



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2019

Work Session

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: June 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Rich Kellum, Bessie Johnson, Alex Johnson II, Dick Olsen, Bill Coburn, and Mike Sykes

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

City Manager Peter Troedsson introduced Juby Bonida-Pamong and Pawida Bualert who traveled from Thailand and the Philippines as part of the young South East Asian Leaders Initiative in coordination with the State Department and International City Management Association. Troedsson shared about some of the activities in which Bonida-Pamong and Bualert have participated. Bonida-Pamong and Bualert introduced themselves to the council.

Camron Settlemier, 230 7th Avenue SW, read a statement about the appointment process for the Landmarks Advisory Commission. Settlemier shared concerns about the bias of some of the councilors. Settlemier stated that the Landmarks Advisory Committee is an impartial body.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSIFICATION RATING

4:08 p.m.

Fire Chief John Bradner shared a report about the Fire Department's Public Protection classification rating (see agenda file). Bradner shared about the evaluation process. Additions over the last few years include a new fire station and hiring more staff which contributed to the improved rating. Bradner added that city residents should see a decrease in their fire insurance rates. The Fire Department is issuing a press release to alert residents to this information.

Councilor Dick Olsen asked if the public have to apply for a reduction in their fire insurance rates. Bradner said the insurance companies will evaluate each policy and the rates should decrease. Councilor Alex Johnson II said that once the information is available on the website, residents can print the information and send it to their insurance company. Discussion about insurance rates followed. Bradner added that the information is available to the public on the website.

MODIFYING APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES FOR CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUPS

4:15 p.m.

Senior Administrative Supervisor Holly Roten shared a report about appointment procedures for citizen advisory boards (see agenda file). There are currently 112 positions on the City boards and commissions. Roten shared statistics about the appointments for each ward. The changes in the ordinance and resolution will equalize the number of appointments for each ward. Roten noted that the changes to the ordinance and resolutions do

not address the authority of the Landmarks Advisory Commission; they address the appointment process in an effort to create consistency throughout the citizen advisory groups. The modifications to the appointment procedures do not prematurely terminate any positions. There are no changes to the Community Development Commission appointments. They also do not prohibit councilors from appointing representatives from outside their wards.

Roten listed four main components of the ordinance: updated language so each section is consistent; establishing new positions for the City Tree Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Traffic Safety Commission. These positions would become active January 1, 2020, so recruitment would fall into the regular recruitment cycle; further modifying the residency requirements; and reassigning appointment duties for those boards and commissions.

Roten said the first resolution in the agenda packet applies appointment protocols to all citizen advisory groups. The second resolution in the agenda packet reassigns appointment duties. Roten detailed the reassignment of appointment duties included in the memo (see agenda file).

Roten said the ordinance and resolutions will be presented at the May 8, 2019, City Council Meeting for adoption. If they are passed, staff will contact each citizen advisory group member affected to make sure they understand the new appointment procedures.

Councilor Bessie Johnson thanked Roten and asked if there is a Traffic Safety Commission vacancy. Roten answered yes; Mayor Sharon Konopa made one appointment at the last council meeting but there is still a vacancy. Johnson asked if she would need to make the appointment. Roten said Johnson would need to work with the Mayor.

Roten added that councilors have expressed disappointment in the quality of the citizen advisory group applications received. The application process will be modified to include appropriate questions for each advisory group. The new process will encourage applicants to be more thoughtful in their applications. Kellum shared a story about the appointment process.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

4:26 p.m.

Johnson commented that she was happy to hear that the threat made at a local high school did not lead to an emergency. Johnson II added that he had contacted Communications Officer Marilyn Smith for more information about the threat. Johnson II thanked Smith. Konopa commented that she had been reading about the situation on social media.

Olsen asked what kind of business could be installed at the lot on the corner of Geary Street and Queen Avenue. Konopa said she heard about a grocery store that was interested in the space. Kellum said zoning has prevented another business from moving into the building. Johnson II said he would not be attending the CARA or ARA meetings on May 15 due to a schedule conflict.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

4:30 p.m.

Troedsson noted that the venue hearing for the CH2M Hill litigation is on May 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. Troedsson said he would share a link with the council so they could watch the hearing online. Smith reported on the Big Pickup event. The Albany Police Department is issuing coupons to allow residents to dispose of junk and avoid citations. Smith added that they are recruiting volunteers. Litter pickup will take place in North Albany. To register to participate, people can go to Gibson Hill Park at 8:30 a.m. on May 18, 2019. Smith said the event will coincide with the Republic Service's annual Recycle Roundup event. Johnson II asked Smith to send an email to council with the information. Smith said she would send council an email.

Cameron Broadbent introduced himself to the council. Broadbent will act as a recorder at upcoming City meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Grove
Administrative Assistant I (Confidential)

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

Note: Staff handouts referred to in the minutes as (see agenda file) are available on the website in the "Staff Handouts" column.