

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF
ALBANY CITY COUNCIL**

August 18, 2015

**Board of Commissioner's Building
205 NW 5th Street, Corvallis, Oregon
12:00 p.m., Board Room**

Benton County Board of Commissioners Present:

**Jay Dixon, Chair; Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner; Anne Schuster,
Commissioner**

City of Albany City Council Present:

**Sharon Konopa, Mayor; Floyd Collins, Dick Olsen, Ward 1; Ray
Kopczynski, Ward 2; Bessie Johnson, Rich Kellum, Ward 3**

Excused: Bill Coburn, Ward 2

Guests: Jennifer Moody, Albany Democrat-Herald; Hasso Herring

Benton County Staff:

**Dennis Aloia, Chief Operating Officer Andrew Monoco, Laurie Starha,
Jim Stouder, Josh Wheeler, Public Works; Rick Osborn, Public
Information Officer; Kevin Perkins, Recorder; Jeff Powers, Natural
Areas and Parks**

City of Albany Staff:

**Stacy Belcastro, Ron Irish, Public Works; Ed Hodney, Parks and
Recreation; Wes Hare, City Manager; Marily Smith, City Manager's
Office**

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

I. Items of Discussion:

A. North Albany Road Project

Wheeler stated that North Albany Road is a County road but it is under the jurisdiction of the City of Albany.

Belcastro reported that paving has begun and striping will follow shortly with the road open by the time school starts next month. The mini-roundabout may be removed later in the project.

Irish stated that part of the project reconstructed the bridge at East Thornton Lake, which created a substantial interruption of traffic. The City made two major changes to the traffic flow during the project: installation of a roundabout at Quarry Road and restriping the intersection of Springhill and Highway 20

- i) Dual left-hand turn lanes at Highway 20 and Springhill Drive*
- ii) Ovalabout at Quarry Road and Springhill Drive*

Irish stated that these two items are a bit of a sticky issue, Springhill and Highway 20 is a unique intersection with it being an intersection governed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), with a City signal and a County road intersecting; the decision whether to keep the dual left turn lanes will need to involve all three jurisdictions.

ODOT has some safety concerns about the dual turn lanes at that the intersection, which has a history of trucks falling over due to the slope of the road. ODOT has indicated some willingness to examine the request to keep the lanes but they will need some form of an engineering study on the intersection and are likely to require that the truck detour onto Hickory remain. Public reaction about the roundabout has been all across the spectrum while the dual left turn lanes have almost been universally popular.

The Board, Council and Staff discussed the safety and enforcement actions on the detour.

Collins stated that as the Councilor for and representative of North Albany he has received nothing but positive comments about the roundabout; the remaining problems are simply those of education about how to use a roundabout and then the normal learning curve.

Wheeler added that if the oval is retained the County would look for time to expand it into a true roundabout, which would require purchasing more right of way and may take some time to plan and build.

Konopa stated that she favors retaining the oval; it may appear that it was a waste of funds to put it in if it is removed, Johnson concurred.

MOTION: Collins moved to work with Benton County to submit an application for the dual left turn lanes with the truck route on hickory. Kopczyński seconded the motion, which carried (5-0, Coburn excused).

MOTION: Jaramillo moved to direct staff to work with the City of Albany to submit an application for the dual left turn lanes with the truck route on Hickory. Schuster seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

MOTION: Collins moved to request that Benton County retain the ovalabout and work to create a long term roundabout. Kopczynski seconded the motion, which carried (5-0, Coburn excused).

MOTION: Jaramillo moved to direct staff to retain the ovalabout and work to create a permanent roundabout. Schuster seconded the motion, which carried (3-0).

In response to a question from Wheeler, Collins stated that he would support using City funds that are NOT derived from system development charges (SDC) to fund the work on the ovalabout/roundabout as a matter of equity for the rest of the city population that lives in Linn County.

B. County-City IGA for Road Transfers

Wheeler stated that he and his staff have been working together to review and update the existing intergovernmental agreement (IGA) governing the transfer of streets between the City and County. Due to the increased density of traffic, the County roads in North Albany are functioning more like city roads than typical county roads. The first road that triggered the review was the status of North Albany Road; the other roads they are looking at transferring include Wildwood and West Thornton Drives, but only the approximately 470' portion of West Thornton that is being reconstructed; those three roads would not require any further improvement to be able to transfer to the City, either the improvements have already occurred or are unnecessary. Staff would also look at transferring Valley View Drive east of Crocker Road (after a two-inch overlay is completed) and East Thornton Lakes Drive. From 2016 onward Robinhood Lane, Grandview, Squire Drive and a select others would come under consideration; Gibson Hill Road may need to be improved in phases before it could be transferred.

Staff, the Board and Council discussed the technical details of improving the roads prior to transfer, such as building curbs and gutters, etc.; Collins stated that Gibson Hill is the most frequently complained about road by his constituents. An issue may also arise about differing requirements between transfers to and from Benton County than to and from Linn County. Several Councilors expressed concern over the different requirements in the agreements with each of the Counties and equitable treatment of residents on each side of the river. Funding for a project on the Benton County side of the city may be funded through SDC's that are dominantly derived from projects on the Linn County side of the city.

Hare replied that projects throughout the City are funded in a variety of ways from SDC's, to grants, to local improvement districts (LID). He added that it is not uncommon to reach agreements to adjust standards on specific projects to meet a specific, limited need. He discussed the differences between creating standards in developed areas versus more forested areas, adding that he would not be opposed to working with Linn County to have a separate standard to protect resource lands. The portion of Albany in Linn County does not have as many resource lands as there are in North Albany.

Konopa stated that with the Crocker Lane LID the City may have set a new standard and expectation that they will need to address; part of the conversation revolves around how the Transportation System Plan was developed, which was partially intended to reduce the cost of development, and caused the City to reduce the number of projects underway. In the near future there may not be enough money to build the proper roads needed by the larger developments that are planned or underway. Either the SDC's are going to need to be addressed or the standards changed.

Jaramillo wondered whether the areas in North Albany lend themselves to development of bio swales rather than full curb and gutter systems.

Staff discussed the differences in creating rural and city roads, which already require different amounts of right of way, and therefore it would not be unusual to have separate standards. The City of Albany Public Works staff has a good relationship with staff in Linn County and would anticipate having similar discussions with Linn County staff when the need arises.

Kellum stated that he is concerned by the use of SDC funds that are collected from one area of the City in another area when the new developments and industries are spread all over, it is a question of equity.

Hare stated that if the City's expenditures were analyzed, he believes that the majority of the City funding has been spent in Linn County, which is where the majority of the population resides. The investment on the east side of the river will be substantially more than will need to be made in North Albany.

Staff asked the two governing bodies to provide direction to update the road transfer IGA in light of the concerns raised by City Councilors.

Collins stated that he would like time to review the draft IGA and determine if it meets each agency's goals. He appreciates the staffs' work and would like to have the document returned to the Council at a later date; the Council and Board concurred.

C. North Albany County Park – Open Space Expansion Acreage

Powers provided an update on the work that has been done at North Albany Park in relation to a housing development that has been going on near the park. A purchase of nearby, but not contiguous, land by the County will occur sometime in November or December and then a connection between the park and the newly purchased area will be built. The new purchase allows the City and County to take a broader look at updating the park and incorporating the new 13-acre addition. Both Parks Departments recognize that it is a County park within the city limits and want to work together with as much of the public as possible to incorporate the public's desires and views into the revised plan; the County Health Department would also like to help with the planning and outreach. Powers stated that thanks to Commissioner Schuster, a resident has contacted the County and is working with Powers to look at opportunities for even greater connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods. In response to a question from Johnson, Powers stated that the Health Department recognizes that there is a gap between the physical activity of previous generations and the activity level of current kids. The County would like to build a paved pathway between several of the lots to create a connection between neighborhoods and a loop trail within the new purchase.

D. Proposed North Albany County Park Master Plan update

Hodney stated that the City will be updating its parks master plan this fall and one item on that update list is for greater integration of the park into the City as a whole; access and programming at the park will be part of those discussions.

E. Jail Bond Support

Dixon reviewed the County's decision to put a bond before the voters in the coming election; he stated that he and Jaramillo have been working for many years to find solutions to the deficiencies of the current jail. He asked the City Council to support the County's efforts as the County supported the City's efforts to build new fire and police stations. In response to a question from Johnson, Dixon stated that the Philomath site was picked due to the costs and the fact that it is the same distance from the Courthouse to the Corvallis Airport Industrial Park.

Konopa stated that the jail has been a consistent topic of conversation at the Willamette Criminal Justice Commission over the years, though a lot of other issues have gotten in the way of moving forward. The current election year looks like a good time to take the bond issue to the voters.

The Board and Council discussed the jail and related concerns such as mental health treatment, programs, and detox facilities.

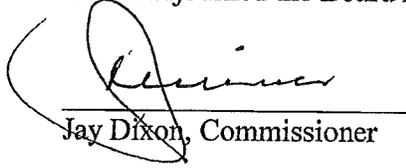
Konopa stated that the City will ask staff develop a resolution in support of the County's efforts and bring it before the Council.

In closing, Collins complimented Benton County Public Works staff for taking the City's grindings and finding a use for those materials, which saves disposal costs for the City and purchase costs for the County.

Wheeler stated that in his time here the relationship between the County and the City of Albany has been very beneficial and productive.

Adjournment

Dixon adjourned the Board meeting at 5:19 p.m.



Jay Dixon, Commissioner



Kevin Perkins, Recorder