20% of the total spaces in the facility are effectively reserved for adjacent residential use. It did provide the incentive for the developer to chip in for it.

Councilor Ripma stated he never worried a whole lot about adding things to the CIP because it is sort of a wish list, as long as they're not completely outrageous. It would be nice to be able to punch through on 257th Way and he thinks it belongs in the CIP. On the Second Street bridge, if the City had to pay for it, then there would be pushback from him. There could be more foot traffic than you think once the food cart pod goes in. The parking facility seems outrageously costly and difficult to do but it's a good idea. He's okay with the resolution.

Councilor Glantz stated she was taken aback on the cost of the parking facility as well. She remembers having that parking garage for the URA, a lot of that cost is offset in lowering any cost that the City might incur if it goes through, having a bridge through the URA to downtown because of the height issue. She asked if the City would need to work with the Home Forward

development and offer them offsets in parking requirements or density in order to get some of the funds to cover the Second Street bridge.

Chris Damgen stated there isn't a formal application from Home Forward yet. There's a pre-application which suggests, we believe, that they're intending to seek of a parking variance. There is a right of way that requires an improvement and if this project is listed as a capital improvement for the benefit of the City, not for the benefit of the development, then the expectation of their public improvement, which would normally go to building out your sidewalk, or building out the pavement of a street, maybe that turns into contributions to the bridge. One thing that was said to Home Forward very early on was the community expectation that they can't just warehouse people in Troutdale. There has to be some expectation of a public investment in the community beyond just housing.

Councilor Moon stated if Council approves this and gets it built before it becomes a problem then they would be visionary councilors and forward thinking. There's no harm in moving forward and getting it going.

Mayor Lauer opened public comment at 8:23pm.

Tanney Staffenson, Troutdale resident, stated there are 3 projects and in the staff report it talks about the Planning Commission recommending it. He stated it was basically a straw poll and they didn't recommend it and they didn't not recommend it. They decided to forward it on. One of the comments he made was, sometimes these things kind of scare him because they get in a plan, and they take on a life all their own. He was reminded that the only way you can ever have a possibility of funding is if these things are in a CIP. Then he opens up the Champion today and he sees that it has a heartbeat now and it seems to be something that is actually beating. As far as the bridge goes, yes there would be a benefit to it, and he thinks it would be forward thinking but it also benefits a particular development too. It's something else to think about. He said to think about what it does to the SDCs. He stated he ranks this below the Confluence access priority.

Mayor Lauer closed public comment at 8:26pm.

Ray Young stated Metro has a lot of pots of money for trails like this and it's finding which pot you're going to go for. All those different pots that are out there that the City is looking to go for, one of those pots is the dedicated local pot for Troutdale. They say they'll set aside \$700 – 800,000 for projects in the community. The City has to apply for them and talk Metro into using that money for these projects. That \$800,000 is just one of the many types of monies that the City is looking to use potentially for projects in Troutdale.

Mayor Lauer stated Metro is excited about the projects Troutdale has. Metro has said to apply for the monies. He thinks it's a great idea.

MOTION: Councilor Kranz moved to approve the resolution amending the Capital Improvement Plan adopted in Resolution 2331. Seconded by Councilor Caswell.

Councilor White stated he would like a discussion on the motion. He didn't appreciate seeing this in the Champion before Council even voted on the Second Street bridge. He doesn't know why that was done. He thinks it would have been a great topic for a work session. He doesn't spend money like this. He would allocate for more time on the Second Street bridge. He's comfortable with the other projects but not with the bridge.

Councilor Ripma stated he was kind of alarmed by what Chris said about this may lead to the Home Forward people asking for more give backs or something.

Councilor Kranz stated she thinks Chris meant it's more of Home Forward giving something to the Troutdale community more so than Troutdale giving anything to them.

VOTE: Councilor Kranz – Yes; Councilor White – No; Councilor Moon – Yes; Councilor Glantz – No; Mayor Lauer – Yes; Councilor Ripma – No and Councilor Caswell – Yes.

Motion passed 4-3.

8. DISCUSSION: Council involvement during Committee meetings.

<1:35:04>

Ray Young stated last week the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had an item on their agenda that was referred to them by the Council asking if the City Council should increase the mayor's monthly stipend from \$500 per month to \$750 per month and the council member's stipend from \$50 a month to \$200 a month. They ran out of time with their discussion so they will continue at the April meeting. During their discussion two particular issues came up that need to be addressed. First, the CAC has two spouses of council members on the CAC. It's a potential conflict issue that came up during the meeting that wasn't prepped for them. Even though they're not making any binding decisions that would benefit their household, they are making a recommendation. He is talking about Diane Castillo-White and Amasa Moon. There needs to be direction for them on what they can and cannot do at the meetings. Second, the issue is the involvement of council members in the CAC discussions. There are two issues and one of them is the public meeting law. There were 3 council members at that meeting who engaged in that discussion of a matter that would likely come before council. There was a fourth council member for sure who could hear what was going on and was actually listening to the discussion at times potentially. So, there is a problem with possibly having a quorum of council members that wasn't scheduled as a council meeting. The other issue that Ed Trompke is going to address is, the council has a specific ordinance that says council members are not to be engaged in discussions in committee meetings.

Ed Trompke stated Troutdale Municipal Code Section 2.08.250, Relationships with committees and commissions says, "Councilors have the right to attend meetings of city committees, commissions and task forces, but should not become involved in discussions of those groups unless they are liaison members of those bodies." Nobody should be taking part in those discussions simply because those boards are advisory boards to tell City Council what the citizens think. It's a place for the citizens to talk to council as council members, not for council members to talk to them. It's frowned upon and the code says you shouldn't do it because it

becomes a more top-down system than a bottom-up system. Use great discretion in terms of appearing at the meetings to talk personally. The other issue has to do with government ethics. There's a fluke in the system that applies to council members whose spouses may be members of the CAC. There are rules against taking part in any discussions if you as a councilor have an actual conflict of interest where you have a potential conflict of interest you can take part in the discussions, but you have to declare the potential conflict. It says that a public official may not use their official position to obtain financial gain for themselves or a family member. This doesn't apply to the public official who is discussing or voting on their own official compensation package, however, that does not apply to spouses. Spouses who are also public officials because they are on an appointed committee, or a council member could not talk about their spouse's compensation program under the government ethics rules, Chapter 244.040 and 244.120.

Mayor Lauer stated often times during council meetings the council will have discussions and will refer them to citizen committees because at the heart of all citizen committees they are exactly that. They are committees of citizens the council uses to guide them and hold them accountable. He was surprised, to say the least, when he got phone calls and emails from people saying that the CAC meeting was uncomfortable. To have city councilors go to their meeting and express their opinions and basically impose their will on the CAC members in an effort to help them come to a conclusion that best suits their desires. He stated he holds the seat he sits in, to a high regard. The council members are representative of the community, not representing their own interests at all. He asked council to pay attention to the municipal code that states specifically to not become involved in discussions of those committees and allow those committees to do what council has appointed them to do.

Councilor Glantz stated she always goes to CAC, PC and PAC meetings and listens in and have been well educated on not talking and just listening. She takes responsibility on the CAC, there was a question and she jumped in with a neutral answer but by her jumping in it kind of opened up the flood gates. She apologized.

Councilor White stated his wife became a member of the CAC because there weren't enough applicants at the time. She's her own person and she speaks for herself. He didn't listen in on the CAC meeting.

Councilor Moon stated the whole thing got his blood pressure to the point of uncomfortableness. To be the new person on council and have people who have been on council a lot longer not know this is disturbing to say the least. Amasa was there but recused herself. The council decided 2 weeks ago that whatever the CAC says, that's what the council would do. Councilors went to the meeting and interfered, whether they meant to or not. Everyone should know better. It's an ethics violation and he's disappointed.

Councilor Kranz stated that uncomfortable is a very good word for that meeting. She wasn't planning on speaking on behalf of being a councilor. It was completely inappropriate of the council to railroad their meeting and she hopes it never happens again.

Councilor Ripma stated he respects what everybody is saying, and he won't do it again. The way he read 2.08.250 it gives council members the right to attend the meeting. They were

invited to speak, they didn't have a discussion and they didn't vote, and he was there to persuade citizens but if nobody thinks that's right, he won't do it again. He asked if council is forbidden to present their side.

Ed Trompke stated there's no forbidding anything. In fact, one of the statutes says that you don't give up your right to speak just because you are an official. Take it as an admonition, it's better not to. It's better to listen than to speak. Allow the committee to do its job.

Councilor White stated he thinks it's healthy for councilors to go to the various committee meetings. He has often been thanked for his interest and showing up. He thinks the council members are welcome to be at the meetings.

Councilor Moon stated that council asked a committee to vote on the council's pay. This situation should have been a big red flag for everyone, and it wasn't. That's what make him uncomfortable.

Councilor Caswell stated she thinks the reason so many are uncomfortable is because the discussion was about council's pay. She doesn't think it's right. It's a slippery slope. She thinks it's a conflict of interest. These things can happen when council starts advocating for themselves in ways such as this.

Mayor Lauer stated none of this is because of anybody's personal opinion. Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. It's not always appropriate. Go to the meetings and listen. Be a sponge and not a bullhorn. Don't interject your opinions or personal beliefs on a committee that council seated to help guide in decision making.

Mayor Lauer opened public comment at 9:01 pm.

Paul Wilcox stated he was on the CAC Zoom meeting and he thought it was totally inappropriate for the 3 councilors to be contributing or commenting during that meeting. It felt to him like they were totally lobbying the CAC members. He thought it entirely appropriate for Amasa Moon to recuse herself voluntarily.

Diane Castillo-White stated she is a CAC member. When she saw all the councilors at the meeting, she thought freedom of speech. She asked the Chair after the meeting why she engaged with them, and she said she wanted some background information. She thinks the Chair just didn't know. She decided she would participate in the discussion but not vote on it. She asked, as the wife of a city councilor, if she should stay out of it.

Ed Trompke stated if there is a financial conflict, you shouldn't participate at all.

Mayor Lauer closed public comment at 9:08pm.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

<2:09:44>

Ray Young provided the following staff communications:

- The Planning Commission is meeting tomorrow night at 7pm to vote on the recommendation to Council regarding amendments as a result of HB2001.
- The next City Council meeting will be April 12th and then Budget Committee meetings are on April 18th and 20th.
- Watch for your Statement of Economic Interest which needs to be filed before April 15th.
- The Old City Hall sale closed on Thursday and contractors have already started on the building.

10. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

<2:11:30>

Councilor White stated he had all the fuel siphoned out of 2 of his vehicles. Be aware.

Councilor Glantz stated that the City of Portland banned fireworks so Council should talk about it prior to July.

Councilor Ripma reminded everyone about changing their clocks.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.



Randy Lauer, Mayor
Dated: April 13, 2022

ATTEST:



Kenda Schlaht, Deputy City Recorder

CITY OF TROUTDALE

City Council – Regular Meeting

7:00PM

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

PLEASE SIGN IN

Name – Please Print	Address	Phone #
PAUL (with GG) or Diane Castillo-Palata	TROUTDALE 1225 E. Historic Ct.	503 888-1905

March 8, 2022 City Council Meeting - Zoom Guest List

Name (Original Name)	User Email	Join Time	Leave Time	Duration (Minutes)
Randy Lauer		3/8/2022 18:25	3/8/2022 21:13	168
Glenn White		3/8/2022 18:26	3/8/2022 21:13	167
Nick Moon		3/8/2022 18:26	3/8/2022 21:13	167
Jamie Kranz		3/8/2022 18:27	3/8/2022 18:28	2
Sandy Glantz		3/8/2022 18:28	3/8/2022 21:13	166
Ray Young		3/8/2022 18:28	3/8/2022 21:13	166
Councilor Kranz		3/8/2022 18:28	3/8/2022 18:29	1
Tanney Staffenson		3/8/2022 18:28	3/8/2022 18:51	23
Troutdale Conferencing	troutconf@troutdaleoregon.gov	3/8/2022 18:28	3/8/2022 21:13	166
Troutdale Conferencing	troutconf@troutdaleoregon.gov	3/8/2022 18:29	3/8/2022 21:13	165
Jamie Kranz		3/8/2022 18:29	3/8/2022 21:13	164
Troutdale Conferencing	troutconf@troutdaleoregon.gov	3/8/2022 18:29	3/8/2022 21:13	164
Alison Caswell		3/8/2022 18:30	3/8/2022 21:13	163
Chris Damgen	troutconf@troutdaleoregon.gov	3/8/2022 18:32	3/8/2022 18:51	19
Dave Ripma		3/8/2022 18:33	3/8/2022 21:13	160
Jordan Wittren		3/8/2022 18:39	3/8/2022 18:48	9
Oasis Team		3/8/2022 18:45	3/8/2022 21:13	148
Chris Damgen	troutconf@troutdaleoregon.gov	3/8/2022 18:58	3/8/2022 21:13	135
Travis H		3/8/2022 19:00	3/8/2022 21:13	134
johnleamy		3/8/2022 19:00	3/8/2022 19:32	33

Exhibit A

March 8, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Title: A request to amend TMC Section 2.48.030 – Nominations, to allow candidates for Council to file by declaration and fee.

Mayor and Councilors,

I made a public comment request early in 2021 that Council consider renewing the fee in lieu of signatures option for Council candidates in future elections as was done for the 2020 election cycle, during which all Council candidates chose the \$25.00 fee alternative. There was no response from Council whatsoever.

I'm back this election year to make the same request, and that the fee option be made permanent as it is in surrounding cities, including, Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village, Maywood Park, Cascade Locks, Happy Valley, and Cornelius. I've included at least one local city from each of our surrounding counties as an example.

With Troutdale's newly re-introduced top-three election procedure for Councilors, one of the built-in benefits is more voter choice from among all the candidates, but it also benefits from having a respectable number of total candidates. Dating back to 1996, there have been as few as three, and up to eight, candidates for the three open seats. Of course, those have not always been evenly divided among the openings. 2010 saw a candidate distribution of 1, 2, and 5. The top-three system eliminates the possibility of unopposed candidates as long as there are at least four total, but maximum voter choice is best-served when there are more candidates. The signature-gathering requirement can be an impediment to running for office, and serves no meaningful purpose. It doesn't necessarily indicate public support for that candidate. Voters are not obligated to vote for the candidate who they have helped to get on the ballot. In my experience, people sign simply in support of that person being willing to serve. Of course, with no end in sight for the risk of COVID-19 infection, citizens are going to be rightfully reluctant to open their doors to someone, masked or unmasked, who they don't know. I try to practice a version of the Golden Rule that says to not expect someone to do something I wouldn't be willing to do myself.

Managing the signature-gathering process is very time-consuming for the city recorder, and involves a lot of paperwork. If the candidate's signature list comes up short according to county elections, there is follow-up required, and possibly disqualifying delays. There is no financial compensation to the city for this extra work. Signature-gathering is an unnecessary and onerous burden on the public, the candidates, and city staff.

I've included copies of the relevant municipal code section that applies for each of the cities mentioned above. The application fees range from none to \$50.00. The fee route also avoids the City Recorder having to get the signatures verified by Multnomah County Elections. That requirement also shortens the application period due to the county processing time. A fee application can be submitted on the last day of the application period, which in fact was done by some 2020 candidates.

This is a simple and basic municipal code amendment that would enhance the top-three election system by encouraging more candidates to run. The significant cost of \$100.00 to publish a statement in the voters' pamphlet would continue to discourage those not seriously interested in serving.

I'd prefer a permanent change in line with surrounding cities, rather than a temporary change as was passed for 2020. I'm told by the City Recorder that the candidate filing time opens on June 1, and that she would prefer that candidates know that the file by declaration option is available before they decide to proceed with signature-collecting.

The section of the Troutdale Municipal Code that would require new language is Chapter 2.48 - Elections, Section 2.48.030 - Nominations. The sample cities also provide model language that could be adopted verbatim or edited to suit.

Submitted by:

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