



## MINUTES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: June 12, 2024

### Call to Order

**6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Steph Newton, Matilda Novak, Jackie Montague, Ray Kopczynski, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: Ramycia McGhee (excused)

### Special Presentation

a. Albany Police Department Awards Presentation

**6:00 p.m.**

Police Chief Marcia Harnden and Police Captain Jerry Drum presented the following awards: a Life Saving Award to Officer Trevor Eaton and Officer Justin Felty; a Life Saving Award to Officer John Beckwith; a Life Saving Award to Officer Melissa Unrau; a Life Saving Award to Officer Paul Harris and Officer David St. Pierre; Employee of the Year – Operations Division to Officer Jon Wymore; Employee of the Year – Support Services Division to Detective Gabe Flores; and Supervisor of the Year to Police Services Manager Mike Peaslee.

### Public hearings

**6:22 p.m.**

Johnson II read the script outlining the process to participate in the public hearing and opened the public hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Public Works Director Chris Bailey delivered the staff report and presented slides\* about the proposed fee changes. No one submitted written public comments, no one signed up to speak during the public hearing, and no person present wished to speak regarding the public hearing.

Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Responding to questions from Councilor Matilda Novak, Bailey said there is no financial capital in the stormwater fund to proactively address piping needs. Bailey said that when the stormwater fee was initiated, the city council purposefully initiated the fee at a very low level and then ramped it up over five years to meet basic regulatory and operations and maintenance costs. Councilor Marilyn Smith spoke about the costs of maintaining a functional water and wastewater system.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution setting rates for wastewater system use as presented. Councilor Ray Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7322.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution setting rates for water use as presented. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7323.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution setting rates for stormwater management services as presented. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7324.

Business from the Public

**6:55 p.m.**

John Pitsch said he is concerned about the amount and speed of traffic on Squire Street in North Albany.

First readings of ordinances

**6:58 p.m.**

a. Parks Tree code ordinances

- 1) Ordinance amending Albany Municipal Code 7.98 to increase number of protected trees and prohibit activities that could harm protected trees.

The City Attorney read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Councilor Jackie Montague moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

The City Attorney read the ordinance for a second time in title only.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the ordinance as written. Councilor Steph Newton seconded the motion which passed 5-0 and was designated Ordinance No. 6041.

- 2) Ordinance amending Albany Development title 9 to prohibit activities that could harm protected trees.

This item was removed from the agenda at the request of staff.

Award of contracts

a. Contract for the building permitting software system

**7:00 p.m.**

IT Director Sean Park responded to clarification questions and comments from Montague, Johnson II, and Smith.

MOTION: Montague moved to award the contract as presented. Smith seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

b. Award of contract for ST-23-01, Washington Street Area Improvements

**7:03 p.m.**

Civil Engineer II Carl Berg presented the details of the contract and responded to clarification questions and comments from Kopczynski and Smith.

MOTION: Montague moved to award the contract as presented. Smith seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

c. Award of contract for ST-24-02, Queen Ave: Highway 99E to Marion Street

**7:07 p.m.**

Civil Engineer III Chris Cerklewski presented the details of the contract.

MOTION: Montague moved to award the contract as presented. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

d. Award of contract for insurer of record

**7:28 p.m.**

Human Resources Director Holly Roten presented the details of the contract. Roten said the new contract moves the contract end date to earlier in the fiscal year and away from the annual renewal process.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7325.

Adoption of consent agenda

**7:10 p.m.**

- a. Approval of minutes
  - 1) May 6, 2024, city council work session
  - 2) May 8, 2024, city council meeting

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Staff reports

- a. Personnel changes for the Police Department **7:11 p.m.**

Roten presented the agenda item and spoke about the number of personnel changes that have come before the council in recent months. Roten said that formerly, personnel changes would have been included in the annual budget process. Since moving to a biennial budget, these changes show up more as individual items. City staff are looking for ways to improve the process of approving personnel changes.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the reconfiguration of the police supervisor position as presented. Newton seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

- b. Personnel changes in Human Resources Department **7:15 p.m.**

Roten presented the agenda item.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the changes to the Human Resources Department as presented. Montague seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

- c. Salary grade adjustments for City Clerk **7:20 p.m.**

Roten presented the agenda item. Smith spoke about the job of City Clerks.

MOTION: Montague moved to approve the salary grade adjustment for the City Clerk. Smith seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Business from the council

**7:24 p.m.**

Novak expressed concern about what she sees as a different response to requests for more city staff versus public requests for funds. Novak spoke about the increase of fees, saying that those with entitlements, including PERS, do not feel the effect of the increases.

Montague thanked staff for the Geary Street sidewalk update and for adjusting the project based on resident concerns. Smith agreed with Montague.

Newton spoke about remains from fishing at Waverly and asked about deed restrictions and system development charges associated with constructing accessory dwelling units or additional habitable

space. City Manager Peter Troedsson and Community Development Director Matthew Ruettgers spoke about the public's options for developing additional habitable space.

Kopczynski shared public comment about excessive noise from cars racing on Lyon Street heard by residents on Queen Avenue. Troedsson said he would look into the matter.

Johnson II said he knows there are people struggling in Albany and that is why there is a low-income assistance program for the utility bills. Johnson II also said that benefits such as PERS are earnings, not entitlements.

City manager report

**7:37 p.m.**

Troedsson spoke about the speed on Squire Street and a request from Pitsch about speed bumps. Troedsson said that data did not support Squire Street as a location for automated speed monitoring and that there would be a cost, partially borne by the residents, to get speed bumps installed on the street.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabe Shepherd  
Deputy City Clerk

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@albanyoregon.gov](mailto:cityclerk@albanyoregon.gov).*