



MINUTES

Monday, May 22, 2023
Work Session
Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: June 14, 2023

Call to Order

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

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

Councilors absent: None

Mental Health Month Proclamation

Johnson II read the proclamation.

Mental Health Presentation

Police Chief Marcia Harnden and Mental Health Intervention Specialist Kiersten Glaeser presented slides* about the pending report on the new mental health position in the police department. Harnden summarized the history of the position, whose mission is to provide outreach support and referral for people in crisis.

Harnden said Glaeser trains staff and others in dealing with people in crisis. The police department also has a peer support team that helps first responders deal with trauma experienced on the job.

Since Nov 1, 2022, Glaeser has responded to 154 calls for service, including 42 mental-health related calls, 13 welfare checks, 14 suicide calls, and 10 calls to assist other agencies. Glaeser is also part of other local crisis teams, and has earned the respect of area shelter managers.

Glaeser said a close community team has developed, made up of Code Compliance Officer Kris Schendel, Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki, and Madeleine Stone with Adult Protective Services.

The council expressed appreciation for the work Glaeser does.

Tanya Thompson and Nova Sweet of the Linn County Mental Health Crisis Response Team handed out information* and talked about the team's work. Last year, they provided more than a thousand services out of the office and over 3,000 in-office or by phone. The team connects people to services and then follows up on them. They are connected to law enforcement, all area shelters, the 988 hotline, community partners, and hospitals.

The councilors asked what communities and organizations the team provides support programs to. Sweet explained the team's plans to expand their reach.

Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response efforts

4:36 p.m.

Rebecca Taylor, project manager for Benton County Coordinated Homeless Response, and Julie Arena, Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Coordinator, presented slides.* The HOPE board vision is that everyone should have the opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Taylor said key components in the solution of homelessness are leadership, sustainable resources, a central point of communication, and community engagement.

Arena said current projects for the group include county code changes, a crisis center, micro-shelters, and a navigation center.

Kayla Armstrong, HOPE deputy director, and Dena Eldridge, the housing services manager, also spoke about rapid re-housing and shelter partners.

Annual inflationary increase for System Development Charges and Public Works Fees

4:58 p.m.

Engineering Manager/Assistant City Engineer Rob Emmons showed slides.* He said the basis for system development charge rate-setting is the Engineering News Review Construction Cost Index for Seattle, which applies to the Pacific Northwest. The inflationary increase this year is 3.71%. Last year's was 12%.

Emmons showed a table of current and adjusted system development charges for an average home in Albany. Johnson II asked what the fee would be for a smaller home than the average. Emmons said the rate is tiered based on home size.

Emmons showed Albany's rates compared to other mid-valley cities. Albany's rates are lower than most.

Johnson II asked Emmons to add a few more examples to the slides.

Parks System Development Charge rate setting discussion **5:10 p.m.**

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Lyddane showed slides.* She reminded the council that they updated the parks system development charge methodology but not fees on May 25, 2022. Parks SDC fees were last increased in 2001. They are two to three times lower than comparable communities.

Lyddane said the proposed fees are scaled to home size. The Parks, Recreation, and Tree Advisory Committee approved the proposed rates.

Councilor Steph Newton asked what the reasoning is behind parks SDC fees on non-residential construction. Lyddane said the assumption is that non-residents who work at Albany businesses are using parks, although there is disagreement over the estimated number of users. This was discussed at the May 25 meeting last year. Lyddane will provide the discussion to Newton.

Annual inflationary increase for Planning Fees **5:27 p.m.**

Planning Supervisor David Martineau said the planning fee methodology has been in place since 2000, and is based on the Consumer Price Index. The proposed rates reflect an inflationary increase of 4.62%.

The council had no questions.

Albany Municipal Code Title 18 Building Code Administration **5:30 p.m.**

Building Official Manager Johnathan Balkema said these changes are cleanup and improvements, after the council moved AMC Section 18.30. The changes are mostly the removal of things that don't fall into the building division's purview, and references to statutes instead of statute language.

The proposed ordinance has two options for issuing certificates of occupancy: issuing for 180 days; and issuing for 90 days' temporary occupancy and allowing renewal every 90 days up to a year. Balkema said he prefers the first option.

Councilor Marilyn Smith asked about a time limit for completing projects. Balkema said permits have a three-year limit. It can be difficult to determine whether a contractor is still working on a project. The building division has changed the permit language to specify inspections or documentation of work.

Balkema asked which option the council preferred for the ordinance changing the code. The council said they would accept his preferred option. Balkema will bring back the ordinance with the first option issuing certificates of occupancy for 180 days.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked how much of Albany's housing inventory meets the current code. Balkema said homes are not obligated to meet new code language, only the code they were built under. The code changes are not retroactive.

City Manager Report **5:45 p.m.**

Troedsson mentioned the council's vote May 10 to fly the Pride flag on the City Hall flagpole. He said state law requires us to fly the POW/MIA flag before any others, in addition to the national and state flags we already fly. Our flagpole isn't strong enough to fly more than two flags, and a third flag gets pounded on the building. In addition, we need to develop a policy that allows other flags to be displayed. Meanwhile, staff is looking at ways to display the Pride flag in the City Hall lobby.

Newton said she did calculations to determine wind velocity and its effect on flags on the pole. She asked for more information about the construction of the pole.

Troedsson said the flag will not be on the flagpole in June. Staff is working on a flag policy. There are a lot of potential issues to be solved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 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.*