



MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Work Session

REMOTE

Approved: September 10, 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 Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, Alex Johnson II, Rich Kellum, Dick Olsen, and Mike Sykes

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

4:01 p.m.

None.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

4:02 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane gave an overview of the two options listed in the packet that were developed from direction given at the July 6, 2020, work session.

Councilor Rich Kellum said he objects to a commercial rate. It's discrimination based on how one earns one's living.

Councilor Bill Coburn said he would be comfortable with a resident/non-resident fee structure.

Lyddane said priority for renting space goes first to internal programs, then to partner programs. Staff could look into a cap on the number of times a year spaces could be rented by one organization.

MOTION: Kellum moved to bring parks and recreation fee structure option B, the resident/non-resident fee structure, to the July 22, 2020, council meeting. Councilor Mike Sykes seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PROJECTED BUDGET IMPACTS FOR BN 2021-2023

4:14 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson welcomed members of the city's budget committee and noted that, though the budget is being discussed, this is not a budget committee meeting.

Troedsson presented a forecast of financial impacts on city services (see agenda file).

Konopa said the city is at a crossroads between new revenues and livability impact.

Sykes suggested the possibility of implementing a business license in Albany as a way to generate funds, or fining companies that do not pull proper permits for projects. He also suggested looking into renewing volunteer firefighter and police programs to cover simple tasks.

Finance Manager J.C. Rowley said if the council eliminated some costs and positions in central services, it would save money, but much of the central services work would be pushed out to other departments.

Kellum said he would like to see the City encourage all staff to think of ways the City could save money by eliminating unnecessary, archaic, or redundant tasks.

Sykes and Councilor Alex Johnson II both supported Kellum's idea.

Councilor Bessie Johnson said she thinks the idea of a business license should stay on the table. She also suggested considering closing City Hall on Fridays or repurposing the Carnegie library, as the measures would show the public the effect budget cuts have on services.

Troedsson said he doesn't think a business license would be a significant revenue source.

Troedsson said the City has not frozen pay raises, though a number of people have voluntarily declined them. He also clarified that staff does not expect any direction as a result of this presentation.

Troedsson said that the timeline to get a fee on the general election ballot in November would be tight. He will get back to councilors as soon as he knows if it is feasible.

Kellum said he is not in favor of implementing a fee without referring it to the voters.

Konopa said it's a lot of work to put an item before the voters and requires a campaign to be organized.

Johnson said she understands the effort a campaign would require. If constituents want public safety and other services, the council may need to be willing to implement the fee themselves.

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

5:19 p.m.

Troedsson detailed a request from the League of Oregon Cities for the council to choose four priorities from a list of 26 they would most like the League to lobby for during the Oregon Legislative Session.

Troedsson presented a sheet (see agenda file) that compiled the councilors' responses and noted that the top four priorities were: mental health service delivery, COVID-19 economic recovery, infrastructure and financing resilience, and property tax reform.

By consensus, the council agreed on these choices.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

5:27 p.m.

Coburn spoke about permits and the fine structures he has seen for those failing to pull the proper permits.

Sykes said that on Tuesday, July 21, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., the old Oberto store will be demolished. He said that the YMCA is moving to get that city corner revitalized.

Troedsson said that the permits in question are building division permits and the revenue generated by permit-related fines would not go to the general fund. Staff will report back to the council with findings of how other cities structure their fines.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

5:34 p.m.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabriel Shepherd
Recorder

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.