



## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Monday, January 23, 2023  
Special Session  
Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: March 22, 2023

#### Call to Order

**3:00 p.m.**

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Steph Newton, Matilda Novak (3:02 p.m., virtual from 4:36 p.m.), Jackie Montague, Ray Kopczynski, Ramycia McGhee, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: None

#### Welcome, What to Expect

**3:00 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson welcomed the councilors and laid out the plan for the special session briefings scheduled for this evening and the next. Troedsson noted the role of the city council in oversight and direction and spoke about the interconnection of city services and programs.

#### Police

**3:07 p.m.**

Police Chief Marcia Harnden presented slides\* and gave the following answers to questions from councilors:

- The trend of retention in the Police Department is good. Only two officers have left for other departments in the last three years. Other officers have left for health reasons including mental health. *(Newton)*
- Four staff members are now certified to conduct emotional intelligence training and that training can now be continuous. Other trainings officers get include elements of emotional intelligence. *(Montague)*
- The fentanyl-laced marijuana that caused a local overdose was black-market and not sold from a legal dispensary. *(Newton, Smith)*
- There does not seem to be a lot of fentanyl use in the Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) district, however the police department did respond to two high school-age overdoses in the county. *(McGhee)*
- Often, drugs are mixed so the data in the slides that lists the number of overdoses by drug does not equal the total number of overdoses. The number of administered Narcan doses listed in the slides is just from the Police Department and does not include doses administered by the Fire Department. *(Montague)*

Responding to questions from Johnson II, Harnden spoke about the issues Measure 110 has presented to the city and the lack of funding provided by the measure.

Municipal Court

**3:53 p.m.**

Finance Director Jeanna Yeager and Court Supervisor September Ridgeway presented slides \* and gave the following answers to questions from councilors:

- One public defender under contract has been more efficient than the previous method of various public defenders designed by the court. One defender has been enough for the court's case load. (*Johnson II, Smith*)
- The city is currently discussing how to address the commutation of traffic fines by former Governor Kate Brown. Ridgeway said the City would need to write off around \$50,000. (*Newton*)
- The court has no established program of working with the IT Department to look at courtroom efficiencies. (*Newton*)

Responding to questions from Councilor Jackie Montague and Councilor Ramycia McGhee, Ridgeway gave an overview of Mental Health Court and how it operates.

Yeager, Johnson II, Councilor Steph Newton, and Ridgeway discussed statistics on driver license suspensions, various fine levels for traffic violations, and the effect of the former Governor's commutations.

Break

**4:14 p.m.**

Johnson II recessed the meeting for a break from 4:14 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the break, Councilor Matilda Novak excused herself and left the meeting.

Fire

**4:30 p.m.**

Fire Chief Shane Wooton presented slides\*. Newton rejoined the meeting at 4:31 p.m. and Novak rejoined the meeting via Zoom at 4:36 p.m. Wooton gave the following answers to questions from councilors:

- Of the Fire Department's close to 19-million-dollar budget, about four million dollars of revenue is from ambulance services and an additional two million is from contracts with rural fire protection districts. (*Newton*)
- The Fire Department has organized two "citizens' academy" sessions. They filled one and did not have enough people sign up to conduct a second event. The department might be open to try and organize one again. (*McGhee*)
- The Firefighter Friendly program involves firefighters going to schools and donning their gear in front of kindergarteners so the kids will not be afraid if they see a firefighter in an emergency. The Fire Department has a small amount of safety ladders that residents can pick up for free. (*Newton*)
- The Fire Department now fully funds the Community Paramedic program and the corresponding position that works with houseless shelters and assisted living facilities, refers people to various programs, and assists people in finding affordable healthcare. (*Smith*)
- With changes in vehicle manufacturing, there are some changes to how responders open vehicles. Tow companies clean up scrap from car collisions. (*Kopczynski, Johnson II*)
- 80% of Fire Department calls are from Medicare-age residents. (*Johnson II*)
- The department is adding capacity and ambulances to address the issue of firefighters leaving the department for Metro-area departments.

City Manager's Office

**5:25 p.m.**

City Clerk Allison Liesse, Communications and Engagement Officer Matt Harrington, and Troedsson presented slides\*.

Liesse spoke about public records requests, elections, compliance, and both staff and council support.

Harrington spoke about community outreach and access to information, community conversation events, and coordination with other area information officers. Responding to questions from Councilors Ray Kopczynski and Ramycia McGhee, Harrington said that staff is developing an annual report that will fill the requirements of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and that the city hosts community conversations in different parts of the city.

Troedsson spoke about the council's contractual relationship with the City Attorney's Office and gave an overview of the City's strategic planning process.

Human Resources

**5:52 p.m.**

Human Resources Director Holly Roten presented slides\* and gave the following answers to questions from councilors:

- There has not been enough staff time over the last fifteen months to conduct diversity, equity, and inclusion or social justice trainings. There are plans to conduct those trainings in 2023. *(McGhee)*
- The city has a history of working with Linn-Benton Community College on employee recruitment. *(McGhee)*
- Staff has an informal plan to address a potential surge in retirements and turnover in the next few years. Cross training and succession planning will take place to address the potential loss of institutional knowledge. *(Montague)*

Roten answered questions from Johnson II about worker's compensation claims and costs.

Information Technology

**6:33 p.m.**

Information Technology Director Sean Park presented slides\* and spoke about costs, security concerns, and ongoing projects.

Closing Remarks, What's Next

**6:56 p.m.**

Troedsson gave an overview of the next day's special session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 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).*