



MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2023

Work Session

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: June 14, 2023

Call to Order

4:00 p.m.

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Councilors absent: None

Business from the Public

4:00 p.m.

None

Historic hangar presentation

4:00 p.m.

Public Works Operations Manager Kristin Preston spoke about the Albany Airport Historic District and historic hangar. Preston introduced Mark Baxter, member of the Oregon Aviation Historical Society, who presented a slideshow* and shared the history of Albany's historic hangar. Baxter shared his organization's vision for the hangar as a working museum and he spoke about restoration, costs, and opportunities for flight instruction. Councilors expressed interest and support in the restoration of the hangar and the development of a museum. Preston shared the next steps for the project.

Community Development Block Grant 2023-2027 consolidated plan/2023 action plan review

4:22 p.m.

Planner II Beth Freeland and Comprehensive Planning Manager Anne Catlin presented a slideshow* about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the proposed 2023-2027 consolidated plan and 2023 action plan.

Responding to a question from Councilor Jackie Montague, Freeland and Catlin said that having carryover funds from previous years is standard due to unforeseen complications and project timelines. Montague suggested that the next action plan include a census tract map for councilors' reference.

Electrical and building program fees

4:37 p.m.

Johnathan Balkema shared a presentation* about the city's electrical and building program and proposed updates, removals, and additions to the fee schedule. Balkema said that the proposed updates should help move structures off of temporary certificates of occupancy (TCOs) faster.

Johnson II requested that staff bring back a ramping fee option that would increase the cost of a TCO with each subsequent renewal. Balkema said he would bring the options.

Balkema responded to questions from Councilor Steph Newton and Councilor Matilda Novak about how the city administers the state's electrical and building program locally. Balkema confirmed for Councilor Marilyn Smith that the city has been administering the state building code since 1973. Responding to a question from Councilor Ramycia McGhee, Balkema detailed a savings program for residents.

Novak spoke about housing shortages and said the state is making it more difficult to provide affordable housing. Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters offered to sit with councilors one on one to go over the state's delegation of building programs and how it functions. Balkema said the building program is not a state mandate, but rather the city offering services in house so it can better respond to the need for safe, affordable housing.

Bus fare information

5:08 p.m.

Transit Manager Barry Hoffman presented a slideshow* about bus fares, bus routes, and advertisements on the sides of city buses. Hoffman informed the council that, by federal rules, if the city would like to reinstate bus fares, a public hearing would need to be held. Hoffman spoke about the benefits and detriments of charging bus fares.

Responding to a question from Montague, Hoffman said that money earned from advertising on city buses could be matched by federal dollars and spent on operations. Hoffman responded to questions from Councilor Ray Kopczynski and Novak and detailed the process of paying for transit and printing transfer slips.

Councilors discussed setting bus fares and how it might affect confrontations between passengers and between drivers and passengers. Smith said the situation is similar to charging library fees in that it is a lot of staff effort for very little income.

MOTION: Montague moved to not reinstate bus fares. McGhee seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Business from the council

5:41 p.m.

None.

City manager report

5:42 p.m.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 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.*