



MINUTES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Work Session

Remote

Approved: July 22, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Rich Kellum, Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, Alex Johnson II, Dick Olsen (arrived 4:13 p.m.), and Mike Sykes

Councilors absent: None.

Business from the public **4:02 p.m.**

None.

Sorte property access request **4:02 p.m.**

Park and Facilities Maintenance Manager Rick Barnett gave the council an overview of the right-of-way request.

Councilor Mike Sykes supports fulfilling the request as long as the conditions in the staff report are met.

Councilor Bill Coburn agreed and expressed surprise that the City could deny access to the property. City Attorney Sean Kidd explained how and why the City had the authority to deny this request.

Councilor Bessie Johnson and Councilor Alex Johnson II expressed support for approval and noted that they thought some of the city and federal requirements that the owner would need to fulfill were strict.

Konopa said that she opposes the request because the owner likely knew it was not buildable land when he purchased the property and because construction will disturb the neighborhood.. Konopa also warned that approval would set a precedent for granting access through park land.

Councilor Rich Kellum does not see construction traffic as an issue.

Responding to a question from Councilor Dick Olsen, the applicant said that his measurements put the property at about two hundred and ten feet above sea level.

Responding to a question from Johnson II, Barnett said that the surrounding neighborhood had not been notified about the application.

MOTION: Coburn moved to grant the applicant access to the property in an agreement that is agreeable to both the city and the applicant. Kellum seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Columbus Street infrastructure funding agreement **4:18 p.m.**

Development Services Manager Matthew Ruettgers detailed the proposed funding agreement to the council.

The council discussed the cost of the project, why staff is recommending this agreement, the necessity of this project so that the South Albany Area Plan can be implemented, the use of roundabouts, and city growth.

Coburn expressed concern about financially assisting a developer with a project and concern that the project was deemed necessary for the South Albany Area Plan to be implemented.

Kellum said that he is in favor of the project as long as it pays for itself by the end.

Johnson said that she is in favor as long as the project is not just benefiting a small group of people. Staff then detailed how the project would benefit the city.

Johnson II said that he supports the development and s the growth; however, he is still worried about losing money. He said that he has safety concerns about installing roundabouts in the new development.

Olsen noted that the system development charge is set to balance out over time as some projects pay more and some pay less.

MOTION: Johnson II moved to direct staff to enter into the Columbus Street infrastructure funding agreement. Johnson seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Transient lodging tax funding discussion

4:51 p.m.

Deputy City Manager/CIO Jorge Salinas presented motions that were made at the June 22, 2020, Transient Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (see agenda file) and an excel spreadsheet that showed staff's recommendations for implementation on those motions (see agenda file).

Salinas said that seventy-five percent of economic development staff salary comes from Central Albany Revitalization Area money and twenty-five percent comes from transient lodging tax.

City Manager Peter Troedsson said staff recommends zeroing out the Veterans Day parade line item because of a strong likelihood that the parade will not occur this year.

Troedsson said that both the Albany Downtown Association (ADA) and the Albany Visitors Association (AVA) are making significant cutbacks to personnel to compensate for lack of funding.

Johnson does not want to cut back on city economic development staff, even if it means that ADA and AVA need to cut back.

Johnson II does not want to cut anyone's staff and asked that staff look into the economic opportunities fund to see if money from that fund could loaned to ADA and AVA. Sykes and Coburn agreed and added that they should not be cut because they are essentially the city's advertising.

Councilors directed staff to look at how much money the City would need to borrow from the economic opportunities fund to fund ADA staff, AVA staff, and City economic development staff for July, August, and September, and bring that report to the June 24, 2020, council meeting.

City Manager Report

5:49 p.m.

None.

Business from the Council

5:49 p.m.

Coburn asked staff to draft a report for the June 24, 2020, council meeting concerning the City's plan for COOL! Pool.

Kellum asked for an email with the public information concerning the cancellation of the Veterans Day parade.

Konopa said that an email went out saying that ATI had orders to work through September and then may begin to lay off workers or shut down.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabriel Shepherd
Recorder

Jorge Salinas
Deputy City Manager/CIO

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