

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Gowing called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

City Recorder Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	Mayor Gowing, Councilors Candace Solesbee, Chalice Savage, Mike Fleck, Jon Stinnett, Greg Ervin and Kenneth Michael Roberts
PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	None
COUNCIL ABSENT:	
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:	None
STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Police Sergeant Matt Walker and City Planner Eric Mongan
STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	Finance Director Roberta Likens
CITY ATTORNEY:	Carrie Connelly
MEDIA PRESENT:	Ryleigh Norgrove – The Chronicle, Cameron Reiten – KNND Radio

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

- (a) Resolution Authorizing Support and Required 20% Contribution for an Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Application.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADD THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT AND REQUIRED 20% CONTRIBUTION FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO THE AGENDA.

Mayor Gowing announced the motion with a second and called for discussion.

Councilor Stinnett asked if there was an update on the application.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it can be discussed if the item gets added to the agenda.

Mayor Gowing called for further discussion. Seeing none he called the vote.

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							

City Manager Richard Meyers said that a request was received for a final change to be made to the application for the EDA grant. He said it appears they are finishing up the final details to announce the award.

City Planner Eric Mongan presented background information regarding Council’s pledge to support the grant application and the in kind and cash contribution. He said in February the City’s contribution was increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,250,000 and the EDA has requested that the 20% contribution be acknowledged in the form of a resolution.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2079.

Mayor Gowing announced the motion with a second and called for discussion. Seeing none he called the vote.

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							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution 2079 carried.

HOMELESS – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Councilor Fleck said he had asked for this item to be put back on the agenda. He said he supports a previous motion that was made to authorize the City to improve the Hwy 99 property and have it managed for two years with stimulus funding

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO AUTHORIZE A TEMPORARY TWO YEAR PROGRAM TO RUN A LOW BARRIER SHELTER AT THE HWY 99 SITE.

Mayor Gowing announced the motion with a second and called for discussion.

Councilor Solesbee asked for clarification as to why the City did not apply for the grant for the Nazarene Church site.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the City could not satisfy the application requirements.

Councilor Solesbee asked him to explain why.

City Manager Richard Meyers said that the City did not have time to put together the application to satisfy challenges associated with neighborhood issues, ADA compliance and diversity and equity issues.

Councilor Solesbee asked if we can satisfy requirements to use the ARPA funds.

City Manager replied that there are no requirements on the ARPA funds.

Councilor Solesbee asked if the ordinances have been changed.

City Manager replied, the only action Council has taken is to adopt the Overnight Camping Ordinance.

Councilor Solesbee asked, wasn't City Staff supposed to put something together and propose it to City Council.

City Manager replied no.

Councilor Solesbee said, didn't Council make a motion to do that.

City Manager replied no.

Councilor Fleck said Council needed to complete this piece before the ordinances.

Councilor Solesbee asked why.

Councilor Fleck said if Council decides to take no action then the City needs to be broader in what is allowed in public spaces. He said if the City is going to do a shelter then we can narrow it and say overflow from the shelter can be in public spaces. He added that this decision has to be made before the ordinance, otherwise we run risk of running foul of Martin v. Boise.

Councilor Solesbee said she has been asking for ordinance changes since Council started this and was under the understanding that it was being worked on. She said she thought the City was moving on with that immediately and it was priority number one.

Councilor Solesbee said she is concerned about being in a recession and the City spending \$400,000. She said the City had to increase the budget almost \$100,000 for gas and oil for City vehicles, gave \$100,000 to the clinic and she is hearing that there is no money from the County for a warming shelter.

Councilor Solesbee asked if the County donated a portion of the Pallet Shelters for a Homeless Camp.

City Manager Richard Meyers replied, they donated all of them.

Councilor Solesbee said she finds it strange that there is no money available from the County for a Warming Shelter. She clarified that the City's ARPA money could be used for a Warming Shelter.

Councilor Solesbee said she feels strongly about this because there is a community organization that has been working on this project. She said Community Strong Cottage Grove is growing, they have more volunteers, they are getting solutions together and it will not cost the citizens or the City a cent to move forward. She added that she does not understand why the City would commit to a two or three year contract when we could try this first and see how it goes.

Councilor Fleck addressed a letter that the Councilors received from Community Strong Cottage Grove indicating that they do not have a plan at this point. He added that the group's previous comments were, that the City took three years to come up with a plan and they have only had a few months. Councilor Fleck said by doing this 2 year proposal we are giving them two more years to come up with a plan that he would potentially support as long as it met the legal standards.

Mayor Gowing clarified by saying that the letter Councilor Fleck referred to was about running Warming Shelters.

Councilor Fleck said the group has good intentions and some aspects of their presentation was appealing but there was no substance to it. He said the City has no plan and if we want to keep our parks for people to recreate in and take care of the unhoused, this is the only option that makes sense to him. He said it makes sense for the well-being of our citizens and a fiscal standpoint. He added that if we have people camping in parks there will be a greater burden on Public Works and Police.

Councilor Solesbee said we have a year under the law and they do have plans.

Mayor Gowing said we are running out of construction time before the bad weather. Mayor said he was in a meeting with the Mayor of Gresham and he indicated that they went from 350 homeless to 35 and sustained it for three years.

City Manager said the City of Gresham has a five member, City Staff homeless response team and have multiple shelters.

Councilor Roberts said the City has money earmarked for these programs, we are running out of time and leaving people in the parks through the winter is a crime. He said he spent time with Carry It Forward and St. Vincent de Paul and if that is what the City turns this into, there will be no problems. He said he liked the community kitchen, they are learning building skills, and they are counselled daily. He said if the City creates a homeless shelter he wants to see the City and the Police do what they need to do and keep our parks clear. He added that there is a place for Community Strong Cottage Grove and a way for them to get involved.

Councilor Savage said what the City is proposing is not much different than what is being proposed by Community Strong Cottage Grove. She mentioned an article that reported, no barrier shelters have a high success rate. She said we need to come together and figure it out.

Councilor Stinnett said he has reservations about the Hwy 99 site and prefers using the previous Warming Shelter site. He suggested that the City could put up a fence similar to what Covered Bridge Brewing constructed and it would be an inexpensive and simple way to address privacy issues. He said there are also concerns about travel to and from the Hwy 99 site and concerns from businesses and residential neighbors. He said he will not vote against the Hwy 99 site if it is the will of Council. He added that we have to do something but he prefers the Warming Shelter site.

Councilor Roberts said it is his understanding that South Lane Wheels will transport people to and from the Hwy 99 site and Carry It Forward and St. Vincent de Paul prefer the Hwy 99 site.

Councilor Ervin asked what the correlation is between a Warming Shelter site and a Homeless camp.

Mayor Gowing said he thought if people are already in the Homeless Shelter they would not need the Warming Shelter.

Councilor Ervin said that does not consider the people who are out in the woods that come in to the Warming Shelter when it becomes unbearable.

Councilor Fleck said that is another advantage of the Hwy 99 site because it has the possibility of a congregate setting in the house. He said it would be best to talk to the successful applicant of the RFP about the options.

Councilor Ervin said the ARPA money can be used for a number of things. He said this is social service which is not one of the traditional things this community has agreed to fund. He said there are better funding sources like private donations or philanthropists and he is interested in understanding more about Measure 110 dollars as a revenue stream. He said he does not see the Return on Investment and this is just the beginning to leverage and justify the next thing. He said his preference is to address the Warming Shelter site and have community members run it. He said he understands that there is no money right now but that doesn't mean that it won't be there when the time comes. He asked how many years there has been a funding source.

Councilor Fleck said the money was allocated through the legislative process through the biennium. He said that is the reason Community Sharing stepped up to do the Warming Shelters because Beds for Freezing Nights could not come up with the volunteers to make it happen.

Councilor Solesbee asked how much it cost to run the Warming Shelter for a season.

Councilor Fleck said if he remembers correctly it was \$41,000 to \$42,000.

Councilor Ervin asked if there is a breakdown of paid staff versus materials.

Councilor Fleck said initially they offered \$15.00 per hour and had very few applicants and then raised it to \$20 in order to get people willing to stay overnight to help the unhoused. He said it takes a unique personality and skill set to work with people who have challenges and that is why he is so impressed with Carry It Forward and St. Vincent de Paul.

Councilor Ervin said the most urgent thing is that winter is coming and provisions and plans need to be put into place to address the Warming Shelter. He said he thought there was unanimous direction as far as changes to the ordinances and that Council had given direction to have them brought back to be voted on.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said there was a presentation to Council and a modified version at the Town Hall regarding ordinances. She said there were two versions of ordinances, one if Council chose to do nothing and the other if there was a decision to provide alternative housing options. She said she heard from two Councilors who wanted to move forward with getting the ordinances done but does not recall unanimous or a quorum of the majority that directed Staff.

Councilor Ervin said he recalls that there was never a proposal other than to change the ordinances. He said there was a motion to designate sites that camping could not take place in.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said she does not remember a quorum of the Council directing Staff to make those changes.

Councilor Ervin said to the City Attorney that he is adding clarity because she made up a binary thing by saying there is a draconian, do nothing or a shelter site. He said by stating which areas you cannot be in, creates that everywhere else becomes temporary housing, and that is in a different category from doing absolutely nothing.

City Attorney said she recalls that we talked about a spectrum of options based on what the City wants to provide. She said because we did not know what the City wants to provide we were not able to pinpoint the legally, challenge proof, code amendments to bring back to Council.

Councilor Savage asked Councilor Solesbee if Community Strong Cottage Grove has an immediate plan for a Warming Shelter.

Councilor Solesbee said the group explicitly said they did not want to be responsible for the Warming Shelter. She said it is not their mission, they want to address the homeless situation to get people off the street, not just a temporary Warming Shelter. Councilor Solesbee said she brought that up because it may not be what the citizens want as a whole to be done and we have ARPA funds that can be used.

Councilor Solesbee said she feels that everything is an emergency and we have to push through things. She said she feels terrible with the way we have proceeded with this whole thing. She said from the very beginning she wanted to put this on the ballot to get more community input, not just the 200 hundred that happened to be able to make it to the Town Hall.

Mayor Gowing said that Council is over the allotted meeting time and asked Councilor Fleck and Councilor Roberts if they wanted to suspend the motion and carry the meeting over or he said he is going to call the question.

Councilor Fleck asked to clarify if his motion should have included moving the funds out of Contingency.

City Manager replied yes.

Councilor Fleck offered a friendly amendment to add moving the ARPA funds that were originally designated for the shelter back for that purpose and asked Councilor Roberts, as the second to the motion, if he agrees.

Councilor Roberts replied with a Second.

City Manager said Staff will prepare a resolution to officially move the funds and the motion gives direction to do so.

Mayor Gowing called the vote.

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
NAYS					X	X	
ABSTAIN							

Mayor Gowing announced motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the special meeting of the City Council at 6:51 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held August 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



Mindy Roberts, City Recorder



Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor