
City of Newberg

City Council

May 18, 2020

Meeting held electronically due to COVID-19 pandemic

WORK SESSION

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Mayor Rick Rogers, Councilors: Gene Piro, Julia Martinez Plancarte, Patrick Johnson, Denise Bacon, Stephanie Findley, and Elise Yarnell Hollamon

Staff Present: City Manager Dan Weinheimer, City Attorney Truman Stone, City Recorder Sue Ryan, Community Development Director Doug Rux, and Finance Director Matt Zook.

PRESENTATIONS:

City Engineer Kaaren Hofmann, Brian Ginter, and Ronan Gloria from GSI presented information on investing in a safe and reliable water future. They gave a recap on the water system safe and reliable projects and programs, process overview, outreach preliminary findings, water supply analysis update and Phase 2 goals, water supply alternatives, development of analysis criteria, and schedule.

Mayor Rogers noted that the alternative was Willamette River water, which would be a big lift in the community.

Oregon Worker Relief Fund:

Councilor Martinez Plancarte said the immigrant community was being left out of financial assistance during the Covid-19 outbreak. A lot of these families were essential workers. The solution was to fund a community based system that would provide financial assistance for those who could not access public benefits. It was short term financial assistance to help people through this time. Mayor Rogers said Unidos was trying to gather more support and he thought staff should bring back options for how the Council could show support.

There was consensus for staff to return with a resolution providing support for the Oregon Worker Relief Fund.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Weinheimer reported on the Covid-19 Phase 1 re-opening, local support programs, re-opening plan for City operations, hiring a recruiter for two positions and possibly a third, upcoming elections cycle, sale of the Westrock property, website calendar, promotion of census activities and City projects on the website, court operations resuming June 2, updates to the CAD RMS system and emergency dispatch, new evidence storage system for the Police Department, and library, community development, economic development, and IT activities. He had updated information at the Post Office for ordinal directions, noted this was National Public Works Week, discussed the Edwards Elementary Safe Routes to School project, solar farm project, fats, oils, and grease program, emphasized not flushing wipes down the toilet, gave Public Works statistics, and discussed backflow testing and the City's compost program.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Councilors Present: Mayor Rick Rogers, Councilors: Gene Piros, Julia Martinez Plancarte, Patrick Johnson, Denise Bacon, Stephanie Findley, and Elise Yarnell Hollamon

Staff Present: City Manager Dan Weinheimer, City Attorney Truman Stone, City Recorder Sue Ryan, City Engineer Kaaren Hofmann, and Community Development Director Doug Rux.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Leslie Caldwell, Visit Newberg, presented the Winter 2020 quarterly report. She discussed their mission statement, current board members and staff, 2019-2020 Business Plan goals and strategic imperatives, and 2019-2020 budget. She then presented the It's Not Business As Usual report which was their response to Covid-19.

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon urged everyone to wear masks in the City.

Councilor Findley noted they had appointed spokespeople in the city that the media could be referred to and it was important that they had a unified voice.

PRIDE Month Proclamation – Mayor Rogers read the proclamation declaring June 2020 as PRIDE month.

Harvey Milk Day Proclamation – Mayor Rogers read the proclamation declaring May 22, 2020 as Harvey Milk Day.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Action: Approve committee appointments of:
1) Robert Sherry to the Traffic Safety Commission for a term of May 18, 2020-December 31, 2021.
2) Lozelle Mathai to the Citizens Rate Review Committee for a term of May 18, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

Motion: Councilor Johnson
Second: Councilor Findley
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ISSUE TRACKER: Issue Tracker – CM Weinheimer said they needed to decide how to move forward with the flag issue.

Nick Morace, Newberg resident, read a statement regarding the unconstitutional restrictions during Covid-19 that had violated Americans' inalienable rights and the need to protect citizen rights and freedom.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2020-3666, Elliott Road Right of Way acquisition

City Engineer Hofmann and Tony Roos, Kittelson and Associates, gave a presentation on the Elliott Road sidewalks and bike lanes project which would construct sidewalks from 99W to the high school and bike lanes from 2nd Street north to the high school. It would include storm drainage to address ponding and flooding and street lights to improve safety. They explained the reasons for the project, public outreach and input, alternative preparation, the five alternatives to the typical road section that had been developed, alternative considerations, and additional considerations. Staff's recommendation was to go with Option 1, the buffered bike lanes alternative. It would not allow parking on the street and the City would need to acquire right-of-way from five property owners along the corridor. They provided pictures and a video of what the alternative would look like and discussed the next steps. Staff requested that Council select a preferred alternative and authorize the acquisition of right-of-way and easements.

The Council discussed:

- Contact with homeowners on proposal development.
- Possibility of variance from the Transportation System Plan.
- That the project has been on the plan since the 1970s and on the Capital Improvement Plan for 5 years.
- Priority of projects on the CIP.
- Stormwater flooding in that area.
- All citizens' safety.

Public Comments:

Dan D'Hondt did not think the proposed bike lanes and greenspace were necessary. The current plan eliminated all of the on street parking, which would take away neighborhood and guest parking. None of the public input that was shared had been taken into consideration with this design as the street was being engineered in the same old way. He thought a community survey should have been done.

Brandy Crockett asked about the continuation of the bike lanes. Haworth and Deborah Streets had no bike lanes and what were the future plans.

Nick Morace was concerned neighbors didn't agree with what the City said the public wanted. The neighbors were in favor of sidewalks, but did not think there was a need to widen the road, put in bike lanes, and take people's property.

Tyler Smith, attorney representing Elliott Road property owners, wanted to meet with City staff before an option was selected. This was a 24 foot road, and a 60 foot easement was being required for the improvements. That would be 36 feet of non-road usage and it would take property from the owners. Some property owners were not willing to sell their property to the City.

Maryl Kunkel, Newberg resident, supported the project. This was a major thoroughfare needing serious improvements in order to keep youth and residents safe. She saw people walking on the road because there were no sidewalks. She was in favor of the recommended alternative and thought it was a good compromise.

Mayor Rogers summarized the written comments that had been received and were in the record.

The Council discussed:

- Bike connectivity plans.
- Public input during the project design.
- Pavement Overlay
- Variance

Action: Approve Resolution 2020-3666, A Resolution selecting Option 1 as the Preferred Alternative and authorizing the acquisition of Right-of-Way and Easements for the N Elliott Road Sidewalks and Bike Lanes Project.

Motion: Councilor Findley
Second: Councilor Piros

Deliberation: Mayor Rogers would be voting no as he thought this needed more time to be resolved. He thought it could be brought back to Council on June 15.

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon could go either way.

Councilor Johnson was also on the fence, but noted this was an important road going to a school.

Councilor Bacon would be voting no in the hopes that the parties could listen to each other and come to an agreement.

They wanted each department to see how they could accomplish the goals over time and create a quarterly tracker by department. The main goals to focus on were customer service, affordable and workforce housing, and the Urban Renewal Plan.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Council Committee Reports –

Councilor Findley reported on the Cultural District meeting.

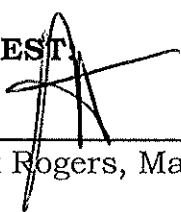
Councilor Yarnell Hollamon reported on the Newberg Housing Solutions meeting.

Mayor Rogers reported on the weekly community partner calls. He announced Allyn Edwards, long time Planning Commissioner, would be moving and would leave a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

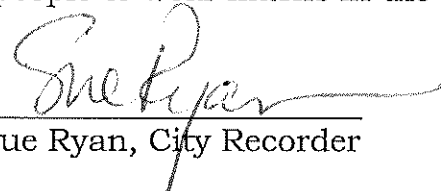
He asked the Council to consider a resolution requiring people to wear masks in the City.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

ATTEST.



Rick Rogers, Mayor



Sue Ryan, City Recorder

Councilor Martinez Plancarte was also concerned about safety and that it was a road to a school.

Vote: 2 Yes [Piros, Findley], 5 No [Bacon, Johnson, Rogers, Martinez Plancarte, Yarnell Hollamon].

The Council agreed that they wanted to move forward with the project, but that first there should be an open discussion with all the parties, and specifically with those who were being legally represented, with the hope for an amicable resolution.

2. Resolution 2020-3657, Tourism Grant withdrawal

CDD Rux explained previous Transient Lodging Tax grant programs and how the grant to Wolves & People had been approved with conditions. It had been two years since that approval and the applicant had not moved forward. The applicant had been contacted, and they had confirmed that they had been focused on other issues and did not plan to move forward. This resolution would withdraw the grant.

Action: Approve Resolution 2020-3657, A Resolution withdrawing an award of Transient Lodging Tax Destination Development – Marketing Grant funds to Wolves & People approved by Resolution No. 2018-3453.

Motion: Councilor Bacon

Second: Councilor Martinez Plancarte

Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No.

There was discussion regarding what would be done with these funds. The Council would review the funds through the budget process in June.

3. Discussion of Action Plan for Council Goals

CM Weinheimer reviewed the Council Goals and Community Vision themes and discussed the internal work, draft core values, proposed process. He asked if the Council wanted to change or clarify the 2020 goals, if the order proposed by staff met expectations, how they would like staff to involve community input, and what success within 1 year for each goal would look like.

There was consensus to clarify the 2020 goals, but not change them. The order proposed by staff met expectations. They would like staff to involve community input from the very beginning of any project, and improving customer service in all departments. For success, the Council would like to see people getting along at the City, setting goals of what that would look like long term and a strategic plan to get there, using the same language and all agreeing on the final outcome, and a steady one step at a time moving forward.