

CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL (WORK SESSION)  
Albany Police Station  
1117 Jackson Street SE  
Monday, December 13, 2010  
4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Councilors absent: None.

**TOUR OF POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Ed Boyd thanked the Council for meeting at the Albany Police Department (APD) for the Work Session. He hopes a tour will give the Councilors a better perspective of the space issues that have been discussed in previous Work Sessions at City Hall.

Boyd started the tour in the briefing room.

Boyd noted Albany has received assistance with the recent serial arsonist case from several state and federal agencies, though the group actually has to meet in space leased from Public Works Operations because the only meeting room left at the Police Station is the briefing room; and it is used for every shift change and between shift changes.

The Police Department was built in 1988, when the community was half the size it is now. There have been five remodels over the last 22 years. Boyd showed a former hallway that has been converted into a small office as an example of how the remodels have evolved to fill almost every last space. There is also an office that has a makeshift dressing room built into it, and a computer server room that has a desk in it.

A 1,100 square foot modular on the back of the property, added in 2004, houses 10 detectives.

Councilor Bessie Johnson joined the tour at 4:14 p.m.

The Communications room houses three dispatchers. The HVAC system does not work so the room is either too hot or too cold.

The exercise room was eliminated in a previous remodel so the only changing space is the locker room. The men's locker room has 47 lockers which are shared by 66 male employees, and up to 16 officers change at the same time in the tight space. Boyd explained that the lockers, about the size of high school lockers, are too small for uniforms, gear, and shoes - especially since they are shared - so shoes and boots line the floor. The women's locker room has 20 lockers shared by 28 female employees. Discussion followed about why Police Officers need a locker room and why they can't just change at home before work. Boyd explained that officers sometimes have to change uniforms during a shift due to circumstances like blood or vomit; most shower after their shift before going home; and finally, officers do the same sorts of activities that civilians do after work, such as pick up kids from school, attend sports events, go to the grocery store, etc. When officers stay in uniform after their shift and are seen around town, then the Police Department gets complaints about why Officers are getting "paid" to attend games, go grocery shopping, etc.

Councilor Ralph Reid Jr. pointed out that another overlooked reason for not wearing uniforms home, is for the officer's personal safety and especially that of his/her family.

There are two offices in the evidence room and APD also pays for two additional spaces offsite to house the overflow of evidence.

Boyd explained that the most economical shift rotation is 12 hours with no overlap, but the downside is that there is not enough space in the small report writing area to accommodate the shift change. Officers do some report writing in their cars but that is not always possible.

Councilor Floyd Collins said that Stations 13 and 14 were supposed to include areas that APD can use for report writing.

There are two interview rooms close together. The problem is that they are not soundproof and often there may be a victim in one room and the suspect in the other. Obviously this is not ideal.

There are four Community Service Officers (CSOs), two Education Specialists, three School Resource Officers, and two traffic officers that share office space.  
The tour concluded at 4:33 p.m.

The meeting resumed and was audio recorded from this point on.

Boyd said the property that has been purchased on Pacific Boulevard is 4.2 acres combined and has ample parking for future needs. The current location has so little parking that during the week the officers have to park in the neighborhoods.

Collins noted that he passed on an analysis of APD's space needs that was done in 2002-03 to Boyd. He thinks it would be useful for the Council to review that analysis as a way to lay a foundation to look at the future. City Manager Wes Hare said that an executive summary of that analysis was provided to the Council as part of a staff report, though they have not had any requests to see the full document.

Konopa noted that in 1998 there was a study of short-term needs that showed within five years, or 2003, they would need a new police station.

Boyd said that he, Fire Chief Bradner, and Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Mark Shepard will be meeting with the first architectural firm to discuss the space needs study, per Council direction at a previous meeting.

Boyd said that the city of Troutdale evaluated a remodel versus new construction, and the costs came in at \$7.3 versus \$7.5. They chose new construction for a 19,000 square foot building and the voters approved it. APD's building right now is 10,500 square feet. The 2003 study indicated the next step should be 30,000 square feet and that APD would need 40,000 square feet by year 2020. The city of Salem is also analyzing their space and need 100,000 square feet for the 300 employees in their police department. Albany has 94 police employees. The city of Philomath has 10 employees that are in a building the same size as Albany's. Lebanon has 23,000 square feet to house a staff that is half the size of Albany's.

Collins asked, how viable would it be to have a fractured staff; for example, if dispatch was moved from APD to another location? Boyd said that has been done in other cities such as Salem and it did not seem to impact their operations. They could do that in Albany, though it does increase the cost for building space. Boyd has also considered using precincts, but he is not sure Albany is large enough to support that. Hare said that he has experience in cities where police operations are all in one building and when the operations have been scattered; in his opinion it makes a big difference when all the operations are in one place. Johnson agrees and thinks there is real value in having folks under one roof.

Collins said the public is asking questions such as, why the Fire Department has their administrative services separated, and why the Police can't do the same for the interim. Boyd said the cost of the two types of buildings is the main reason; police officers respond from their patrol cars, not from a building like fire personnel. Johnson noted that Fire also does not have a dispatch operation. Hare noted that if they were asked, the Fire Department would say they prefer to have their administrative operations under one roof.

Boyd noted that with new construction it is possible for the Police Station to house the fire administration services. The plan was to build 15,000 square feet on two floors, with the third floor framed for expansion to meet space needs for 20 years out.

Councilor Bill Coburn agrees that Boyd's plan for three floors is the way to go because all of the infrastructure would be big enough and would not require upgrades later on.

Discussion followed about the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Boyd would propose to house the EOC in the new Police Station. Currently the EOC is at City Hall, housed in a closet. Collins said there is a lot of criticism aimed at EOCs, until disaster strikes and they are necessary. They are kind of like an insurance policy. He worked for Salem during the floods and having an efficient EOC is vital.

Collins said the Justice Center in Lebanon cost \$11.5 million and included a Municipal Court and a jail. Albany does not plan to add a jail. Boyd said Lebanon Police Chief Healy said that the jail is what sold the Justice Center to the voters and they supported it by 70 percent. The jail holds 12 and the citizenry were tired of folks getting arrested, being hauled away, but then being returned to Lebanon because other jails had no room for them.

Collins said that Benton County is considering a bond for a new jail in the fall. Three years ago a similar bond was defeated; but the need is there.

Konopa appreciates APD staff for performing so well considering their cramped working conditions. She noted that the room the Work Session is taking place in used to be a community room for the public, but the department has evolved and grown so much that the space is no longer available for that purpose. They also lost their weight room and every nook and cranny is being used now.

Collins said a typical office space is 8 x 8 or 10 x 10 feet. Police staff has less than that. He thinks the updated report is critical to show the public what they need.

Konopa pointed out that this newest study means we are spending money, again, to provide an update to what two previously studies have already shown. Those other two studies were already paid for and yet nothing was done for twelve years. She said, we need to take action instead of just continuing to study the space needs. Johnson agrees, and pointed out that the reports we already have verify that this is not just an issue of comfort as some assume; it is weightier than that.

Hare suggested that Councilors take advantage of the officer ride-along program to get a good feel for what goes on in the Police Department.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public.

#### COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Johnson said when PepsiCo settlement funds are being allocated, she does not want them to end up on the Consent Calendar.

Coburn asked why the speed bump on Marion Street is marked for 15 miles per hour; this speed bump differs from all the others in Albany. Discussion followed. When the street was designed there wasn't enough done to slow down traffic so neighbors, who had participated through a Local Improvement District, asked for more to be done. The speed bumps were put in after the project was completed. There is a difference between speed bumps and humps; Marion Street is a raised intersection so it is considered a speed bump.

#### CITY MANAGER REPORT

There was no report.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Dibble, MMC  
Deputy City Clerk

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare  
City Manager