



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall
Hybrid format

Approved: September 28, 2022

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Dick Olsen (arrived at 6:03), Matilda Novak, Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, Bessie Johnson, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None

Proclamation

Hispanic Heritage Month

The mayor read the proclamation in English.

Miriam Cummins read the proclamation in Spanish by video.

Special Presentation

6:05 p.m.

Michelle Robinson, executive director of Furniture Share, presented slides.* She spoke about what Furniture Share does and who they serve. They are funded by grants, donors, and business sponsors.

Public Hearing

2021 CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Community Needs

OPEN: Johnson II declared the public hearing open at 6:23 p.m.

Planner II Beth Frelander appeared virtually and presented slides.* She explained the CDBG program's goals and accomplishments in 2021. Frelander said staff would like input on community needs for the next five-year plan. A survey is available on the CDBG page of the City's website. Staff is also consulting with local agencies to learn what the agencies see as community needs and gaps in services.

Frelander asked Johnson II to read a letter in support of the CAPER* into the record.

No one else wished to speak.

CLOSE: Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

MOTION: Councilor Ray Kopczynski moved to support the vision and program expressed in the CAPER. Councilor Marilyn Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Business from the Public

6:34 p.m.

Darla Luther, of Albany, said the City is misinforming the public about water cross-connections and backflow devices. She is being required to install a backflow device because she has a well. She provided a report that states that there is no cross-connection on her property.

Utility Superintendent – Water Scott LaRoque said the code requires a backflow device on wells because of the potential for cross-connection. Cross-connection can happen very easily, and the best management practice is to require a device to protect the city system.

Kathryn Sandoval, of Albany said she would like the City to put the senior center sign back on the Riverfront Community Center. She also requested that a panel be formed to advise the council on some of their decisions.

Lise Grato, executive director of the Albany Downtown Association, gave a downtown update.

Second reading of ordinance

6:55 p.m.

Amending Albany Municipal Code (AMC) 7.08.050, Unnecessary Noise

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for a second time in title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ALBANY MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC) SECTION 7.08.050 UNNECESSARY NOISE.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the ordinance. Kopczynski seconded the motion. It passed 6-0, and was designated Ordinance No. 5989.

Adoption of consent agenda

6:56 p.m.

- a. Resignations and Appointments
 - 1) Accepting Sonja Neperud’s resignation from the Human Relations Commission
 - 2) Accepting Robin Steele’s resignation from the Library Board
 - 3) Appointing Shane Fagan to the Housing Affordability Task Force
 - 4) Appointing Faren Leader to the Housing Affordability Task Force
- b. Approval of minutes
 - 1) July 25, 2022, city council work session
 - 2) August 8, 2022, city council work session
 - 3) August 24, 2022, city council meeting
- c. Recommendations to OLCC
 - 1) Approve annual liquor license renewals
- d. Adoption of resolutions
 - 1) Accept easement from CW-Pheasant Run, LLC (SI-21-06) RES NO. 7134
 - 2) Apply for CIS Lexipol Grant RES NO. 7135
 - 3) Apply for OSFM Wildfire Readiness Grant RES NO. 7136
- e. Award of contract
 - 1) Temporary contract extension for utility bill printing and mailing services for Infosend
- f. Adopt meeting calendar
 - 1) November and December 2022 Meeting Dates

Novak objected to a sentence in the August 24, 2022, minutes quoting her. She said she did not state or imply what is attributed to her.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the consent agenda with one amendment to 7.b.3), minutes. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Staff reports

6:59 p.m.

a. Reclassification of library position

Library Director Eric Ikenouye said he is requesting to change one position from Library Aide to Library Assistant and to increase a Librarian I position by six hours per week. The money to make these changes is in the budget.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the changes as requested. Novak seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

b. SDC financing

Finance Director Jeanna Yeager said this is a request by a property owner to retroactively finance transportation system development charges associated with their development permit.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution. Councilor Stacey Bartholomew seconded the motion. It passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7137.

Business from the Council

7:03 p.m.

Councilor Dick Olsen said he would like to encourage City staff to find ways to not cut trees. Acting City Manager Shane Wooton said he will relay Olsen's comments to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Bartholomew said she thinks the request to add "senior" to the Riverfront Community Center sounds reasonable. Johnson II asked Wooton to take the suggestion to Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane.

Councilor Bessie Johnson said the new limitations on state hospital stays for people charged with crimes will send more mentally challenged people to Albany. She asked City Attorney Sean Kidd to comment. Kidd said he shares the concern. There isn't anything the City by itself can do.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked if we could pass an ordinance for the safety of Albany's citizens. Kidd said yes, we could pass an ordinance, but state and federal law supersede City ordinances.

Recess to Executive Session

The council recessed to executive session at 7:19 p.m.

Reconvene

The council reconvened into regular session at 8:08 p.m.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to authorize staff to enter into negotiations for the transaction of real property within the city. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 4-2, with Bartholomew and Olsen voting against.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to authorize staff to enter into negotiations for the transaction of real property in the City of Lebanon. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to ratify the successor bargaining agreements for the AFSCME general and transit units. Bartholomew seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Olsen asked to recall Darla Luther. He asked her about specifics of her water system. Olsen, Bailey, LaRoque, and Luther discussed how and when backflow devices are required and connected. Olsen said he was concerned about the safety of the water supply.

Bailey said backflow devices cost "a couple hundred" dollars, and the required annual test is about \$35. Olsen asked if the City should just install the devices, to make sure it's done right. Bailey said some smaller water systems do that, and bill the customer. Requiring backflow devices is best management practice for backflow prevention and the model code in many cities around the state. It provides the highest level of protection and is the only way we can ensure that cross-connection doesn't happen.

Novak said the report Luther submitted shows that there is no cross-connection. Bailey said staff is not alleging that there is a cross-connection. If the council wishes to change the Albany Municipal Code for more flexibility, they can do so.

Olsen said he would withdraw his objections. He said Luther should get the required backflow device.

Johnson II asked Kidd if the council needed to do anything? Kidd said no.

MOTION: Novak moved to amend the ordinance so it's more clear cut and more fair to the people who live in this town. The motion died for lack of a second.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 28, 2022; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing cityclerk@cityofalbany.net.*