



MINUTES

Monday, June 6, 2022
Work Session
Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: July 13, 2022

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 (virtual)

Councilors absent: None

Business from the Public

There was none.

Communications Specialist Reclassification Request

4:00 p.m.

Police Chief Marcia Harnden summarized the history of the position, which was left unfilled at some point and then cut from the budget. Now, she's asking the council to reclassify a communications specialist as a lead.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked why police needs the position now. Harnden said they have been using a temporary lead position.

This item is on the agenda for the Wednesday, June 8, 2022, meeting.

New Mental Health Intervention Specialist Position

4:05 p.m.

Harnden said that Linn County Mental Health is currently loaning the City a crisis worker under an intergovernmental agreement. That worker is increasingly pulled away from the City for county needs. American Rescue Plan Act funds are available for a three-year trial. Harnden, Fire Chief Shane Wooton, Library Director Eric Ikenouye, and Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane agree that the position is necessary.

Councilors Ray Kopczynski and Marilyn Smith agreed. Councilor Bessie Johnson also agreed. She asked if someone is available on staff, or if it will take a while to hire someone. Harnden said the position will have to be opened up, but she thinks it will be a quick turnaround. Johnson asked if we can continue to work with Linn County Mental Health while we're hiring. Harnden said she will ask Linn County to continue the arrangement until Albany's position is filled.

Councilor Dick Olsen asked if the person would be armed. Harnden said no.

Novak said with so many people suffering from mental illness, she thinks we should consider more than one person if the funding becomes available. Harnden said police track mental health calls very carefully.

This item is on the agenda for the Wednesday, June 8, 2022, meeting.

Increase Hours of Administrative Assistant

4:14 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson asked the council to approve the addition of .3 FTE to the position of administrative assistant for the City Manager's Office. Adding 12 hours would bring the position to full time. The person will be able to take the lead among city administrative support staff as they cope with hybrid meetings and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

This item is on the agenda for the Wednesday, June 8, 2022, meeting.

Business from the Council

4:16 p.m.

Councilor Stacey Bartholomew mentioned an email she received about sewer rate increases. She said somehow, we have to honor people's dignity in being able to support themselves and live here.

Johnson said the City has an assistance program for utility bills. We need to get the word out.

Novak asked what the parameters are for receiving assistance. Troedsson will ask for someone from the Community Services Consortium, which manages the assistance program, to come and speak to the council. He said utility billing staff also have the qualifications for assistance. Novak said she would like to have them stated in a public meeting.

Smith said a good overview of the assistance program is on the City's website.

Public Works Director Chris Bailey said the council decided last year to set the qualification level at 60% or less of the city median income by household size.

Kopczynski said he has reminded several constituents that all of tonight's increases add up to only about \$4 per month.

City Manager Report

4:26 p.m.

Troedsson reported that Communications and Engagement Officer Matt Harrington did outreach for the strategic planning effort at the Albany Farmer's Market last Saturday.

Recess to Executive Session

4:29 p.m.

The council recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h), litigation or litigation likely to be filed; and ORS 192.660 (2)(d), labor negotiations.

Reconvene

5:38 p.m.

The council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 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.*