



MINUTES

Monday, January 24, 2022
Work Session
Virtual

Approved: March 9, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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.

Business from the Public

4:01 p.m.

Sharon Konopa submitted written testimony* in opposition to declaring the 205 Madison Street NE property as surplus.

Russell Hawke submitted written testimony* and expressed concern that the 205 Madison Street NE property might be used for low-income housing. Responding to a question from Councilor Bessie Johnson, Hawke said the current parking at Edgewater Village is not sufficient.

205 Madison Street NE, City surplus property, RFP

4:01 p.m.

Planner III Anne Catlin presented the information in the staff memo.

Councilor Marilyn Smith noted that the letter from Konopa referred to the property as prime real estate, but it wasn't included in the waterfront project. Economic Development Manager Seth Sherry said that the property was left out of the waterfront project planning process until the council made a decision on what to do with it.

Councilors Novak and Olsen supported plans mentioned by Konopa to turn the property into a parking lot to support downtown businesses.

Councilor Stacey Bartholomew said she received comments from constituents with concerns about both parking and the flow of traffic along Madison Street NE.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski said his first choice would be for single-bedroom housing to be built on the vacant property.

City Manager Peter Troedsson reminded the council that there is no need to make a decision anytime soon.

Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters detailed the decision options available to the council. The council agreed to have the item pulled from the January 26, 2022, agenda.

Senate Bill 5561, allocations strategy

4:27 p.m.

Catlin presented the information in the staff memo. She said the City will want to get ideas for how to spend the money from agencies and those building affordable housing. Johnson spoke about supporting Albany Helping Hands in the acquisition of nearby properties.

Bartholomew brought up a City human services coordinator as an idea for the funding and noted that a member of the Community Outreach Assistance Team (COAT) will be speaking to the council at the January 26, 2022, regular meeting.

Business from the Council

4:39 p.m.

Responding to a question from Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane said that the parks officer position is still in the hiring phase. Eight candidates are moving to the next round of interviews during the upcoming week.

Responding to a question from Novak, Troedsson said that police officers respond when called, though there is not staffing for regular patrols in parks. Novak requested that police patrol areas where people have reported concerns or where there have been issues in the past. Troedsson said he will report back on how patrols are allocated.

City Manager Report

4:49 p.m.

None.

Recess to executive session

The council recessed to executive session at 4:50 p.m.

Reconvene

The council reconvened into regular session at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Gabriel Shepherd
Recorder

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.*