

MINUTES OF THE REEDSPORT CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 14, 2022 AT 2:00 P.M. SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL SESSION VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Mayor Linda McCollum
Councilors Jeffrey Vanier, DeeDee Murphy, Joe Liedtky, Rich Patten, and Debby Turner (Mark Bedard was absent)
City Manager Deanna Schafer
City Attorney Stephen H. Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Courteney Davis, Kimberly Clardy, Michelle Fraley, Chief Matt Smart, Chris Adamson and Jennifer Rockwell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This time is reserved for citizens to comment on items that are not on the Agenda. Maximum of five minutes per item, please.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

City Manager Deanna Schafer asked that the agenda be amended to move Executive Session Item A to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate guests.

Councilor Patten motioned to approve the Amended Agenda.

Councilor Turner seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the City Council approve the Amended Agenda.

VOTE:

AYES 6 NAYES 0

(Mayor McCollum, Councilors Vanier, Murphy, Liedtky, Patten and Turner voted in favor of the motion.) (Councilor Bedard was absent)

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE REEDSPORT CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 14, 2022 VIA ZOOM

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Councilors Jeffrey Vanier, DeeDee Murphy Joe Liedtky, Rich Patten and Debby Turner (Mark Bedard was absent)
City Manager Deanna Schafer
City Attorney Stephen H. Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Matt Smart, Andrew Campbell, Kathi Prestwood

A. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) – To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Routine items of business that require a vote but are not expected to require a discussion by the Council are placed on the Consent Calendar and voted upon as one time. In the event that a Councilor or citizen requests that an item be discussed, it will be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed under General Business.

A. Approve the minutes of the regular session of January 3, 2022.

B. Ratify the approval of expenditures for the emergency repair of the wastewater treatment plant blower.

On January 12, 2022 one of five blowers from the wastewater plant was sent out for a standard overhaul with a quote of \$7,300. When the blower arrived at the repair facility and was disassembled and inspected it was found that the housing in the case showed signs of deterioration. The new quote is now up to \$9,668.88 and this does not include return freight which we are anticipating to be around \$1,000.

The City Council was polled on February 11, 2022 requesting authorization for the emergency repair. Staff received a majority response from the City Council in favor of the expenditure.

***Ratify the approval of the total expenditure of \$10,500.**

C. Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Vanier motioned to approve the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Patten seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the City Council approve the Consent Calendar.

VOTE:

AYES 6 NAYES 0

(Mayor McCollum, Councilors Vanier, Murphy, Liedtke, Patten and Turner voted in favor of the motion.) (Councilor Bedard was absent)

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Shall the City Council give written direction to ODOT for the Highway 101 road improvements?

City Manager Deanna Schafer stated that due to the increase in traffic through the City of Reedsport over the last decade staff began conversations with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to discuss pedestrian safety improvements. The City's main concern was pedestrian crossing in the area above (South) the Schofield Bridge, particularly the crossing at 20th Street where Lions Park is located across the highway from a Seven-11 market. There were pedestrian/vehicle accidents and near accidents on several occasions. City staff and Council recommended moving the traffic signal from 19th St to 20th but ODOT engineers said that traffic did not warrant that change and that the light could be removed, but it would not be replaced.

During 2014/2015 City contracted with DKS Associates to conduct a Pedestrian Safety Study. The study concluded that the ODOT recommended alteration to the lane configuration called a Road Diet, which consisted of reducing the current four lanes to two lanes with a turnout in the center, be adopted. This configuration was designed to slow traffic and to reduce crash points at intersections. This would also allow for an improvement to the 20th St crossing to add rapid flashing beacons and side protrusions called, bump outs.

ODOT concurred and the improvements were completed in 2018/19. The road configuration did slow traffic down but created other problems of congestion and miles of traffic backups on busy Holiday weekends. This has only gotten worse with the pandemic since camping/outdoor recreation travel has increased 40 to 60% over the last two years.

In October of 2021 Council created a sub-committee of three Councilors to discuss the issues with the goal of meeting with ODOT staff in January 2022. The committee, consisting of Councilor Vanier, Councilor Turner and Councilor Patten met with the City Manager several times. Representative Wright was also in attendance at one meeting. Councilor Vanier suggested creating a survey to seek out public opinion. A majority of the public responding was in favor of changing the lane configuration back to four lanes.

The Committee and Manager met with multiple representatives of ODOT in January and ODOT expressed concerns with the configuration as well. While they believe that the configuration has helped with pedestrian safety, in order to maintain a constant flow of traffic on heavy (and most) weekends it takes physical staff to man the corridor. They said that we are not the only City that they are in discussions with. They again were not willing to consider moving the light at 19th St but seemed willing to consider a reconfiguration of some sort. It was mentioned that removing the bicycle lanes that were added would most likely not happen but they could consider other changes. They said that it would most likely eliminate on street parking in that section of the City.

Staff is seeking direction from the Council to allow ODOT to move forward with revisiting the lane configuration of the corridor.

Financial impacts were not discussed, however, there was no mention of charging the City to explore options.

Councilor Vanier stated that ODOT was very easy to work with and very open to ideas. One of the suggestions was to eliminate the bike lines on both sides of Highway 101 south of the Scholfield Bridge and put two lanes in each direction; this configuration would provide for a left turn pocket and a concrete refuge island at 20th Street where the pedestrian crossing is. Councilor Vanier commended Councilor Patten for his participation in the process.

Councilor Vanier also stated that there was discussion about returning the Highway to its original four-lane configuration which was supported by himself and Councilor Turner. ODOT's only concern was funding the project however they did not once mention that the City would be asked to cost share in the project.

Schafer said that it would take several months for ODOT to complete any engineering specs to bring to the City.

Councilor Turner stated that she too was pleased at how easy it was to discuss the issues with ODOT and how willing they were to listen.

Councilor Patten stated the he felt confident about the proposal they had produced but he is concerned that ODOT may begin to push back regarding the removal of the bike lanes from the Highway, because they will be setting a precedent that other cities may want to follow. Patten recommended that the subcommittee meet again to specifically discuss the bike traffic intermixing with heavy vehicle traffic on the highway.

Madam Mayor stated that Councilor Vanier had prepared a summary of the survey results and provided that to several members of the public. She asked that future items such as this be distributed to the Council first before being made public so Councilors could adequately address questions from Citizens.

Councilor Murphy motioned that the City Council give formal direction to ODOT to consider Highway 101 road improvement options.

Councilor Turner seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the City Council give formal direction to ODOT to consider Highway 101 road improvement options.

VOTE:

AYES 6 NAYES 0

(Mayor McCollum, Councilors Vanier, Murphy, Liedtky, Patten and Turner voted in favor of the motion.) (Councilor Bedard was absent)

7. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

A. Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce Advertisement Report.

City Manager Deanna Schafer reviewed the annual advertisement report provided by the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce. Schafer stated that the City received a late disbursement from the State of Oregon of \$131,000 which would be reflected in this year's advertising report. The Chamber is in the process of establishing an ad committee which would include a representative from KDUN and Diane Novak from the Umpqua Discovery Center.

Debby Turner stated that the Chamber has been doing less of its normal advertising the last two years due to the pandemic and the uncertainty in hosting events as the pandemic continues. They have also looked into advertising on the billboards on I-5 however there is a long waiting list for those.

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City Manager Deanna Schafer

City Attorney Stephen H. Miller

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dep. City Recorder Courteney Davis, Todd Way

A. Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e)- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

9. OPEN SESSION

A. Shall the City Council authorize the City Manager to pursue real property negotiations?

Councilor Murphy motioned that the City Council authorize the City Manager to pursue real property negotiations.

Councilor Turner seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the City Council authorize the City Manager to pursue real property negotiations.

VOTE:

AYES 6 NAYES 0

(Mayor McCollum, Councilors Vanier, Murphy, Liedtke, Patten and Turner voted in favor of the motion.) (Councilor Bedard was absent)

10. ADJOURN

Mayor McCollum adjourned the meeting at 2:57 P.M.

Linda McCollum, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Deanna Schafer, City Recorder