



MINUTES

Monday, March 7, 2022
Work Session
VIRTUAL

Approved: May 11, 2022

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Dick Olsen, Matilda Novak (left 4:55 p.m.), Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, Bessie Johnson, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None.

Business from the Public

4:01 p.m.

George and Paula Diamond and Vasilli Rozakis spoke about Edgewater Village. They may be interested in purchasing the property if it's declared as surplus.

Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters said that Silia Sequeira from Varitone Architecture submitted information about the Albany Helping Hands project. The materials were sent to the councilors before the meeting and are part of the archived agenda file*.

Utility Rate Adjustments, FY 2022-2023 – Chris Bailey

4:05 p.m.

Public Works Director Chris Bailey shared a PowerPoint presentation*. The presentation described how revenues are used to first pay debt, then operations and maintenance. The staff report included a table with the proposed rate increases for sewer, water, and stormwater. The monthly total for the three proposed increases is \$4.49 for the average residential customer.

Councilor Marilyn Smith noted that the stormwater increase would not cover the \$3.4 million needed for pipe replacement.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski said the City needs to stay the course with increases because to do otherwise would be worse. The Public Works team is doing a good job with limited resources.

Johnson II is concerned about the 24 miles of sewer pipe in need of repair.

This item will come back to a public hearing in June 2022.

Oregon Ballot Measure 110.

4:40 p.m.

Police Captain Jerry Drum shared a PowerPoint presentation*.

Councilor Bessie Johnson asked why the new laws have no consequence. Drum said the supporters of Measure 110 spent a significant amount of money to advertise it as drug addiction services and recovery. However, it has just reduced the classification of violations without providing much assistance. The phone number to call for addiction assistance didn't get set up for several months.

Councilor Matilda Novak left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Chief Marcia Harnden said there is no doubt that there were good intentions behind the measure, but this new law removed any accountability before sufficient structure was in place. There are funds to open drug addiction and recovery services, but only one facility has opened in Linn or Benton Counties.

Jefferson Street SE right-of-way vacation

4:57 p.m.

Ruetters reviewed the staff report. Helping Hands is proposing to expand their facilities, which would require a conditional use land application and vacating a right-of-way (ROW). Ruetters said the ROW is unused and he has no concerns about initiating a vacation.

Smith is strongly in favor of the request for vacation.

The councilors concurred to have this item brought back in the future.

SB 5561 grant acceptance.

5:03 p.m.

Ruettgers is seeking council approval of the Senate Bill 5561 grant for \$1 million, as well as some direction about how the council would like staff to proceed.

Johnson II wants to talk to the Community Development Commission.

Planner III Anne Catlin explained that the resolution only accepts the grant; it doesn't allocate it. The councilors would make the decisions on the final allocations.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution and Kopczynski seconded. The motion passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7084.

Business from the Council

5:10 p.m.

Councilor Stacey Bartholomew spoke about 5th Avenue and Vine Street and a fence. That property and the one behind it are still occupying the ROW. Bailey said that topic is scheduled for March 21, 2022, work session.

Johnson II spoke about the Oregon Mayors Association contest for kids. Johnson II has visited several local schools.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Mary Dibble
Central Administrative Officer

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing cityclerk@cityofalbany.net.*