

**City of Newberg
City Council Work Session Minutes
February 18, 2023**

COUNCIL RETREAT – WORK SESSION ON GOALS – Meeting called to order at 9:09 a.m.

Councilors Present: Mayor Bill Rosacker, Councilors Elise Yarnell Hollamon, Mike McBride, Molly Olson, Robyn Wheatley, Derek Carmon, and Peggy Kilburg.

Staff Present: City Manager Will Worthey, Note Taker Audrey Smith

Mayor Rosacker began this work session with an ice breaker activity.

Mayor Rosacker recounted some recent concerns about the unhoused population in town, and possible work programs that Council might consider one day to help with the issue.

The CM emphasized that this meeting is a Work Session and not a Business Session so no votes will be taken, and no decisions will be made. The CM also said that if a draft set of goals are created today, it would come to Council for potential adoption on March 6th.

The Council discussed the relative merits of the draft goals.

GOAL 1: Create and maintain a high level of Customer service.

After discussing the goal and objectives, two additional objectives were added and refined by the group.

- O1: Improve customer service in the planning/building department.
- O2: Streamline the process for issuing building permits.
- O3: Create a team to involve engineering and planning in regular simultaneous review work.
- O4: Publish a customer service standard with a measurement system.

GOAL 2: Identify industrial land and attract employers to encourage family wage jobs.

Council agreed to make modifications to objectives in Goal 2 and eliminate one of the objective ideas.

- O1: Identify land other than the Mill site to zone for Light Manufacturing.
- O2: Work to bring land into the urban growth boundary to zone for light manufacturing within 5 years.
- O3: Attract family wage jobs to Newberg using the urban renewal district and CET savings to be competitive.
- O4: Remove barriers/deterrents to new, “clean”/light industrial employers that will provide family wage jobs.

GOAL 3: Ensure Newberg infrastructure (roads, water, city employees) is in good repair and supply.

After some debate councilors felt that it might be best to include District 1 in Objective 2. Council felt that Objective 5 was not necessary given other objectives in Goal 3. After some discussion it was felt that Objective 4 would be better placed under Goal 6. The Objective was moved to Goal 6.

- O1: Regularly review the capital improvement projects.
- O2: Focus on road and sidewalk improvements in Districts 1 & 3.
- O3: Examine feasibility of increasing downtown parking.

GOAL 4: Enhance community safety.

A lengthy discussion ensued considering ways to simplify the objectives under Goal 4. Several simplifications occurred.

- O1: Work with NSD to provide an additional SRO.
- O2: Install red light and speed cameras and other speed reduction measures.
- O3: Continue with community policing partnerships.

GOAL 5: Create and maintain a high level of transparency with our residents in order to build trust.

After general discussion, it was agreed that Objective 3 was not needed as this is a normal part of several city processes. There was discussion about other ways to communicate with the city's residents. The Council seemed willing to take on the task of setting up a Council round-up electronic newsletter to further these ideas outside of the goal setting process.

- O1: Expand communication outreach in regard to regular city events and additional involvement with city business.
- O2: Ensure that information shared on agendas and in council meetings shall be clear and have context for the residents.

GOAL 6: Implement a careful and prudent fiscal policy.

Councilors felt simplified language could be used to express the objectives in this goal. It was felt that Objective 4 was unnecessary given the other goals reviewed already. A potential Objective 5 therefore became potential Objective 4.

- O1: Begin reducing and eventually eliminate the City's debt in a steady, prudent way without compromising the City's ability to provide basic, essential services and functions.
- O2: Reduce elements of the municipal billing statement.
- O3: The city will rationally lower SDC fees.
- O4: Ensure that the City has a long term financial plan that supports its goals and objectives.

GOAL 7: Increase Land Availability For Housing.

There was a discussion about a better title for the Goal from the one originally suggested. The Councilors discussed many ideas, and decided on the title "increase land availability for housing" was found to resonate with many of the councilors present. Two additional objectives were suggested and added to Goal 7.

- O1: Seek to re-zone small pieces of land inside the city limits from light industrial to residential.
- O2: Work to bring land into the urban growth boundary to zone for residential purposes within 5 years.
- O3: Look at annexation opportunities.

GOAL 8: Support for vulnerable community members

There was considerable debate about the possibility of Goal 8. Council Yarnell-Hollamon stated that as a city government it is important to support all members of the community and not just financially. Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon also added that council leadership was important in this area. Councilor Kilburg stated it might be better to have this as a mission statement rather than having it as a goal. The CM stated that any goal should be operationally actionable in order to be implemented.

After further discussion about where this concept should land between the city mission statement and city goals it was proposed by Mayor Rosacker that this should become a subject for a future work session.

The suggested draft of possible City Council Goals was reviewed again to ensure that the list could be transcribed accurately. The CM reiterated that none of these ideas would be accepted or become permanent without appropriate deliberation and voting at a Council business session. The final draft was read aloud as follows:

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When this reading aloud was concluded there ensued a discussion about possible methods by which funds could be raised to achieve the debt reduction goals considered earlier.

The Council discussed:

- One idea floated was the possibility of renting city property to create a food cart pod. Other ways to use city owned property to raise revenue were discussed.
- There was some discussion around the idea of starting a Commercial Driving License training school to bring in funds from outside of the city.
- The idea of repairing sidewalks with the use of our own staff was discussed as a way of saving funds that could be used for debt reduction.
- The idea of using new Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue for debt reduction was discussed in light of the potential of a new hotel.
- The CM advocated for a change to his existing four-year contract to remove his COLA increases for the foreseeable future and instead allocate the funds to reducing the city's debts. The Council seemed to understand the thrust of the CM argument.
- The CM suggested that a "stateman club" could be formed to ask residents to donate personal funds to reduce the city's debt. Councilor Carmon asked that any such measure should allow people of different levels of wealth to contribute. He stated that he was willing to do so himself.
- The idea was discussed that the funds raised could be deposited into a "sinking fund" within the general fund of the city, to reduce the city's debt.

During closing remarks there was a general discussion about a wide range of items that will be coming before council in the next few months. Among these items there was some focus on the return of ARPA funding requests to a future council session.

The CM apologized that the ARPA item could not be on the agenda for the night of Tuesday the 21st because of the workload facing staff this week. Councilor Yarnell-Hollamon stated that she has gotten calls about ARPA items asking about ARPA next steps.

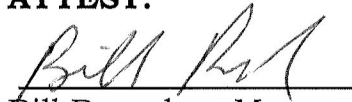
A discussion ensued about council members praying before council meetings. Mayor Rosacker stated that he will address this at the next council meeting. There was a general discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of prayer before council meetings both inside and outside the chamber. It was recognized that legal advice is still pending for this item.

Mayor Rosacker requested that council members inform him or the CM to let them know beforehand any items they want to bring up during council meetings. Councilor Olson stated that city staff is drowning in work and wanted to discuss how to not overburden city staff. There was a general consensus that routing things through Mayor Rosacker or the Council President would reduce the burden on staff unless the item is very pressing or is an emergency.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.


Audrey Smith

ATTEST:


Bill Rosacker, Mayor

