

CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Municipal Court Room
Monday, July 6, 2015
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 Bessie Johnson, Rich Kellum, Bill Coburn, Ray Kopczynski, Dick Olsen, and Floyd Collins.

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was none.

EAST I-5 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

Transportation System Analyst Ron Irish handed out a map and projected a map of the area to be discussed (see agenda file). He pointed out Project L15, the Timber Ridge Street extension. He said the proposed street alignment dates back to the first Transportation System Plan (TSP) in 1997. At that time, Linn County's Clover Ridge Road bridge over Truax Creek was in poor condition. A new bridge was planned at a different location aligned with the proposed Timber Ridge extension. It was expected that development along the road would finance the road. Development and Linn County would build the new bridge, and Linn County would build the section of the new road outside Albany's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Irish said that since 1997 development in the area of the project has slowed. The Truax Creek bridge is now close to failure, and Linn County will need to rebuild it before the City has money available for the road extension. Wetlands in the area are larger than they were originally plotted, and a high-pressure gas pipeline, which requires large setbacks, runs through the area. Staff recommends deleting the Timber Ridge extension (Project L15) from the TSP. If the Council agrees, the next step would be public hearings on the TSP change.

Councilor Floyd Collins asked about the classification of Clover Ridge Road. Irish said it is classified as a minor collector street. Without the Timber Ridge extension, more traffic would use Clover Ridge, intersecting with Knox Butte Road there instead of at the new roundabout. The City would probably have to build a new intersection, possibly including a traffic signal. Collins asked if a new signal would be too close to the existing signal at Goldfish Farm Road and Knox Butte. Irish said it might require work on the Goldfish Farm intersection. The City has other intersections as close together that seem to work.

Councilor Bill Coburn said someday the City might want both bridges. He doesn't see it as an either/or. Irish said that the existing bridge needs to be rebuilt in any case. Keeping L15 in the TSP would mean building a second bridge, which the county will not want to do.

Councilor Dick Olsen asked, if the new bridge is built and Clover Ridge is cut at the creek, how would people on Clover Ridge get back on Clover Ridge across the creek? Irish said there would be no direct way to do that.

Brian Grenz, of MultiTech Engineering, showed a map (see agenda file) and pointed out the proposed project. He said they are working on a wetlands delineation, and the wetlands are larger than they were originally mapped. Any development on the property will require mitigation with the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the Army Corps of Engineers. It will be difficult to build the Timber Ridge extension as planned. If it were built, it would be hard to place development along it. Developers won't be willing to pay for a road they can't develop alongside.

Coburn said that in that case, Project L19 is not feasible, either. Irish said Public Works proposes removing the part of L19 that crosses the wetlands from the TSP. They would leave in the TSP a short section that could later connect north and south of the wetland area. L19 is classified as a minor collector. Collins said if L19 were eliminated, the connection to Timber Ridge would be a residential street. Irish said that L19's primary purpose was not to handle traffic volumes, but to link Draperville and the school.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski asked, even if the eastern part of L19 were built, would any development be possible there? Irish said yes, but any development north of there would have to connect along the north side of the area to Sagecrest Drive. Collins said that traffic would use Santa Maria Avenue, Charlotte and Marilyn Streets. Charlotte and Marilyn are gravel roads.

ACTION: the Council directed Public Works to proceed to public hearings. They directed Irish to prepare traffic volume projections for Marilyn and Charlotte Streets.

ODOT I-5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Amy Ramsdell, of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), updated the Council on the progress of ODOT's proposed I-5 and Highway 20 project. She said that the last time she appeared before the Council, ODOT was close to a draft environmental assessment for the project. However, given current funding, they don't have enough money to build. Instead of spending money to finalize and publish the draft document for the larger project, they are creating an alternative analysis using resources already available. They are concentrating on neighborhood connections, especially on Highway 20 and Airport Road. The new analysis will be published this fall. They plan to break the overall project into smaller pieces and fund the pieces as money becomes available.

Kopczynski asked, if ODOT did complete the environmental assessment, would it have a lifespan? Ramsdell said yes, it would have to be refreshed every three years, which would cost money. Collins asked, if the project is built piece by piece, how much of the smaller pieces would be wasted when the next section happened? Ramsdell said it would depend on how the projects were phased. Some would be wasted, but each piece would mean some improvement before all the money for the large project became available. Collins said the City and Linn County have each put about \$200,000 into the project for planning. He asked if that were now wasted? Ramsdell said no. A lot of that planning could go into the State's Transportation System Plan. Coburn asked if the smaller projects could be done at the usual funding of 90% federal, 10% state? Ramsdell said yes.

Konopa commended ODOT for their care of the state highways. She was in Washington a few weeks ago and noticed that the Washington highways all had tall dead grass right up to the edge of the road.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES PROJECT UPDATE

Engineering Manager Staci Belcastro said pre-application meetings have been held for both the new fire station and the new police station. Boundary surveys and geotechnical surveys are complete. Public Works is negotiating an owner's representative contract with David Evans and Associates. They expect to bring the contract to the Council at the July 22, 2015, meeting. Meetings are being held every two weeks on design development. The construction contracts are projected to bid in January and construction should start in May, 2016.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Bessie Johnson said she is curious about fire activity over the July 4th weekend. Konopa reported that she had talked to Fire Marshal Mike Trabue. He said the Fire Department had fewer calls than the Police Department over the weekend. Marilyn Smith said the police had 246 calls in a 24-hour period, 60 of them related to fireworks.

Councilor Rich Kellum reported that the new bottle redemption center is making good progress. They hope to open August 20.

Olsen said he went to the River Rhythms concert Thursday and really enjoyed it. He appreciates what Parks and Recreation does for Albany.

Collins said the new diagnostic center near the former Ray's Market has broken ground, and there may be another senior care center built there, too. He said Public Works is doing a good job on the North Albany Road work.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager *pro tem* Jorge Salinas said he will be presenting the vendor recommendation for the CAD/RMS project at the July 22, 2015 City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Liesse
Accounting Specialist

Reviewed by,

Jorge Salinas
City Manager *pro tem*