

**JOINT MEETING
BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
and
ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
Albany City Hall
Municipal Court Room
Monday, September 22, 2014**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Jay Dixon, Annette Jaramillo, Linda Modrell

Councilors Present: Floyd Collins, Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, Rich Kellum, Ray Kopczynski

Councilors Absent: Dick Olsen (excused)

INTRODUCTIONS

Konopa welcomed Benton County Commissioners, citizens, and staff. There were self-introductions by all present.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

North Albany roads (construction & maintenance)

Assistant City Manager/Public Works and Community Development Director Mark Shepard said the City has two major construction projects in North Albany scheduled for the summer of 2015 – a reconstruction project on North Albany Road and a sidewalk improvement project on Gibson Hill Road.

2015 North Albany construction project update

Civil Engineer Chris Cerklewski reviewed a project to reconstruct North Albany Road to urban standards from north of Quarry Road to the railroad tracks. As part of the project, the bridge over Thornton Lake will be replaced, and the roadway between East Thornton Lake and Thornton Lake Drive will be raised to make that road accessible for emergency access during a 100-year flood. The project will also realign Thornton Lake Drive to match up with the traffic signal at North Albany Middle School. The bulk of the work will take place next summer while school is out. The contractor will be allowed to close North Albany Road to through traffic and provide a detour route on Quarry Road and Springhill Drive. In preparation for the additional burden on Quarry Road and Springhill Drive, staff has negotiated with ODOT to put in dual left turn lanes at Springhill Drive and Highway 20 and provide a southbound truck detour. The other main issue is traffic at the intersection of Quarry Road and Springhill Drive, and a temporary roundabout is being considered for that location.

Konopa asked if there is sufficient right-of-way for a roundabout at that intersection. Cerklewski said staff believes a mini roundabout could fit on the existing pavement. Discussion followed.

Joint Meeting - Benton County Commissioners and Albany City Council
September 22, 2014

Commissioner Jay Dixon asked what would be done with the surplus bridge. Cerklewski said the bridge is in pretty good condition and it should be possible to salvage portions for future use.

Dixon said it is important that public safety agencies know about these changes in advance of the project.

Councilor Floyd Collins suggested that the contractor be asked to utilize flaggers during peak times for the first couple of weeks to assist with traffic movement through the modifications.

City staff discussed outreach and coordination efforts that would be made in advance of the project. Benton County staff recommended that the roundabout be established well in advance of the project so people will become accustomed to it before traffic increases.

Collins said he has heard concerns about the site distance traveling southbound at Quarry Road and Springhill Drive, including an existing tree in the right-of-way. He would like to see that site distance issue addressed.

Shepard said he appreciates the relationship with Benton County staff on this project which will have a great impact on the citizens of Albany, as well as those in greater Benton County.

Shepard then reviewed a sidewalk improvement project on Gibson Hill Road from the roundabout to Scenic Drive. The City leveraged local money to receive a grant from ODOT for this project. The completed project will be a great improvement for those who walk in North Albany, including students from North Albany Middle School and North Albany Elementary School. Several bus turnouts will be installed to help improve bus service and safety. While the City is helping manage the project, the contract is held by ODOT. The project will be bid in January with construction to occur during the summer when school is out. The road will remain open and traffic will be controlled by flaggers.

Street transfer agreements

Shepard said that Albany and Benton County entered into a letter of understanding in 2005 which identified roadways under Benton County's jurisdiction that may at some point transfer to Albany jurisdiction. Since that time, many of the roads have been transferred. Roads that have not yet transferred are portions of North Albany Road, Gibson Hill Road, and Crocker Lane. Albany is the permitting authority along those roads. Benton County staff added that City and County public works staff are meeting on a monthly basis to come up with ways to make those transfers happen in a way that benefits both parties.

In response to a request from Collins, Benton County staff provided him with a map showing the jurisdiction for each road in North Albany. City staff said the map will be posted on the City's website.

Albany-Corvallis multiuse path

Shepard said the City Council previously authorized staff to apply for a grant for the North Albany portion of the Albany-Corvallis path. The City was unsuccessful in that application; however, Benton County was successful in their grant application for that same section of path. The City Council will be getting a request for support of the path. The hope is to move forward with Albany's contribution, Benton County's contribution, and the grant of about \$2 million. Benton County staff reviewed the alignment of the Albany-Corvallis multi-use path, including the North Albany section. Brief discussion followed.

Park on Crocker Lane

Shepard explained that a developer who owns property west of Crocker Lane and south of Valley View has contacted Benton County and offered to donate property for a park. The City is in the early stages of developing a Local Improvement District (LID) and that information will be critical for Benton County in deciding whether it is

beneficial for them to accept the land donation. Benton County staff agreed with Shepard's assessment. If the donation pencils out, they would envision simple open space management within that acreage.

Commissioner Linda Modrell asked how many acres are allocated for City parks in North Albany, aside from the existing North Albany Park. Parks and Recreation Director Ed Hodney said the current master plan does not propose additional City park acres in North Albany. Konopa said the City has a large number of beautiful parks and is proud of its parks system. Modrell commented that there aren't many parks in North Albany.

North Albany County Service District

Benton County Chief Operating Officer Dennis Aloia said the North Albany County Service District is closed and all of the assets have been transferred. The infrastructure remains in place and is available for use if there is a future need. Collins said he appreciated the work that went into getting the primary grant funding and putting that infrastructure into place.

AAMPO update

Shepard said the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) consists of a partnership between the City of Albany, Benton County, Linn County, Millersburg, Tangent, and Jefferson. At approximately 1.5 years into the MPO, a lot of the groundwork and planning has been done. The big work ahead includes prioritization and use of the transportation funding that comes to the MPO. For the first two years of funding, the partners agreed to share the money based on the percentage they would have received if the MPO was not formed, allowing jurisdictions to finish planned projects while deciding how to prioritize the funding.

Collins said the Loop is seen as a foundational piece of the regional interface, particularly with Oregon State University (OSU) and Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) and their dual enrollment program. The AAMPO has been working on a draft Intergovernmental Agreement with OSU, LBCC, and the Corvallis MPO regarding funding of the Loop. He expressed appreciation to all of the parties for approaching this as a regional issue.

Modrell said she would like both MPOs, the cities, and the county to explore how to reduce accidents along Highway 20 between Albany and Corvallis. Brief discussion followed.

Future tax measures

Konopa said the City of Albany will be putting out a ballot measure for police and fire facilities, possibly next May. The City's existing levy is due for renewal in 2017. She asked what future tax measure Benton County is considering.

Commissioner Annette Jaramillo said Benton County expects to put out a measure for a new jail next May. The County's existing levy was just renewed and will come up for renewal again in 2018. Discussion followed regarding potential tax measures that may come forward from other jurisdictions.

Collins said he was previously involved in a process wherein the policy makers of each taxing district coordinated on what went to the voters. He thinks this type of discussion by the policy makers would be useful. Jaramillo agreed; she stated that Benton County has waited to go out for a bond for the jail because of what other jurisdictions were doing, but the jail is now seriously deteriorated and it is clear that it will need to go on the May ballot.

Brief discussion followed regarding the potential of competing tax measures and the need to get information out to the public about deficiencies to facilities that exist in both jurisdictions.

Joint Meeting - Benton County Commissioners and Albany City Council
September 22, 2014

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD

Collins noted that, because Modrell is not seeking reelection; this will be the last joint meeting with her in attendance. He expressed appreciation for everything she has done, particularly as one of our regional experts on transportation. Konopa said Modrell is very much appreciated and will be missed.

City Manager Wes Hare expressed appreciation for the very cooperative relationship between City of Albany and Benton County staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Teresa Nix
Administrative Assistant

Stewart Taylor
Finance Director