



JOINT WORK SESSION
OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
AND BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



MINUTES

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Special Session
Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: July 12, 2023

Call to Order

3:30 p.m.

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Steph Newton, Matilda Novak, Ray Kopczynski, Ramycia McGhee, and Marilyn Smith

Councilors absent: Councilor Jackie Montague was excused

Commissioners present: Commissioners Pat Malone (3:49 p.m.), Xan Augerot, and Nancy Wyse

Commissioners absent: None

Road Transfer Agreements

3:30 p.m.

Public Works Director Chris Bailey presented slides* about county owned roads that are within city limits. Bailey and Benton County Public Works Director Gary Stockhoff responded to a question from Councilor Steph Newton about sidewalks on the southern portion of Crocker Lane.

Corvallis – Albany Path

3:46 p.m.

Stockhoff spoke about the status of the Corvallis – Albany path and challenges with permits from the railroad and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Stockhoff said that staff is looking to finalize plans for the path soon to increase the project’s appeal for grants.

Responding to a question from Councilor Ray Kopczynski, Stockhoff spoke about the positive working relationship between Benton County and the City of Albany.

Responding to a comment from Commissioner Pat Malone, Stockhoff confirmed there is currently funding for the Albany side and the Corvallis side of the path. The county is currently in the running for a grant to cover the middle part of the path.

Potential funding for alternate fuel infrastructure (along Highway 20)

3:53 p.m.

Bailey spoke about a grant program for Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers and a potential partnership with the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments to manage EV charger installation.

Johnson II, Malone, Bailey, and City Manager Peter Troedsson discussed the challenges that EVs pose to gas taxes and state pilot programs to change to a mileage-based tax. Kopczynski and Bailey spoke about the creation of a charging network.



Commissioner Nancy Wyse, Commissioner Xan Augerot, Councilor Ramycia McGhee, and Bailey spoke about what activities related to EVs federal grants would cover and the reliability of the proposed charger network.

Public Safety Concerns in North Albany

4:17 p.m.

Police Chief Marcia Harnden spoke about her department's partnership with the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Harnden and Benton County Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall spoke about local fentanyl and xylazine overdoses. They both answered questions from Kopczynski and Newton about overdoses.

Harnden spoke about the City of Albany's approach to complying with 2021 HB 3115, regarding camping for the unhoused. Harnden also spoke about police department staffing, noting a full-time mental health professional and a park ranger, and about the City's CALEA recertification.

Harnden confirmed for Wyse that the park ranger is not a sworn officer. Responding to a question from Kopczynski, Harnden said she is not aware of any complaints about portable toilets since the City passed an ordinance removing certain restrictions on them.

Closing Remarks

4:47 p.m.

Malone made closing remarks and both he and Johnson II encouraged the two jurisdictions to have another joint meeting soon. Troedsson complimented city and county staff on their joint work in resolving the dissolution of the Dumbeck Lane Domestic Water Service District.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 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.*