

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Gowing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Recorder Trudy Borrevik called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor Gowing, Councilors Mike Fleck, Kenneth Michael Roberts, Chalice Savage and Jon Stinnett

PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: Councilors Greg Ervin and Candace Solesbee

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Richard Meyers, Police Chief Scott Shepherd, City Recorder Trudy Borrevik, City Recorder Mindy Roberts

STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Finance Director Roberta Likens, City Engineer Ron Bradsby, and City Planner Eric Mongan

CITY ATTORNEY: None

MEDIA PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Debbie Howell, 36756 Shoreview Drive, Dorena Oregon, asked if any organizations could provide security on City property.

Rosemary Foraker, 80076 Hazleton Rd, Cottage Grove, said she was happy that the Carbon Challenge Agreement had been signed and would like the City to form a Climate Action Committee and to declare a climate emergency.

Cristina Hubbard, 30521 Overholser, Cottage Grove, thanked the City for signing the Carbon Challenge Agreement, and asked that a climate emergency be declared.

Rob Dickinson, 31755 Gowdyville, Cottage Grove, spoke to urge the City to take more action around Climate Change, and encouraged the City to declare a climate emergency.

Fred Chambers, 2745 Bennett Creek, Cottage Grove, thanked the City for signing the contract and asked that the City create a climate emergency declaration.

Duane Taddei, 77561 Hwy 99, Cottage Grove, spoke regarding MUPTE. Said he would like them to list public benefits and feels the current MUPTE does not have an affordable or low income housing component. He also mentioned the Community Sharing website indicated the City of Cottage Grove supported the warming shelters and wonders if the City was concerned that the shelters were not opened on recent cold nights.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- (a) Second Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 3148 Extending the Economic & Business Improvement Districts

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart described the process that has taken place to extend the EBID, including the number of properties and businesses, and the number of those that have remonstrated.

Mayor Gowing opened the public hearing.

Councilor Stinnett declared a conflict of interest, recused himself and left the Council Chambers.

No one requested to speak.

Mayor Gowing closed the public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) March 20, 2021 Council Goal Setting Minutes
(b) October 22, 2021 Agenda Session Minutes
(c) October 22, 2021 Work Session Minutes
(d) November 5, 2021 Agenda Session Minutes
(e) November 8, 2021 Council Meeting Minute
(f) Request for Council to Authorize the City Manager to Sign Easements Benefitting Oregon Department of Transportation at Hwy 99 & Woodson Place for the Urban Upgrades Project

(g) License Agreement for Encroachment

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X		X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

(a) Second Vote of Ordinance No. 3148 Extending the Economic & Business Improvement Districts

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart explained that both the first and second Public Hearings had been held, as well as the first vote of the Ordinance. He opened the floor to questions from the Council and if none, asked the Council to consider adoption of the second vote of the ordinance.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3148.

Councilor Roberts said that some of the businesses that have remonstrated indicated to him that it was because they would rather see a two to three year plan, rather than a five year plan, and they would like to see an annual report of where the money is going and the improvements that were made.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X		X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Councilor Stinnett returned to the Council Chambers.

- (b) First Vote of an Ordinance Annexing 2.68 Acres Identified as: 78314 & 78310 Hwy 99; Map/TL: 20-03-33-32-00100; 78300 Hwy 99; Map/TL: 20-03-33-32-00300; 78278 Hwy 99; Map/TL: 20-03-33-32-00400; and 78294, 78290, 78286 & 78282 Hwy 99; Map/TL 20-03-33-32-00200 Into City of Cottage Grove (A-1-21)

City Planner Eric Mongan said that notification was sent to property owners within 300 feet of the subject parcels on November 22nd and November 29th to allow those affected to make comment or request a Public Hearing regarding the annexation. No written comments were submitted and no requests for a Public Hearing were made. He said it was staff’s recommendation that the annexation be approved and Council hold the first vote on the Ordinance. He said the Ordinance could be adopted in one vote.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN THAT COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3150.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

- (c) First Vote of an Ordinance Annexing a Portion of Lane County Road No. 27 Cottage Grove Lorane Hwy and the Portion of West Main Street Between South S Street and South R Street into the City of Cottage Grove (A 2-21)

City Planner Eric Mongan said that Lane County Public Works had applied for the annexation to transfer the jurisdiction of right-of way from Lane County to the City of Cottage Grove. Notifications were sent to property owners within 300 feet of the subject right-of way sections on November 22nd. No written comments were submitted and no requests for a Public Hearing were made. He said it was staff’s recommendation that the annexation be approved and Council hold the first vote on the Ordinance. He said the Ordinance could be adopted in one vote.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3151.

Councilor Roberts asked if it means that we would now be responsible for the bridge that goes over the creek off Gowdyville Road.

Faye Stewart replied that it was his understanding that the bridge was not included in the request.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

- (d) First Vote of Ordinance Annexing a Portion of Lane County Road No. 728 – Airport/Thornton Road into the City of Cottage Grove (A 3-21)

City Planner Eric Mongan said that Lane County Public Works had applied for the annexation to transfer the jurisdiction of right-of way from Lane County to the City of Cottage Grove. Notification was sent to property owners within 300 feet of the subject right-of-way on November 22nd. No public comments were submitted and no requests for a Public Hearing were made. He said staff’s recommendation was that the annexation be approved and Council hold the first vote on the Ordinance. He said the Ordinance could be adopted in one vote.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SOLESBEE THAT COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3152.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

- (e) An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 5.12 Regarding Tobacco Retail Licensing and Sale Regulations of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code

City Manager Richard Meyers said City Council approved opting out of administrating, managing, and enforcing the new statewide tobacco licensing program and authorized the State to run the program in Cottage Grove. He said Council now needed to repeal the current Ordinance that created the local tobacco licensing program. He said the Ordinance hadn’t been available for more than a week so it would require two votes.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS THAT COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3153.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

- (f) A Resolution Granting a Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) Program for Matzer Development, LLC for a Seven-Unit Cottage Cluster Development at Map/TL: 20-03-28-44-00700

City Planner Eric Mongan said this application was submitted by the property owner, Matzer Development, LLC. Phase one of this Seven-Unit Cottage Cluster had been considered and approved by the Planning Commission. The applicant had submitted preliminary drawings for phase two which includes three additional cottages and a small commercial space. Approval of Phase Two will be conditioned on the approval of site design review and conditional use permit application. The application meets the criteria as outlined, showing location on or within a quarter mile of a bus route, three or more units, public benefits, mixed use development, and ADA facilities. He said it was staff's recommendation that Council consider approving the MUPTE application and adopt the Resolution.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS THAT COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2058

Councilor Roberts said he was looking forward to further discussion and review of the MUPTE program.

Faye Stewart said that we are in the final stages of writing the contract with ECO NW to develop the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan which will include a review of the MUPTE program. This could result in recommendations and changes to the code which would assist in more affordable housing. He said there would be an Advisory Committee created that would include at least two City Councilors.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Bid Award for Flow Monitoring Services

City Engineer Ron Bradsby said the City was looking for a company to do flow monitoring as part of the upcoming Master Plan. He said the City wrote a Request for Proposal and sent it to four qualified firms and three responses were received. The lowest proposal was submitted by USQ at \$114,465.00. He said reference checks had been made and USQ received positive reviews. He said staff was recommending Council authorize using USQ for flow monitoring services for three months.

Councilor Savage asked for clarifications about a previous comment that was made regarding some incorrect numbers.

Ron Bradsby said that USQ had added some of the material costs in twice, resulting in an adjustment to the bid of \$1615.00. He also mentioned it could be necessary to put two meters in one location, where he had only planned for one meter. USQ replied that there may be options other than adding meters. If needed, additional meters would be \$4800.00 including materials, installation and removal.

Councilor Ervin indicated that he was in support of moving forward with the low bid, but would like to know if it would be possible to invest in constant monitoring ourselves.

Ron Bradsby said that he did not have information as to the cost of the flow meters, but he had heard of other cities such as Medford that were doing so. Ron said that it was possible we could have a method to monitor and collect the data, similar to our water meters.

Faye Stewart added that he had spoken with Sensus, the manufacturer of the water meters, and they did sell meters that would work with the automated system, however they were quite expensive. He said due to the number of meters needed it made more sense financially to hire a company to do monitoring for three months. He said it may be prudent to put in a permanent meter in the future.

Ron Bradsby added the technology USQ is proposing is non-contact and he believes the contact type meters would need more maintenance and cleaning, possibly taking a meter out of service for that time.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO AWARD THE BID FOR FLOW MONITORING SERVICES TO USQ IN THE AMOUNT \$114,465 FOR MONITORING FOR THREE MONTHS DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

Councilor Stinnett asked if the City got a sense of why they were able to offer a lower cost bid than the other companies.

Ron Bradsby replied that it did concern him, so he took longer due diligence to find out why.

He said that it was the non-contact technology that did not require additional maintenance. Contact meters have to be cleaned and recalibrated once a month. He said everyone he had spoken to indicated USQ was in budget, and their goal was to get the City accurate information.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(b) Councilor Subcommittee Appointments for Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Urban Forestry Committee Member Interviews

City Planner Eric Mongan indicated there are three open positions on the Planning Commission, one position on the Historic Preservation Commission and two on the Urban Forestry Committee. The positions were advertised in The Sentinel and on the City of Cottage Grove website with the recruitment applications. He said the Council was being asked to appoint three interview subcommittees to interview applicants.

For the Planning Commission Subcommittee Mayor Gowing appointed Councilor Ervin as Chair and Councilors Fleck and Roberts. For the Historic Preservation Commission, Councilor Savage as Chair and Councilor Stinnett and Fleck. For the Urban Forestry Committee, Councilor Solesbee as Chair and Councilors Fleck and Savage.

(c) Concerns from Council

Councilor Savage said she received an email from a constituent who is concerned about the speed on Kalapuya Way. She asked if it would be possible to have the Police radar machine placed in the neighborhood.

Chief Shepherd indicated it could be done and data could be collected regarding the speeds.

Councilor Savage said the Christmas event was wonderful and thanked Downtown Cottage Grove for donating the trees, the Chamber of Commerce for organizing the event, and the 40 businesses that decorated the trees. She also mentioned she is in support of conversations regarding MUPTE and fully supports affordable housing.

Councilor Savage also recognized Trudy’s last City Council meeting prior to retirement and indicated how much she is truly appreciated.

Councilor Roberts thanked Trudy for her 12 years at the City and indicated how much she helped him with the adjustment of being a Councilor. He also thanked Councilor Stinnett, Downtown Cottage Grove and Carol Reeves from the Flower Basket for lighting up All America City

Square Park. He mentioned the Pallet Shelters are open as of tonight, and he looks forward to working more on the program. He also mentioned a light that was damaged on Main Street has been replaced with an LED light, and he would like to see all light poles between 5th Street and Hwy 99 be changed to the new lights.

Councilor Stinnett said he was sorry he missed Trudy's retirement party. He added that Trudy has been a tremendous help to him as a newspaper reporter and a Councilor, going above and beyond her duties to help out. He also recognized the great turn out for tonight's Council meeting and encouraged people to stay involved.

Councilor Fleck recognized some of the guests in attendance including Lane County Commissioner Buch, and Chair of the Poverty and Homeless Board Kris McCallister. He also thanked Trudy for her years of service and mentioned in his entire time serving the City he has only had two City Recorders Joan and Trudy. He also welcomed new City Recorder Mindy.

Councilor Fleck discussed the Warming Shelter and also identified his role as the Executive Director of Community Sharing. He said the shelter is a joint venture between the City and Community Sharing, and if we did miss opening the shelter by a day, it was due to the fact that the contract with the County was not yet in place. He said the issue had been resolved and the communication issues will be resolved as well.

He also encouraged the people who brought the climate concerns to our City, and said he does support the things we can do within our means. He said he is not sure declaring an emergency is the way to go, but action speaks louder than words.

Councilor Ervin gave a report from the Lane Economic Committee meeting. He also addressed MUPTE, the initial meetings when it was discussed, and he is looking forward to taking into consideration the data and adjusting the program as needed. Regarding climate change, he said he is hoping to hear arguments and data, but at this time he is not in support of declaring a climate emergency. He is also interested to hear about the contract the City has signed and what affect it has pertaining to carbon tracking. Councilor Ervin told Trudy she will be missed and welcomed Mindy.

Councilor Solesbee said she missed the Cottage Grove Christmas celebration. She had great feedback and congratulated everyone who was involved. She told Trudy congratulations on her new adventure and welcomed Mindy.

Mayor Gowing recalled that he and Trudy were both at their first City Council meeting together, and this is now her last. He is glad he was able to be at the first and the last for her, and she is going to be missed.

Mayor Gowing thanked Commissioner Buch for her attendance, and is hoping the City can get support from the County with the homeless issues moving forward.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Opioid Litigation Settlement

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone informed Council a settlement agreement was reached in a Class Action Suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Boone said this settlement is different than others, in that it requires an opt-in decision as opposed to an opt-out, if the City would like to be included. Opting in would prevent the City from being able to individually sue the companies on our own. Staff suggests that Council authorize the City Manager to approve the participation in both the national and Oregon settlement agreement.

Councilor Mike Fleck asked if negotiation fails, is there a financial burden to the City.

Jake Boone replied that any legal costs would come out of the total settlement amount, and the City would not end up having to pay someone.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN BOTH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

Jake Boone added the City Attorney wanted to make it clear that Council would need to approve the participation in both agreements as well as authorize the City Manager to sign them.

Councilor Fleck amended his motion to read, seconded by Councilor Ervin as follows:

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION IN BOTH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN BOTH SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(b) Homelessness Discussion

City Manager Richard Meyers acknowledged the large amount of information provided to Council regarding the homelessness discussion and pointed out additional letters that were received and are attached to the agenda. He also noted the City will not be making any decisions tonight. This will be one of the first discussions to start looking at general policies and directions for the homeless issues in our community. Richard briefly covered the 9th Court decision and how it affects the City. He brought attention to specific individuals in the community, the

situations they are facing and the complexity of the homeless issue. He pointed out when dealing with homeless individuals it is a variety of reasons as to why they are in the situation and there is not one stereotypical answer as to who a homeless person is.

Richard said the City's current response has been to not enforce lodging in vehicles. If someone is sleeping in their vehicle, as long as they are not at one location for more than 72 hours, the City will not cite them. He said there is space for camping at the Community Center and City Hall which prevents camping in our parks and other locations throughout the City.

Richard noted that the City has a wide range of options as we look at what we need to do. He said that we have been meeting with stakeholders comprised of local organizations that are addressing mental health, housing, and homelessness issues.

Richard said his recommendation, in a general sense, is that the City move forward with trying to close the campsite at the Community Center. In order to do that, the City would need another facility to house homeless individuals. He mentioned other possible sites could be considered and provided examples as to what other cities are doing.

Rob Dickinson 31755 Gowdyville Rd, Cottage Grove, asked the Council to review the letter from Be Your Best if they had not already and emphasized the Housing First Model and the need for affordable housing. He encouraged Council to look at the broad range of options and pointed out that there are a lot of organizations that will help.

Richard mentioned the City is also working closely with the Oregon Home Share Program and the City will be having a representative come speak at a future council meeting.

Councilor Roberts asked if there were things that could not be talked about at this meeting.

Mayor Gowing clarified that anything can be discussed.

Councilor Roberts said he is hoping the City can find one spot to house people to remedy homelessness. He also mentioned a homeowner behind the Community Center had complained about the situation in their area. He hopes the City can work together to find a spot to do the best with what we have. He also inquired if tomorrow's webinar would be recorded.

Richard responded it will be recorded and the link is available with resources on the website.

Councilor Roberts replied the loading dock area should be off limits and he feels for the tax payers who have purchased the home in the area and cannot enjoy their back yard.

Richard said we have looked at the option of securing personal properties of the individuals that are camping at the Community Center, vacating the properties, and then putting up a large tent with divided areas so that potentially the loading dock would not be needed.

Councilor Roberts said he applauds the work that has been done so far from all organizations, and he recognizes that getting a plan together is important.

Councilor Solesbee said the City needs to pay attention to what our citizens are telling us, because we also have a responsibility to them. She asked why the City Attorney was not present, and that she has some questions for her. She thanked Bruce Kelsh for sending the email regarding the homeless issues in Utah and the information that it provided. Solesbee expressed concern that the City is growing the homeless issue and wondering if we truly have to provide shelter. She also does not want tax payers to fund transitional housing through paid salaries.

Councilor Fleck recognized Councilor Solesbee's comments and said they are valid concerns to address. He said the City should partner with the County to find the best solution to support the overall mission. He said Community Sharing has many assistance programs that helps low income individuals and feels it is important to bring organizations together to come up with solutions.

Councilor Savage shared a personal story of a friend with a child who has extreme disabilities, and found it difficult to find childcare, which in turn made it difficult for her to work. The friend eventually found herself and son homeless on the streets of Eugene. She was able to find guidance through The Mission and is now in an apartment and is regaining services for her and her son. Savage said she does not believe in hand-outs, but does believe in transitional housing that have requirements tailored just to them. She believes people want to feel valued and worthy and the City should utilize resources to help people, help themselves. Savage would like to hear from people who are currently unhoused so the City can know what they need, but that it should not be free.

Councilor Stinnett agreed it is a complicated, complex issue that requires a multi-pronged approach with buy-in, efforts, and talents from a lot of people. He suggests the City come together to find common ground, and not be able to find a way to disagree on what the issue is and what needs to be done. He said he spoke with Captain Gagner this morning specifically about the people camping behind the Community Center. He asked the Captain if these campers are new to Cottage Grove, and Gagner replied that there is no one there that the police does not already know. Councilor Stinnett said he would support finding a better facility in which to remedy the situation, and more support stakeholder meetings.

Councilor Ervin stated that he believes the responsibility lies with every individual in the community. He said he is hesitant to direct the City on how to execute addressing the homeless populations, because it distances us individually from bearing the weight and responsibility the way that we need to bear it and feel it. He agrees with the opportunity for homeowners to allow a camper to occupy their property, and advocates for a personal approach. He said he wants assistance to be provided on an individual basis and not telegraph that Cottage Grove is a place to flock to for services.

Mayor Jeff Gowing said he was in a recent meeting where the League of Oregon Cities Attorney indicated there are three options; you do nothing, you abide by the law, or you try to do more. He said as a Council, we need to determine what direction we need to go. He said that we should address it in a work session and hopes that Commissioner Buch would be able to attend that work session and that we could get community input.

City Manager Richard Meyers said he has good direction and thoughts as to what the Council would like to do. He proposes staff put together a package that shows different options and suggestions. He will then put together a work session date so the options could be looked at.

Councilor Solesbee said a question that was important to her is; if we do transitional housing and it is full, can people still camp according to the law?

Richard replied that transitional housing is different than a 24/7, and is considered a step up above a basic shelter service. Transitional housing is not meant to be for the homeless off the street, but more for people who have been in a shelter situation and are ready to move to something with more responsibility. What the City would be looking at is a shelter system. Under Martin vs. Boise, if your shelter is full you cannot enforce citations for camping on public land.

Councilor Solesbee quoted an article and said she has questions for the City Attorney and would like her to meet with Council. She also asked if the tents at the Community Center were fire retardant and what is the City's responsibility if something happens. She said she was told by someone that they observed an open flame in the tent outside of Richard's office.

Mayor Gowing said he agreed that he would like the City Attorney present at a work session.

Richard said the City Attorney was not able to be here tonight because she had to meet with another city, and he thought Ross Williamson from the firm was going to be here but he did not make it. He said we did receive the Attorney's response to a number of the issues, and we are also talking with the City's insurance company regarding some of the liability issues.

Councilor Fleck recognized youth homelessness as a huge issue, and introduced Johnnie Green from Looking Glass, a youth representative as being present at the Council Meeting.

City Manager Richard Meyers commended the Council for providing in last year's budget, fifteen thousand dollars to help Looking Glass get their building up and running and help with their campaign. He also mentioned another issue that has not been mentioned is homeless families.

Councilor Savage asked if there could be a space available for tents if a shelter is full, so the City parks would be off limits.

Richard responded that has been done in Coos Bay/North Bend and what we could suggest in an ordinance or policy.

(c) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers reported the City has signed an agreement with the Community Sustainability Challenge on Friday. He said the program is a website that will have individual and team challenges to encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint. It is a voluntary

program that people can sign up for individually or as groups to earn points. The City is hoping at some point to be able to have incentives through the various utilities.

Richard said that we have gone green with our Christmas lights. The City is saving 2,260 pounds of carbon dioxide as a result of the green power that is being used. In the year 2020, the City purchased 100 % green power on all of our functions, and as a result have prevented 2,277 metric tons of carbon dioxide in the environment.

Richard reinterrred Beds for Freezing nights is open tonight and tomorrow night.

Richard acknowledged this is Trudy's last City Council meeting and the City is sad to see her go. He said she is going to be missed and thanked her for her 12 years of service. He mentioned Trudy's retirement celebration was well attended with people attending that dated back to the beginning of her career. Trudy is the 21st City Recorder in history of Cottage Grove since 1887.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:50 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held January 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.


Mindy Roberts, City Recorder


Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor