



MINUTES

Monday, July 6, 2020

Work Session

Remote

Approved: August 26, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

At the Mayor's request, Chair Bill Coburn called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

4:00 p.m.

None.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEE ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION

4:23 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane gave an overview of the request to increase fees for rentals.

Lyddane said that fees are currently intended to cover hard costs and services. Coordinator and specialist time have not been included in the cost recovery models in the past. Next year she hopes to come before the council with a new, fully fleshed out cost recovery model.

Councilor Rich Kellum said that he believes that there should be two prices for fees: one for those who pay taxes in Albany, one for those who do not.

Lyddane said that it is a common practice in the Parks and Recreation sector to have a non-profit rate, an industry rate, and an individual rate. She would pursue a resident and non-resident structure if directed by council.

Councilor Bessie Johnson suggested that team fees go up one dollar instead of fifty cents.

Councilor Alex Johnson II said that he is comfortable with non-profits having a lower fee because of the services they provide, and believes that the commercial rate should be higher.

Mayor Sharon Konopa said that she is glad that staff is suggesting charging a non-resident fee for Albany Community Pool.

Councilor Mike Sykes said that he agrees that non-profits deserve breaks in fees and believes that non-residents should pay more.

A majority of councilors concurred that they would like staff to look into developing a rental fee system that includes a private resident rate, a private non-resident rate, a non-profit rate, and a commercial rate.

Lyddane said that tournaments pay a separate fee to rent spaces and then can set their own admission charges for their events.

Kellum spoke about how he considers the proposal that requires non-profits, businesses, and individual to pay different fees to be discrimination.

After discussion, a majority of councilors confirmed that they would like staff to look into developing a rental fee system that includes solely a resident rate and non-resident rate. Staff will bring back a proposal to the July 20, 2020, work session.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY FEE ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION

4:02 p.m.

Fire Chief Shane Wooton gave councilors an overview of the Fire Department's responses to 4th of July activities.

Fire Marshal Lora Ratcliff gave an overview of the proposed resolution and the proposed changes.

Ratcliff said that the motor vehicle dismantling license occurs annually for inspection of a facility.

Kellum expressed concern about the methods that car disposal companies use to remove gasoline from cars.

Johnson II said that re-inspection fees should be tiered and should increase with the number of times staff must go and re-inspect. After confirmation from a majority of councilors, staff said that the directed changes would be made and brought before the council at the July 22, 2020, regular meeting.

Sykes suggested that the fees start at the third re-inspection.

Ratcliff said that the type of facility determines how often state inspections take place.

PLANNING FEE ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION

4:44 p.m.

Public Works Engineering and Community Development Director Jeff Blaine gave an overview of the fee adjustment proposal. Blaine said the minimum increase to not fall behind in cost recovery would be in the area of fifteen percent.

Sykes thinks that, at a minimum, the fee should be increased at the same percentage as the Consumer Price Index; he is fine with fifteen percent if that is what it takes to not fall behind.

Blaine will research to see if there is any third-party information about how COVID-19 is going to affect development.

Konopa said that she does not like subsidizing new development out of the general fund since new development puts more demand on services and does not pay its own way. If the fee had been increased twenty years ago to get full cost recovery, the city would not be having this discussion and more communities would have done the same. She has heard the argument that the city does not want to price itself out of the market, but the city cannot continue delaying and needs a plan. She would rather see the money used to subsidize development go into parks, the library, and other city services.

Blaine said that staff intends to develop a plan that would lead the city back to significant cost recovery.

Sykes requested that staff provide data and documentation about how it was determined that the fifteen percent increase was necessary in order to not go backwards.

Councilor Dick Olsen said that he would support a raise that was on the higher end, toward fifteen percent, rather than lower so that the money would not come out of the general fund and limit spending on libraries and parks.

Johnson II said that he supports an increase, though fifteen percent is high.

Kellum, Olsen, and Sykes discussed who ultimately pays the planning fee.

Blaine said that staff would come back to another work session with a specific adjustment proposal.

PUBLIC WORKS FEE ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION

5:15 p.m.

Engineering Manager/Assistant City Engineer Rob Emmons spoke about the proposed public works fee adjustments.

Councilors gave consensus to have a proposal increasing the rates by the ENR Construction Cost Index brought before them at the July 22, 2020, regular meeting.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT EVALUATION PER ORS 192.660(i)

The work session recessed to executive session at 5:29 p.m.

RECONVENE

The work session reconvened at 6:06 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

6:07 p.m.

Kellum spoke about comments that he has received concerning masks. After a brief discussion about face shields, councilors said that it was their understanding that face shields were an acceptable alternative.

Sykes said that he has been receiving complaints from constituents about fires and smoke at night.

Konopa said that she has received a lot of complaints about the amount of fireworks on the fourth of July.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

6:20 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson noted that the city has received \$620,000 in reimbursement from the CARES Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,



Gabe Shepherd
Recorder

Peter Troedsson
City Manager