



MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2024
Work Session
Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: May 22, 2024

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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, Steph Newton, Ray Kopczynski, Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee

Councilors absent: None

Business from the Public

Camron Settlemier spoke against the proposed vacation of Thurston Street.

Water Master Plan

4:04 p.m.

Civil Engineer III Ryan Beathe presented slides.* He acknowledged the work of engineering firms and City staff in creating the plan. He summarized each chapter of the plan, and talked about the studies still needed before projects can be prioritized.

Councilor Steph Newton asked about the cost of a viability study for the Vine Street water plant. Beathe said the scope of the study hasn't been defined yet.

Councilor Matilda Novak said she is concerned about North Albany. She said the pump station needs immediate attention to increase capacity and make it seismically sound. Beathe said North Albany is a priority for staff.

Councilor Jackie Montague suggested that the viability study be done as soon as possible. Councilor Ramycia McGhee asked how often a viability study is done? Beathe said it's a one-time effort.

Johnson II asked if the study includes cleaning up waste in or near our water supply. Beathe said there are other programs that deal with cleanup.

Johnson II asked for a tour of the Vine Street facility to be arranged for the council.

Thurston and Jefferson Vacation Right-of-Way

5:09 p.m.

Engineering Manager/Assistant City Engineer Aaron Hiemstra described the proposed vacation. He said there are two ways to start the vacation process. This particular request would be hard for a member of the public to initiate because of the requirements of ODOT Rail. Staff is asking the council to initiate the vacation.

Newton asked why the City is giving up right-of-way. Why not wait for development to happen?

Montague asked Hiemstra to clarify the order of the proposed vacation and obtaining easements. Hiemstra said the city vacates the right-of-way but retains access easements. Property owners along the vacated right-of-way would not be able to block public access to the Dave Clark Path.

Director of Community Development Matthew Ruetters explained the process of a City-initiated vacation. He said it will include notification of nearby property owners and public hearings.

The council agreed that staff should pursue initiation of the vacation, making sure to address Settlemier's concerns in the staff report.

Recreational Immunity

5:26 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane said that as a result of several lawsuits, Senate Bill 1576 amends Oregon's recreational immunity law to broaden the definition of "recreational" and require cities smaller than 500,000 population to opt in by resolution. A resolution will be on the consent agenda for the council's Wednesday, May 8, 2024, meeting for approval.

Goldfish Farm Road Right-of-Way Acquisition Update

5:31 p.m.

City Engineer Staci Belcastro said part of Goldfish Farm Road is under City jurisdiction, and part is still maintained by Linn County. The county has agreed to improve its part to City standards and transfer jurisdiction to the City. The City agreed to pay for acquisition of right-of-way for the improvements. Construction is expected to start in summer of 2025, and includes replacement of the Cox Creek bridge, new sewer line, and bike lanes.

McGhee asked if the road would be lighted. Belcastro said she will find out and report when she has more information.

Business from the Council

5:42 p.m.

Newton distributed a handout* based on her discussion with staff about the fees the City pays on red-light-camera tickets. She suggested loosening the requirements for a diversion. She also asked about the contract term and the cost of the cameras. She quoted Oregon Revised Statute sections regulating sign requirements related to the use of traffic cameras. She said she has experience in the field of traffic psychology, and there are other solutions besides the cameras.

Councilor Marilyn Smith said she would not be able to attend the regular council meeting on May 8.

City Manager Report

6:03 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson said he recommends a tour of the Vine Street water plant. It is "phenomenally expensive" to retrofit a brick building.

Troedsson also introduced Xengxiong Nhalong, from Laos, who is visiting the City of Albany on a Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) fellowship. He is Interested in sustainable forest management.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 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.*