



## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Hybrid format

**Approved: November 9, 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, Matilda Novak, Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, Bessie Johnson, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None

#### Proclamation

- a. Bullying Prevention Month  
The mayor read the proclamation
- b. Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
The mayor read the proclamation

#### Special Presentation

**6:05 p.m.**

Monica Weber gave a presentation\* about efforts to replace the therapeutic spa at the Albany Community Pool and handed out a packet of information\* to councilors. Cass Templeton, Andrew Prass, and Tom Colt all spoke about their experiences with the pool, its benefits to the community, and the funding request. Responding to a question from Councilor Ray Kopczynski, City Manager Peter Troedsson commended the presenters on their fundraising and spoke about the city's budget. Staff and the presenters said they would be in contact.

#### Public Hearing

**6:24 p.m.**

Johnson II opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Engineering Manager/Assistant City Engineer Rob Emmons delivered the staff report, reviewing the history of the changes to the methodology, and noted that consultant Deb Galardi was present virtually to answer any questions.

Camron Settlemier spoke virtually in favor of the proposed changes to the SDC methodology, stating that the new changes will address the SDC subsidizing of larger houses and should eventually be scaled more aggressively.

Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:29 p.m.

Emmons responded to questions from Councilor Matilda Novak, spoke about the math and methodology used to project future growth units. Responding to Johnson II, Emmons also spoke about how the city uses the Seattle CPI to make calculations for Albany.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the resolution adopting a methodology for the development of system development charges for the water system. Councilor Marilyn Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7138.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the resolution adopting a methodology for the development of system development charges for the wastewater system. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7139.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the resolution adopting a methodology for the development of system development charges for the transportation system. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7140.

Business from the Public

**6:35 p.m.**

Camron Settlemier spoke virtually in opposition to combining certain advisory boards.

Rebecca Bond, executive director of the Albany Visitors Association, asked the council to add supporting tourism under healthy economy in the proposed strategic plan. Bond also expressed concern that combining advisory boards could reduce the amount of oversight the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Advisory Committee would have over TLT revenues, and opposed any effort to modify the charge of the TLT Advisory Committee.

Peggy Burris, vice-chair of the TLT Advisory Committee and Executive Director of the Albany Carousel and Museum, said the TLT Advisory Committee voted against merging with a new Economic Development Advisory Committee. She said that they believed the changes to be further out and that more information about the Economic Development group was going to be brought back to the committee.

Lise Grato, executive director of the Albany Downtown Association (ADA), thanked the TLT Advisory Committee for discussing the collaborative tourism program grants and about TLT policy. Grato also noted that the ADA is creating their strategic plan and noted upcoming ADA events.

Steve Draper spoke from the public about concerns regarding building inspections and a specified crime house. Troedsson and City Attorney Sean Kidd responded to the comment.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

**6:52 p.m.**

- a. Resignations and Appointments
  - 1) Accepting Jennifer Garner-Kizer's resignation from the Planning Commission
  - 2) Accepting Steph Napa's resignations from the Community Development Commission and the Traffic Safety Commission
  - 3) Accepting Russ Allen's resignation from the Parks & Recreation Commission
  - 4) Appointing Amelia (Karen) Cardosa to the Planning Commission
- b. Approval of minutes
  - 1) August 22, 2022, work session
  - 2) September 14, 2022, council meeting

- c. Recommendations to OLCC
  - 1) Approve limited on-premises license application for Wine Crush LLC, at 329 2nd Avenue SW
  - 2) Approve limited on-premises license application for Bai Bua Thai Kitchen LLC, dba Jinda Thai Restaurant, at 236 1st Avenue SW
- d. Adoption of resolutions
  - 1) Accept and appropriate Assistance to Firefighters Grant RES No. 7141
  - 2) Parking restriction modifications for ST-22-11, Transit Stop Improvements Phase 1 RES No. 7142

MOTION: Councilor Bessie Johnson moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Smith seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Staff Reports

**6:54 p.m.**

- a. Review and Adopt Strategic Plan

Troedsson spoke about the history of reviewing the city's strategic plan.

Responding to questions from Councilor Dick Olsen, Troedsson said there will not be a public hearing, but there was extensive public engagement in building the plan. Troedsson said the strategic plan is a guiding document that does not contain specific or detailed plans. Councilors Johnson, Kopczynski, Smith, and Stacey Bartholomew all spoke in favor of the strategic plan.

Bartholomew, Johnson II, and Novak all expressed interest in the recommendation shared during business from the public to have tourism included as a part of the "healthy economy" heading. Troedsson said that page 17 of the plan includes recognizing and supporting tourism.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to approve the strategic plan as presented. Smith seconded the motion which passed 5-1 with Olsen voting no.

Johnson II recessed the meeting for a break from 7:17 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.

- b. Citizen Advisory Groups (CAGs) Optimization Project

**7:23 p.m.**

Troedsson presented a PowerPoint\* outlining the work on the project and the recommendations presented in the staff memo. He confirmed that no changes are currently being recommended for the TLT Advisory Committee.

After extensive discussion, the majority of councilors agreed to the following:

- Combining the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Tree Commission to create the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Commission. This commission would have seven members.
- Combining the Traffic Safety Commission and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission into a Transportation Commission with seven members.
- Leaving the Airport Commission as is.
- Creating an Economic Development Advisory Commission with seven members. The seven members will be from fields as suggested by the staff report.

Central Administrative Officer Mary Dibble summarized the changes and said that staff will return to a future meeting with the proposed changes and the goal of implementing the changes in November, the recruitment season for boards and commissions.

- c. Future of Real Property at 205 Madison Street NE **8:04 p.m.**  
Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters reviewed the history of the 205 Madison Street NE property and noted that there have been requests to purchase the property. Ruetters said the first step to disposing of the property is declaring it surplus.

Novak said she remembers Calapooia Brewing coming before the council and expressing concerns about developing the property in question. Ruetters confirmed that Calapooia Brewing could express concerns at a public hearing about the property and said he is not aware of any commitments made by the city to turn the property into a parking lot or greenspace.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution in the packet. Kopczynski seconded the motion.

Councilors, Ruetters, and City Attorney Sean Kidd discussed the proposed public hearing process for sale of the property, noting that it is a different process than the recent sale of the old church property. Responding to a question from Olsen, Ruetters said the waterfront project plan does not address the property in question.

VOTE: The motion passed 6-0 and the resolution was designated Resolution No. 7143.

- d. Add 1.0 FTE Human Resources Programs Coordinator Position **8:15 p.m.**  
Human Resources Director Holly Roten shared the information in the packet. Roten confirmed for Novak that the position is funded in the budget.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to approve the FTE request as presented. Johnson seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

- e. Salary Grade Adjustment for Stormwater Maintenance I **8:18 p.m.**  
Public Works Director Chris Bailey shared the information in the packet.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the salary grade adjustment. Kopczynski seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Johnson II called on Christine Ferguson, Chair of the Veterans Day Parade Committee, to speak briefly about the plans for the Veterans Day Parade.

- Business from the Council **8:21 p.m.**  
Police Chief Marcia Harnden, responding to a request from Novak, said she received the councilor's request from a previous meeting for information about police calls and should respond to it soon.

Bartholomew shared a constituent's complaint about an overly bright sign. Ruetters said that Code Compliance Officer Kris Schendel is looking into that situation.

Finance Director Jeanna Yeager responded to a question from Johnson II, detailing the current situation with the City, the state, and taxation of organizations like Air BnB and Vrbo. Yeager said other jurisdictions are not giving favorable reports of the state handling the payments.

City Manager Report

**8:36 p.m.**

Troedsson noted his term as a board member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has come to an end and thanked the council for the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

Recess to Executive Session

The council recessed into executive session at 8:38 p.m.  
Johnson II read the executive session script.

Reconvene

The council reconvened into regular session at 8:54 p.m.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to ratify the successor bargaining agreement for the Albany Police Association as presented. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, October 24, 2022; 4:00 p.m. work session  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabe Shepherd  
Deputy 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](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*