



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: April 12, 2023

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 Matilda Novak, Steph Newton, Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee

Councilors absent: Councilor Ray Kopczynski was excused.

Proclamation

American Red Cross Month

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker thanked the council for supporting the Red Cross.

Mayor Alex Johnson II read the proclamation.

Business from the Public

6:06 p.m.

Lise Grato, executive director of the Albany Downtown Association, gave an update on downtown activities.

Benton County Commissioner Nancy Wyse asked the council to endorse Benton County's Measure 2-140.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked how long it would be until ground is broken for the project. Wyse said the bond has to pass before a project timeline can be determined.

Councilor Jackie Montague asked if the county intends to build the expanded youth facility and homeless center even if the bond doesn't pass. Wyse said, no, if the bond doesn't pass, they won't be able to build those. The county's investment, with a match from the state of Oregon, is for the courthouse.

Councilor Marilyn Smith asked if the bond would include money for staffing. Wyse said they recently renewed a levy that includes money for staffing. Smith asked where Benton County houses people who are awaiting trial. Wyse said they have some beds in the current facility, and have rented beds from Polk County for about two years.

City Manager Troedsson asked the council if they would like to adopt a resolution based on the draft language provided by Wyse.

MOTION: Councilor Steph Newton moved to support the measure. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0. The resolution was designated Resolution No. 7185.

Adoption of Resolutions

6:25 p.m.

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Adoption of Parks & Recreation schedule of fees and charges for BN 2023-2025

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane presented a staff report.

Newton asked if the City incurs credit card fees for refunds of damage deposits. Lyddane said yes. The new payment processing system will process credit refunds more efficiently, but we are eating the cost of the refunds. Newton suggested establishing a convenience fee for paying with a credit card.

Novak asked if Parks and Recreation could stop accepting credit card payments. Lyddane said the card fees are built into the cost recovery model.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the resolution. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. The resolution was designated Resolution No. 7186.

Award of Contract

6:30 p.m.

Award of contract for WTP-22-01, AM-WTP Raw Water Pump Station Generator

City Engineer Staci Belcastro said staff recommends awarding the contract to Kronesburg Electric, Inc., of Roseburg, in the amount of \$372,776. The council previously approved the use of ARPA funds for this project.

Montague asked why the site experiences frequent power outages. Belcastro said the site is remote. "Frequent" in this case means maybe once a year. Smith asked if the outages were due to wind and trees, and Belcastro said yes.

MOTION: Smith moved to award the contract as outlined in the staff report. Novak seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Approval of Agreement

6:34 p.m.

Maple Lawn Preschool transition update and intergovernmental agreement

Lyddane said the Greater Albany Public School (GAPS) District is not quite ready to complete the transfer of Maple Lawn Preschool from the City per the intergovernmental agreement signed in 2020. Due to the pandemic and staffing changes, GAPS needs one more year before taking it over fully.

MOTION: Newton moved to adopt the resolution. Montague seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. The resolution was designated Resolution No. 7187.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

6:37 p.m.

- a. Appointments
 - 1) Accepting Melissa Murphy's resignation from the Community Development Commission
- b. Approval of minutes
 - 1) February 8, 2023, city council meeting
 - 2) February 20, 2023, city council work session
- c. Recommendations to OLCC
 - 1) Approve full on-premises commercial liquor license for House of Noodle, LLC
 - 2) Approve off-premises sales change of ownership liquor license for Abhey Enterprises, Inc, dba 7-Eleven, #23022C
 - 3) Approve off-premises sales change of ownership liquor license for US Market 625, LLC, dba US Mini Mart 21
- d. Adoption of resolution

- 1) Appropriation of Scharpf Foundation grants for Parks & Recreation Department programs
RES NO. 7188

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Ramycia McGhee seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Staff Report

6:38 p.m.

Appointments to the Economic Development Advisory Committee

Economic Development Manager Seth Sherry summarized Albany's economic development mission and the formation of the group. He congratulated the council on doing something new.

Smith said she was impressed with the people on the list. Albany is growing up.

Novak asked about the two people on the committee who have only nine-month terms. Sherry explained that renewals are staggered. The members will probably be re-ratified in nine months.

Newton asked about the parameters for appointment. Sherry said the members all live in the City, and described the selection process. Newton said she would like to see more diversity in the future.

McGhee said one of the appointees lives in Millersburg, but works at LBCC. She praised Albany's relationship with LBCC.

Montague said as there are future adjustments, we should be more intentional about diversity in our choices.

MOTION: Newton moved to ratify the appointments. Montague seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Salary grade adjustments for Police Department positions

6:48 p.m.

Police Chief Marcia Harnden said the City ratified a union contract late last year, and these are the most pressing salary adjustments. The adjustments are covered by existing budget funds.

MOTION: Montague moved to approve the salary grade adjustments. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Reclassification of Code Compliance Officer in Police Department

6:51 p.m.

Harnden said Code Compliance Officer Kris Schendel is a subject-matter expert in the region for code compliance. As part of the union contract settlement, the department is reviewing this type of position. The reclassification will be covered by the city services fee.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the reclassification. Newton seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Business from the Council

6:53 p.m.

McGhee said she has heard from a constituent who is concerned about feral cats. She asked what resources the City has. Johnson II said there is a group of citizens who are also concerned. He will contact them.

Novak said a constituent is concerned about train noise in North Albany. She asked if the City has any way to mitigate train noise. Troedsson said a quiet zone can be established, but the City would have to invest in equipment to make the crossings safer, and the equipment is costly. The safety rules are federal rules.

Newton asked if there is a way to know when hazardous materials are shipped through Albany by train, and whether there is a contingency plan in case of accident. Public Works Director Chris Bailey said if an accident happened, the fire department would be able to find out what loads were involved. There's also a local emergency response group who have plans for all kinds of major disasters.

McGhee asked about the lighting on Goldfish Farm Road near WalMart. Bailey said the road belongs to Linn County. Staff will talk to the county about the lighting.

Smith mentioned the letter received from Katy Allaback.* The council hasn't discussed that property lately. Director of Community Development Matthew Ruetters said that the council declared the property surplus in September. Since then, an appraisal has been done. The next step would be to list the property for sale and schedule a public hearing. He will come back to the council, he hopes, in the next couple of months, to confirm the next step.

Johnson II said he's received a lot of messages about the removal of trees from Monteith Park. He thanked blogger Hasso Hering for posting pictures of the tree stumps with their centers rotted out.

City Manager Report

There was none.

Recess to Executive Session

The council recessed into executive session at 7:08 p.m. to discuss real property transactions, as authorized by ORS 192-660(2)(e)

Reconvene

The council reconvened into regular session at 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, March 13, 2023; 6:00 p.m. budget committee training

Monday, March 20, 2023; 4:00 p.m. work session

Wednesday, March 22, 2023; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 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.*