



MINUTES

Monday, February 24, 2020
Work Session Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: March 11, 2020

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, and Mike Sykes

Councilors absent: Bill Coburn was excused.

Business from the public

None.

Resolution calling for election for public safety operating levy **4:02 p.m.**

City Attorney Sean Kidd said the resolution renewing the public safety levy at \$1.15 per \$1,000 will be on Wednesday night's agenda for council action. Councilor Bessie Johnson asked if the resolution will include more detail on what the levy will cover. Kidd said the explanatory statement, which will be attached to the resolution, will include details.

Public works project cost updates **4:04 p.m.**

City Engineer Staci Belcastro said three current public works projects are expected to come in over budget. The first is the Park Terrace waterline from Gibson Hill Road north 600 feet. This project includes the option for full-width restoration.

Konopa left the meeting at 4:08 p.m. Councilor Dick Olsen presided in her absence.

Belcastro said the second project expected to be over budget is the Ninth Avenue improvements from Elm to Broadway. The estimate for this project used the full-depth pavement method, but part of Ninth Avenue was built in the 1930s and 1940s with no asphalt and little base rock.

The composting and dewatering projects at the water reclamation facility are still at 30% design. The power supply for the plant doesn't have enough capacity for the improvements, so it will have to be upgraded. The project will probably see savings later.

Belcastro said a memo will come to the council in March asking for approval of a contract increase for the Vine Street water treatment plant solids clarifier project, which was finished last month.

Maple Lawn Preschool update **4:15 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson gave a brief history of the Maple Lawn preschool budget issues. When the 2019-2021 biennial budget was approved, the council allowed funding until the end of Fiscal Year 2019. Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) recognized the community need and they are transitioning to take over the program.

Lyddane said the program will stay in its current location and GAPS will cover all operating costs. No council action is needed at this point. Staff will present an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the council's approval.

Councilor Rich Kellum expressed concern about the City's legal responsibility. Kidd said the City has insurance, and the IGA will indemnify the city for GAPS actions or inactions.

Konopa returned to the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Application for COPS hiring grant **4:27 p.m.**

Police Chief Marcia Harnden said police will bring a resolution to the council on Wednesday requesting permission to apply for this grant. The grant will allow restoration of some of the services frozen this fiscal year.

ADC amendments project update

4:31 p.m.

Public Works Engineering and Community Development Director Jeff Blaine said the goal of the Albany Development Code (ADC) amendments is a two-track system for approval of land-use applications. The ADC task force wasn't able to get to some of the project's components, but they completed the most important part.

Blaine reviewed the proposed changes to several articles of the ADC. Article 1 has been rewritten, because some of the City's process doesn't align with state statute. In Article 6, the natural resources standards are not clear and objective and can't be made so. The state requires that the City start by prohibiting development in areas affected by these standards, and then allow discretionary decisions to make it possible. The end result is the same as the City's current process.

Kellum asked Blaine to give the council the task force's "parking lot" list of projects along with the final plan. Blaine said he would.

Blaine asked if the council would be willing to use the \$200,000 recently received from the sale of three small properties to fund ADC updates that have economic development benefits.

Kellum said the council promised Albany citizens that "Pepsi" funds loaned out would be repaid in full, plus interest, to the account.

Konopa said giving the money to planning projects would add to the division's funding at a time when every other department's funding is being reduced. If the council wished to fund one department over another, she would rather give money to the fire or police departments.

Business from the council

4:57 p.m.

Councilor Bessie Johnson said she observed the municipal court in session and thinks the council made a good decision in choosing Judge Reid. Reid invited the councilors to stop by and observe the court.

Councilor Alex Johnson II toured the St. Francis and the Rhodes Building. He thinks the buildings have a lot of potential. He said Sheri Wheeler, who spoke about outside cats at the February 12 council meeting, is being attacked online. There will be a meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. March 18 at the main library to talk about the issue.

City manager report

5:04 p.m.

Troedsson reminded the council that a retirement reception for Recreation Programs Manager Rob Romancier will take place in the council chambers Friday, February 28, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse
Deputy City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager