

CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL (WORK SESSION)  
Council Chambers  
Monday, April 26, 2010  
4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Councilors present: Councilors Dick Olsen, Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, and Ralph Reid, Jr.

Councilors absent: Councilors Jeff Christman and Floyd Collins

Konopa said that Councilors Jeff Christman and Floyd Collins asked to be excused for this meeting.

Konopa asked the audience to introduce themselves. Planning Commission and Landmarks Advisory Commission (LAC) members, and City employees in the audience introduced themselves.

**OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS LAW**

Linsay Bassler, Trainer/Program Analyst from the state of Oregon Government Ethics Commission, introduced herself.

Bassler gave a PowerPoint presentation (see agenda file).

Councilor Bessie Johnson asked, what is a honoraria gift? Bassler said, it is a gift to thank a public official for speaking, for example.

City Attorney Jim Delapoer asked if there is a gift limit after the employ of a lawyer is terminated. For example, certain attorneys wanted to take the City Council to dinner to celebrate the conclusion of a lawsuit. Bassler said the gift limit would apply if members of the Council have continued administrative or legislative interest in that law firm. Discussion followed.

Planning Commission Member Dala Rouse asked what to do if someone offers to take her and her husband out to dinner which costs less than \$50. Bassler said it is acceptable; \$50 is an annual limit even with a legislative or administrative interest. Discussion followed.

Johnson asked about accepting "gifts to sponsors" for an event as a private business, not as a Councilor. Bassler said that as long as it is accepted as a businessperson, and not as a Councilor, and no official public business is discussed, it is acceptable. Discussion followed.

The Council discussed several examples of guest appearances in their official capacity, with spouses. Bassler will provide clarification in the future regarding the food and beverage/entertainment laws.

The Council discussed potential vs. actual conflicts of interest during a meeting. For a potential conflict of interest, the Councilor must announce the potential conflict but can participate in discussion and action, whereas if an actual conflict exists, the Councilor must declare the actual conflict and refrain from discussion and voting on the subject.

Delapoer pointed out that these ethics laws apply to the newly formed Airport Commission. For example, if members of the Commission sell fuel or own hangars, they risk ethical violation should they make any decisions on those types of issues.

There was discussion about LAC members that live in historical neighborhoods and how decisions they make may be impacting their own properties.

Johnson referred to an article in the paper about the ethical issues surrounding the State Treasurer Office.

Bassler suggested the Council visit the state's website for training and free videos on ethics laws. The website is a useful tool for new Councilors and Board Members.

Delapoer said that it is unfortunate that Councilors are invited to events where their attendance is appropriate for the community, but where they are vulnerable under these ethics laws. He suggested that a solution is to increase the Councilor's modest stipend, so that they could afford to pay for the kinds of expenses that they are likely to incur as guests. By paying their own way, they would bypass the ethics issues. In other words, the Councilors would have a funding source to participate in community events.

Albany City Council Work Session  
April 26, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Work Session adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Dibble, MMC  
Deputy City Clerk

*G:\Mary\CCWorkSession\2010\ccws 04-26-10.MTS.doc*

Reviewed by,

Stewart Taylor  
Finance Director