



MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Regular Session

REMOTE

Approved: May 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Persons wanting to address the council during "business from the public" sent their comments by email to CityClerk@cityofalbany.net.

Management Assistant/Communications Officer Marilyn Smith read a letter submitted by Albany Downtown Association (ADA) Executive Director Lise Grato (see agenda file) regarding parking downtown and the farmer's market.

Smith stated that the city received 37 emails regarding the resolution supporting second amendment rights. Smith read the emails (see agenda file).

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- a. Supporting Second Amendment rights. **8:00 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson noted that this resolution was requested by councilors in February, before the current coronavirus crisis, or COVID-19 pandemic started. The council could make a decision tonight or table the discussion.

Councilor Alex Johnson II said he supports postponing the decision. He is not comfortable voting tonight; if he did, he would be voting no.

MOTION: Councilor Dick Olsen moved to table this item until there can be a meeting open to the public in the council chambers. Johnson II seconded.

Councilor Mike Sykes said the arguments made for protecting families and reducing domestic violence are valid, but they have nothing to do with the resolution. He supports tabling the item until the public can attend. He said the article in the local newspaper was very misleading.

Councilor Rich Kellum supports postponing this topic.

Councilor Bessie Johnson supports postponing the decision.

Johnson II noted that the word "sanctuary" appears nowhere in the resolution.

Councilor Bill Coburn said that many of the writers clearly didn't read the resolution. They are saying things that aren't a part of it. His point is that there needs to be accurate information for people to comment on.

Konopa said, please consider if we need this document in the city's archives. It may not be appropriate for local legislation.

VOTE: The motion passed 6-0.

- b. Releasing sewer easement, Cox Creek Interceptor improvements.

City Engineer Staci Belcastro said the project is complete and the easement is no longer needed.

MOTION: Johnson moved to adopt the resolution and Johnson II seconded. The motion passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 6875.

AWARD/AUTHORIZATON OF CONTRACTS

Belcastro summarized the four contracts. The first two relate to Lochner Road, a construction agreement and a railroad agreement for a planned expansion at SnoTemp. The low bid was under budget by \$340,000. The project will also reconstruct two railroad crossings.

Staff recommends awarding the contract to K & E Excavating for the Ninth Avenue Street improvements.

For the Vine Street water plant, staff is requesting a payment increase for work that has already been completed.

- a. Awarding contract for Lochner Road improvements, ST-19-02.

MOTION: Coburn moved to award the contract for \$2,407,559.00 to North Santiam Paving Co. Kellum seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- b. Awarding contract for Ninth Avenue street improvements, ST-20-01.

MOTION: Coburn moved to award the contract for \$1,387,485.00 to K & E Excavating Inc. Kellum seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- c. Authorizing railroad crossing reconstruction agreement with Albany & Eastern Railroad (AERC).

MOTION: Kellum moved to authorize the public works engineering and community development director to execute an agreement with AERC for two railroad crossings in the amount of \$210,895.79. Coburn seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- d. Approving increase, Vine Street WTP Accelerator improvements, WTP-18-01.

MOTION: Coburn moved to approve a construction contract increase in excess of 10 percent to McClure and Sons, Inc. Kellum seconded.

Johnson asked if the money spent on the Vine Street plant is warranted given its age. Belcastro said it provides additional capacity and flexibility.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion and it passed 6-0.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

8:25 p.m.

- a. Appointing Steph Nappa to the Traffic Safety Commission.
- b. Approval of minutes
 - 1) November 4, 2019, joint work session.
 - 2) January 13, 2020, joint work session.
 - 3) February 10, 2020, work session.
 - 4) February 26, 2020, council meeting.

- c. Adoption of resolutions

- 1) Accepting a sewer easement from Michael Clifton. RES NO. 6876
- 2) Accepting a sewer easement from Sharon K. Gutierrez. RES NO. 6877
- 3) Accepting a sewer easement from Nora L. Sonne and the Estate of Donald A. Sonne. RES NO. 6878

MOTION: Coburn moved to adopt the consent calendar as presented. Johnson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

EXTENDING DEADLINE

- a. Extending the deadline for CTP project spending to June 30, 2021.

Konopa said Peggy Burris from the ADA is in support of extending the Collaborative Tourism Promotion (CTP) grant deadline.

Economic Development Manager Seth Sherry said that given current events, grant recipients are unable to spend funds by the deadline. This gives them an additional year to expend the already committed dollars.

MOTION: Johnson moved to extend the deadline for CTP grants to June 30, 2021. Coburn seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

8:30 p.m.

Johnson said she attended a League of Oregon Cities virtual meeting on finance and taxation. They were looking for ideas for this legislative session or next, for revenue producers or cost reductions. Councilors should send their ideas to Johnson.

Johnson II noticed there are new signs at Albany's entrances. Parks & Recreation crew put the signs in.

Emergency Manager/Safety Officer Chuck Perino said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated for a couple of weeks. It has been successful in meeting goals and uncovering challenges. The focus will be moving to community support. The city's website has the Albany Recovers program, where citizens can volunteer, ask for help, or donate.

Troedsson gave an update on the City's Small Business Emergency Loan Program. There were 17 completed applications received within the deadline, which is less than expected. Emergency funds will be available to recipients next week. Sherry spoke about the rapid changes in the state and federal environment over the last few weeks and the impact on the application process.

Troedsson said Albany will receive \$220,804 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the CARES Act, for disruptions due to the COVID-19 virus. Staff is suggesting that \$110,000 of that be added to the Small Business Emergency Loan program, \$105,000 to emergency assistance, and \$5,800 for emergency supplies. The council can modify those amounts at the hearing being held at the next council meeting, on April 22.

Planner II Anne Catlin said staff is seeking input on how to best use the funds for businesses and households through this unprecedented time. Sherry is conducting a survey and they will learn more from that. Recipients have to be CDBG eligible. Catlin asked the councilors to pay attention to needs that could be addressed with the funds to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or respond to the destruction caused by the pandemic.

Troedsson said public works staff wanted to remind the council that water and sewer utilities have economic development funds for development and retention. We are considering how they can be put to work for businesses in need because of COVID-19. Staff is also considering how to help residential customers with those funds.

Johnson spoke about furloughs taking place in other cities and asked if Albany would have some too. Troedsson said there are about nine, with the possibility of more coming. He pointed out that we have no sales tax.

Smith said the city has held two Facebook Live events so far in the EOC, for the fire chief and police chief, and the city manager and mayor. A third has been scheduled for public works.

The police chief and fire chief gave updates about how their departments are managing the current crisis.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 7:15 p.m. regular meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2020; 7:15 p.m. regular meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Mary Dibble
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager