



## MINUTES

Monday, March 21, 2022  
Work Session  
Virtual

**Approved: April 27, 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 Matilda Novak, Stacey Bartholomew, Ray Kopczynski, and Marilyn Smith. Councilors Dick Olsen and Bessie Johnson were present virtually.

Councilors absent: None.

### Business from the Public

None.

**4:01 p.m.**

### Vine Street right-of-way

*Due to technical difficulties, this item was moved up the agenda.*

Public Works Director Chris Bailey presented the information in the staff memo.

**4:03 p.m.**

McKenzie Frishkorn said she is one of the residents whose property is adjacent to the right-of-way. She and her family have maintained the fence line at their own expense. She asked the council to allow the gate next to her property to remain until the City needs to access the right-of-way.

Councilor Bessie Johnson said the council should be consistent with all the affected properties and Councilor Ray Kopczynski said he supported the six-month timeline as proposed in the staff memo. Councilor Marilyn Smith agreed.

The council directed staff to start the six-month timeline, as detailed in the staff memo, for residents to remove encroachments on the right-of-way.

### Review of citizen advisory groups

Central Administrative Officer Mary Dibble presented slides\* about the current citizen advisory groups (CAGs) and shared three options for councilors to consider for increasing the effectiveness of the groups:

**4:16 p.m.**

- Consolidate the Traffic Safety, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory, and Airport Commissions into one Transportation Commission
- Consolidate the Parks & Recreation and City Tree Commissions
- Transition the Transitory Lodging Tax Advisory Committee into an Economic Development Advisory Commission

City Manager Peter Troedsson said that reducing the number of CAGs would reduce the number of volunteers overall but would create more meaningful work for the volunteers who remained. Dibble added that many of the boards under consideration for consolidation have vacancies.

Kopczynski and Johnson both supported consolidating advisory groups. Johnson suggested increasing the number of people serving on the combined advisory groups to allow for more input.

Troedsson noted that, if the council chooses to move forward with all three of the presented options, the overall number of CAGs would be reduced by three.

Smith said she supports the creation of a Transportation Commission and an Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Olsen said he is opposed to the proposals.

Councilor Stacey Bartholomew said she supports the proposals and believes that the new commissions would create more meaningful work.

Councilor Matilda Novak said she shared concerns with Councilor Dick Olsen and asked that staff consult the members of the commissions under consideration for consolidation about the proposals.

The Council directed staff to pursue the three proposals and come back with more information, including feedback from the affected boards and commissions, to a future meeting.

Business from the Council

**4:59 p.m.**

Novak requested that the council consider the removal of fluoride from the city's water supply at the Wednesday March 23, 2022, regular session. City Attorney Sean Kidd said addressing the item at the next meeting would not allow adequate time to inform citizens who might want to speak.

Johnson II requested more information from staff and scientists. Kopczynski and Smith said they opposed removing fluoride from the city's water supply and Olsen said he would need strong evidence to vote for removing fluoride from the water.

Responding to a question from Olsen, City Engineer Staci Belcastro spoke about the city's process for removing street trees and said she would provide the council more information about specific trees Olsen mentioned.

City Manager Report

**5:16 p.m.**

Troedsson said the Riverfront Community Center's grand reopening will be on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

He said staff will bring the Council information about fluoridation of the City's water.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 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](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*