



MINUTES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: August 7, 2024

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Steph Newton Azorr, Ray Kopczynski, Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee (virtual)

Councilors absent: Councilor Matilda Novak was excused.

Police Chief Marcia Harnden introduced Captain Buck Pearce, who will take retired Captain Brad Liles' position in rotation as Sergeant-at-Arms for council meetings.

Special Presentation

6:02 p.m.

Cumberland Church, National Register of Historic Places

Liz Rapp, an advocate of the Cumberland Church, Emma Eaton, president, and Joel Orton, vice president of the Cumberland Community Event Center, showed slides* and spoke about the building's progress and work left to do.

Public Hearing

6:13 p.m.

Water Master Plan Adoption

OPEN: Mayor Alex Johnson II opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Civil Engineer III Ryan Beathe described the plan and explained its purpose as a guide to planning for the future.

No one wished to speak

CLOSE: Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

MOTION: Councilor Ray Kopczynski moved to adopt the plan. Councilor Jackie Montague seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. The motion was designated Resolution No. 7347.

Business from the Public

6:21 p.m.

Rosa Plascencia, representing the Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC), spoke in response to comments made on stage by Lee Greenwood during his concert on July 4. She said HAC proposes that the City develop a code of conduct for community events and contracts.

John Robinson* spoke about the lack of maintenance of landscaping on Waverly, and about people asking for money from drivers.

Susan Leonard said she was representing the Linn-Benton chapter of the NAACP. They are dismayed at Greenwood's statements about immigrants. His comments do not represent the views of the City but The NAACP thinks a City apology would be appropriate.

Lise Grato, executive director of the Albany Downtown Association, gave an update on activities downtown.

Christian Galvez said he is the co-chair of the HAC. He is a musician and manages a band. He asked the City to review its process and require performers to adhere to anti-harassment policies.

Nancy Greenman said she is also a HAC member. She said we should not let statements like Greenwood's made in our presence go unchallenged.

Second reading of ordinance

6:39 p.m.

Legislative Article 6 Floodplain Amendments

This ordinance had its first reading at the council meeting on June 26, 2024, but a motion for a second reading at that meeting failed 4-1. It takes a unanimous vote in favor to have an ordinance read a second time in the same meeting.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Councilor Steph Newton Azorr seconded the motion.

Kidd read the ordinance in title only.

MOTION: Councilor Marilyn Smith moved to adopt the ordinance. Kopczynski seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. The ordinance was designated Ordinance No. 6045.

Award of Contract

6:40 p.m.

Award contract for AR-24-22 contingent upon grant submission and acceptance

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo said staff recommends awarding the contract for airport lighting to Kunert Electric, of Roseburg. The award will also authorize submission of a grant application for much of the work. The Federal Aviation Administration requires a project to be bid first before they will award a grant. The City's share of the project will be \$117,629, most of which will be covered by a grant already received.

MOTION: Montague moved to award the contract. Councilor Ramycia McGhee seconded the motion, which passed 5-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7348.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

6:44 p.m.

Adoption of consent agenda

- a. Appointments
 - 1) Accepting Gar Burroughs' resignation from the Airport Commission
 - 2) Accepting Sandra Alma's resignation from the Arts Commission
 - 3) Accepting Miriam Cummins' resignation from the Human Relations Commission
- b. Approval of minutes

- 1) June 12, 2024, city council meeting
- 2) June 26, 2024, city council meeting
- c. Recommendations to OLCC
 - 1) Approve limited on-premises liquor license application for Coin Jam Jr LLC, dba Coin Jam JR
 - 2) Annual liquor license renewals
- d. Approval of resolutions
 - 1) Updating City Managers Pro Tem

RES NO. 7349

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the consent agenda with "removal" in item a.3) changed to "resignation." Smith seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Staff Report

6:44 p.m.

Low-Income Assistance Program Update

Public Works Director Chris Bailey gave a brief history and description of the program.

Smith said currently 147 households use the program. Bailey said that's a very small percentage of households in Albany. She would like to hear ideas for outreach.

McGhee asked if there is a way to reach people via the utility billing portal. Montague suggested a printed statement added to past-due bills. Bailey said she will check on these options.

Kopczynski asked if the program is available to renters. Bailey said it is, if the bill is in the renter's name.

Business from the Council

6:55

Kopczynski asked if the City will try to address the issues raised by Greenwood's comments in contracts going forward. City Manager Peter Troedsson said we have stated that views and comments of artists and others don't necessarily reflect the mission and values of the City.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane said that when acts are booked, staff stipulates that events are family friendly. She said they can work with the city attorney for additional language that doesn't infringe on First-Amendment rights.

Newton Azorr asked about the status of CARA now that the waterfront project is done. Troedsson said CARA has to stay in existence until the debt is paid off.

Newton Azorr asked if any action was taken at the concert after Greenwood's comments, and if the City will make a statement or issue an apology. Johnson II said he is drafting a response for the Democrat-Herald.

McGhee suggested considering hiring local talent for River Rhythms. Lyddane said River Rhythms has built its reputation on national acts. The Summer Sounds series uses more local groups.

Smith said she observed four hours of illegal fireworks in her neighborhood July 4. Four cities in Oregon now prohibit all fireworks.

Smith also said a constituent and their neighbors are bothered by residents of apartments nearby smoking near a public sidewalk. The smoke gets in the neighbors' yards and homes. The Oregon Clean Air Act

does not apply to sidewalks. Smith asked if the council would like to start a discussion of a ban on outdoor smoking.

Smith said the landscaping on Waverly Drive sounds like an ideal HOOT project. She will talk to the HOOT volunteers about it.

City Manager Report

7:20 p.m.

Troedsson said the City will host an ICMA fellow from the Army for a week later in July. The deputy city manager will start July 27.

Break

The council recessed for a break at 7:26 p.m.

Recess

7:34 p.m.

The council recessed into executive session to discuss evaluation of the employment related performance of the chief executive officer, employee, or staff member in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(i).

Reconvene

8:01 p.m.

The council reconvened into regular session.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to increase City Manager Peter Troedsson's deferred compensation benefit from 8% to 10%. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, July 22, 2024; 4:00 p.m. work session

Wednesday, July 24, 2024; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse
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.org.*