

CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL (WORK SESSION)  
Council Chambers  
Monday, May 19, 2008  
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Councilors Floyd Collins, Ralph Reid Jr., Jeff Christman, Bessie Johnson, Dick Olsen, and Sharon Konopa

Councilors absent: Mayor Bedore

LOCATION CHANGE

The Work Session was relocated from the Albany Boys & Girls Club (Club) to the Council Chambers at City Hall because Chelsea Clinton, daughter of Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, announced a surprise afternoon visit to the Club.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Mike Graham, representing the Parks & Recreation Commission, gave highlights from the staff report. They are especially proud of the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club. He said it has been a productive year.

Graham introduced Parks & Recreation Commission member Sharon Edwards.

Councilor Ralph Reid asked, does the Parks & Recreation Commission have the authority to approve system development charges (SDCs)? Parks & Recreation Director Ed Hodney said they can recommend, but not approve SDCs.

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNICS IN THE PARK INVITATION

Recreation Programs Manager Katie Nooshazar and Recreation Coordinator Joy Gilliland invited the Council to attend a series of neighborhood picnics hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department and the *Democrat-Herald*. Gilliland passed out a staff memo dated May 19, 2008 (see agenda file) and an invitation to the picnics (see agenda file). The picnics are designed after the successful Swanson Park neighborhood picnic last summer. They will be located at parks in each Council Ward to build a sense of neighborhood-connectedness, and will serve as a kick-off for the National Parks & Recreation in July. The picnics will be on Tuesday evenings in June and they will have interactive displays, arts and crafts for kids, surveys, and opportunities to talk to the Parks & Recreation Commission members and the Council in an informal setting. The *Democrat-Herald* will also survey participants. Nooshazar said this event has been made possible by sponsors for the hotdogs, Pepsi, and Gatorade. The purpose is to build community and to share information.

The picnic schedule is:

June 3	Doug Killin Friendship Park	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
June 10	Lexington Park	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
June 17	Timber-Linn Memorial Park	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
June 24	Gibson Hill Park	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Nooshazar invited the Council to the dedication of the Doug Killin Friendship Park as part of the picnic event.

Councilor Bessie Johnson said these events are a great idea and provide an opportunity to reach people. We are going to them instead of them coming to us. Nooshazar said there was a very positive response from neighbors following the Swanson Park event last summer.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR NONBARGAINING EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Director David Shaw explained that the March consumer price index (CPI) has been used for many years by the AFSCME union to calculate the cost-of-living increase (COLA). The March 2008 CPI is 4.3 percent. Shaw is requesting that the Council approve a similar increase for Non-Bargainers and Executives.

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Konopa asked what the increase was for the Police and Fire unions. Shaw said Fire did not want the CPI so instead they bargained for a two percent increase in July and a two percent increase in January. The Police are still in negotiations and have been offered 4.3 percent.

MOTION: Johnson moved to approve a 4.3 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Nonbargaining and Executive employees effective July 1, 2008. Reid seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

#### TIMBER CARNIVAL SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Hodney noted that the representatives were not present at the meeting, possibly because of the meeting location change.

Konopa asked, why didn't the Timber Carnival apply for sponsorship through the non-profit application process? It would have been timely to get this request prior to the conclusion of the Budget Committee meetings. Hodney said staff did share with them the opportunity to apply through that process, but at the time they were confident they would acquire the sponsorships. They may have underestimated the costs at that time.

Hodney said, it is important for the Council to know that the City has been supporting the formation of the Timber Carnival event. We waived many park fees associated with the event, about \$5,500. Also, Parks & Recreation staff have been working diligently with the Timber Carnival representatives to organize with the Police and Fire Departments, providing about \$7,000 in staff time to the Timber Carnival.

Konopa said she was told by Karen Carver of the Timber Carnival that the City used to have a line item for the Timber Carnival many years ago. Reid said that the City had to write off unpaid debt from the previous organizers. Konopa said that somehow, we must impress upon them that there is a process for this type of request through the Budget Committee. If the carnival event continues, they should follow the same process the other non-profits do.

Councilor Floyd Collins said there has been a history of problems with the Timber Carnival, but on the other hand it was a mainstay for tourism in Albany for many years. The Council should support it and give them an opportunity to resurrect the event. They have a new organizer now, so he would like to support the request.

Konopa suggested, for tourism events such as this, perhaps we should allocate money to the Albany Visitors Association (AVA) and have them distribute the funds, rather than the requests coming directly to the City. Hodney agrees that it should be part of the budget process.

Hodney said that Parks & Recreation recently lost \$45,000 in funding from a major sponsor for next year, due to the economy. Some of the City-sponsored events have a more significant impact than we are likely to see from the Timber Carnival over the next few years. It is a difficult economy right now to solicit donations.

Johnson is a representative of the AVA and said that Carver asked them for funding but it was too late in the year. They were also told then to get a grant application from the City in early so they could be included in the budget process. She thinks they just acted too late.

Johnson said the First Assembly of God has fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and the Timber Carnival asked if they want to combine with that event; however, the church declined because there would be alcohol served at the park and the church did not feel it would be a good match. She is not sure why we need two identical fireworks events on July 4<sup>th</sup>. She does not support this request.

Councilor Jeff Christman appreciates their efforts, but he is not in favor of giving them money. They should have gone through the budget process. Also, there are conflicts as far as other programs that will also be happening that same weekend. If we have already waived \$5,500 in parks fees, donated \$7,000 in City staff time, and then we give them \$9,000 for fireworks, we would be contributing \$21,500 total. He is not in favor of spending more; the City has already participated significantly. There comes a point where there is too much going on and folks don't go anywhere. Both programs will be hurt if there are fireworks at both.

Councilor Dick Olsen said having two fireworks events would be good. Regarding the suggestion to have them request funds from the AVA, Olsen would rather they come to the City directly as he does not want to involve a third party. He is in favor of having this July 4th celebration because it is timber-oriented. It is appropriate, given Albany's history, and he is in favor of providing seed money so they can become more self-supporting in the future.

Konopa supports having it at Timber Linn Park because it is a tradition. It bothers her that they missed the budget deadline. She asked staff to send a letter to the Budget Committee members explaining that this request came after the budget document was passed. We need to be in communication with them about items approved after the budget process is completed. We lost a good Budget Committee member in the past because of this very issue. The Council agreed.

Konopa said it needs to be stressed to the Timber Carnival representatives that this is seed money only, not a commitment for future years.

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MOTION: Reid moved to authorize \$9,000 to the Timber Carnival specifically for fireworks on the eve of July 4, 2008, to be allocated from transient room tax revenue and Christman seconded it. The motion passed 5-1, with Christman voting no.

#### COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Collins will be gone for two weeks on vacation.

Reid said last week there was no aviation fuel at the Airport. The fuel order must have slipped through the cracks with the recent transitions in Economic Development. There are a lot of small areas that need to be watched so that there are not problems again. He will continue to be the Airport liaison, unless another Councilor wants to. Collins is comfortable with Reid being the liaison, as he is a good Airport representative and already has a relationship with the clients. The other Councilors agreed.

Collins noted that this demonstrates that we need a staff person to champion for the Airport. We had that in former Economic Development Director Dick Ebbert, and we are feeling the loss now. Public Works Director Diane Taniguchi Dennis commented that when staff found that the fuel was low it was ordered immediately, but it takes two days to arrive. Staff did have a meeting about this and worked out a process for the future. It is difficult to lose a champion for a program, such as Ebbert. There are key pieces lost that must be rebuilt.

#### CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Dennis said Civil Engineer III Peter Harr received an award from the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association for excellence in engineering for the best medium water works project, the Albany Diversion Dam and the Fish Screen Project. The award recognizes the City of Albany and CH2M Hill.

Danny Perry, representing the West Oregon Web Press, wished to speak. He is the largest bulk mailer in Albany and is trying to learn about our community. This is his first time attending a Council meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Work Session adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Dibble, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk

Reviewed by,

Stewart Taylor  
Finance Director

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