



MINUTES

Monday, January 10, 2022
Work Session
Virtual

Approved: March 9, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Matilda Novak, Dick Olsen, Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, Bessie Johnson, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None.

Business from the Public

None.

4:00 p.m.

Special presentation

This item was postponed to the Wednesday, January 12, 2022, regular meeting, since Mr. Lawrence was unable to attend the work session.

4:01 p.m.

Amend Albany Municipal Code Title 18, Building Board of Appeals

Building Official Manager Johnathan Balkema presented the staff report. He said that the goal of the project is to streamline the appeals process for the customer. The changes will help customers get answers to their questions faster.

4:01 p.m.

Councilor Dick Olsen said he was concerned about the composition of the board. He thinks the design professional, residential contractor, and commercial contractor members would be unlikely to rule against the City's officials. He will vote against the changes.

Troedsson noted the importance of having individuals with knowledge of the building code to serve on the board of appeals.

Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters noted that the board has only considered one appeal in his five years with the City. Staff works with potential appellants to address concerns outside of the appeals process.

This item will move forward to the January 12, 2022, regular meeting.

License to occupy right-of-way, Venetian Theater

Councilor Stacey Bartholomew recused herself from discussion on the item since she is personal friends with the applicant.

4:42 p.m.

City Engineer Staci Belcastro presented information from the staff memo. She said the adjacent tree will not need to be removed and none of the street furniture will need to be modified for this improvement.

This item will move forward to the January 12, 2022, regular meeting.

System development charges residential evaluation

Assistant City Engineer Rob Emmons presented the information in the staff memo. Emmons said that staff's first choice is to keep work in house, but SDCs require specialized knowledge that staff does not have.

4:51 p.m.

The council agreed that the work should be continued.

Municipal court judge's annual report

5:01 p.m.

Municipal Judge Forrest Reid read his annual report to the council. He explained the typical process of the mental health court. Reid also noted that the court does not cost the City any extra money and said there could be an upcoming state grant to expand the services provided by Linn County Mental Health.

Troedsson said that the Albany Police Department works closely with Linn County Mental Health.

Business from the Council

5:17 p.m.

Olsen said a constituent contacted him saying the charging station behind the old Penny's store is not working. Troedsson said he will look into the issue.

Bartholomew thanked the Albany Police Department for starting a coat drive for Community Outreach Assistance Team (COAT) which received around 90 coats.

Johnson II thanked staff and council for a productive 2021 and looked forward to 2022.

City Manager Report

5:26 p.m.

Troedsson spoke about a planning commission seat that has been difficult to fill. He noted that council policy requires councilors to choose their appointees from within their ward. He said that the council may need to choose between waiving the policy for this appointment or accepting a long-term vacancy on the planning commission.

Councilor Marilyn Smith spoke in favor of allowing an appointment from outside of the ward, noting the recent change in council policy allowing for councilors to make a reasonable effort to appoint members to most boards and commissions from within their ward, but allowing outside appointments.

Troedsson noted four resolutions since 1995 that address planning commission appointments. The planning commission has different requirements from other boards and commissions.

Responding to a question from Councilor Ray Kopczynski, City Attorney Sean Kidd confirmed that the council would need to change the ordinance or write a new one to allow for Kopczynski to make an appointment from outside his ward.

The council asked staff to proceed with making changes to the ordinance concerning planning commission appointments to bring the process more into line with other boards and commissions. The council agreed to keep the requirement that no more than four commissioners be from a single ward.

The council agreed they would rather hold the upcoming January 15, 2022, strategic planning workshop virtually than reschedule for a later date at which they could meet in person

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabriel Shepherd
Recorder

Peter Troedsson
City Manager