

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gowing called the meeting to order at 7:00 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:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Kassidy Poetzl

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, Finance Director Roberta Likens, Interim Police Chief Jeff Groth and City Planner Eric Mongan.

STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:

CITY ATTORNEY: Carrie Connelly

MEDIA PRESENT: Cameron Reiten - KNND, Ryleigh Norgrove - The Chronicle and Cindy Weeldreyer - Cottage Grove Sentinel

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Kathleen Mattson 1740 Bryant Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern about the homeless situation, park safety and clean-up costs.

Butch Gabrielson 33330 E Howe Lane, Creswell, Oregon spoke about an unresolved issue regarding some trees on his property.

Duane Taddei 77561 Hwy 99, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern for the previous speaker's situation and read a Dr. Seuss book to Council.

Bill Christiansen 1337 Elm Ave., Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke of his respect for Mayor Elect Solesbee and asked that the City Manager face the audience not the Council during meetings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- (a) Public Hearing for Ordinance Vacating 198 Square Feet of Right-of-Way Located at the Southeast Corner of the Intersection of South 7th Street and East Fillmore Avenue

City Planner Eric Mongan explained that during the Safe Routes to School project, it was discovered that a portion of the City's infrastructure was on private property and not within the platted right-of-way. He said Staff negotiated with the property owner that the City would vacate 198 square feet of right-of-way and 502 square feet would be dedicated back to the City, ensuring that all public infrastructure would lie within the public right-of-way of East Fillmore Avenue.

Mayor Gowing opened the Public Hearing.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Gowing closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of November 14, 2022 City Council Minutes
(b) Proclamation Regarding November 8, 2022 General Election
(c) Acceptance of an Easement for an 8" Sanitary Sewer Extension into Cottage Grove State Airport

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

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							

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

(a) Contract for Body-Worn Cameras and Related Officer Safety Equipment

Interim Police Chief Jeff Groth presented information to Council regarding the resolution to authorize a contract for body-worn cameras. He highlighted the importance of having body-worn cameras and the value in documenting the scene and actions of the officers. He described the basic parameters of the contract, including equipment and data storage. He said that the cost of the contract is not currently in the budget, but the first year of the contract would be paid for from the Narcotics Fund and the remaining years would need to be budgeted for.

Johanna Zee 125 North 12th Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke in support of body-worn cameras. She expressed concerns for the contract price and for committing to a five year contract to only save \$7000.00.

Councilor Ervin said that he supports body-worn cameras and having accountability for the police and residents. He said he hopes that the City would be vigilant in the renewal process. He asked when the contract would need to be renewed in order to continue the services.

Chief Groth said that he does not have specific dates. He said about six months before the end of the contract we should start having conversations about considering to renew the contract.

Councilor Ervin asked what the vetting process was and why this vendor was chosen.

Chief Groth explained some of the factors and the process that led to the vendor selection:

- Axon serves a large number of cities with approximately 32 cities being comparable to the size of Cottage Grove.
- Axon has proven to have top-of-the-line product with tremendous response and service.
- A five year bundled contract is a savings of \$7198.00 annually.
- Chief Groth worked with the City Attorney to ensure the City of Cottage Grove’s purchasing guidelines were followed.

- Chief Groth discovered a cooperative purchasing agreement through the League of Oregon Cities, saving Staff time and research in the purchasing process.

Councilor Savage asked about the security level of the cloud storage.

Chief Groth replied that the system Axon uses has gone through all of the security systems and testing required to meet the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) compliance. He added that the IT department maintains a stringent set of rules for the Police Department and the information that it shares.

Councilor Savage asked if approved, how long it would take to implement.

Chief Groth said he hopes to have cameras on the street in a couple of months. He said the City is fortunate to have the Lexipol policy system already in place and would need to get the equipment, teach people how to operate the system and get the storage banks set up.

Councilor Savage asked if the cameras could be turned on manually.

Chief Groth said yes, it is just a matter of turning the system on. He said our policy specifically states that the cameras are required to be activated anytime the officer is on an official contact or call and he said the storage is unlimited.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2083.

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

Councilor Stinnett asked for an explanation of the taser upgrade.

Chief Groth explained that since the inception of tasers there have been several different models. He said if agencies use tasers, they have the ability to purchase new models or not. He said in this bundled contract we will be provided the newest model, which is the Taser 7. He added that if there is a new taser model within the contract period, they will be upgraded as part of the contract.

Councilor Ervin said he imagines that we do not have a policy specific to body-cameras, and asked where the policy for body-worn cameras comes from and who drafts it.

Chief Groth explained that the Police Department Policy manual comes from Lexipol. He said Lexipol is a nationwide policy system that uses a staff of attorneys to make sure that the policies are in compliance and the policies are updated any time case law or a new Oregon law takes effect. He added that Lexipol has a mobile audio/video policy and it is already in place.

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							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution No. 2083 is adopted.

- (b) City Council Adopt Resolution Approving a Joint Grant Management Agreement between the City of Cottage Grove and Bohemia Foundation, Inc. for Management of the Bohemia Park Entry Plaza Project

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart presented background information regarding the approved EDA grant. He said this resolution is to satisfy a specific award condition to have a joint management agreement between the City of Cottage Grove and the Bohemia Foundation.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2084

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 that Resolution No. 2084 is adopted.

(c) A Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 1865 and Adopting New Cottage Grove City Council Procedural Rules

City Manager Richard Meyers presented a draft resolution with the proposed changes that the Rules Committee made to the Council Procedural Rules.

Councilor Solesbee moved to postpone voting on this resolution until the new Council is in place.

There was no second to the motion.

Councilor Ervin called Point of Order stating that public comment should be heard first.

Feather Boustead 1350 Pleasant View Drive, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern with the proposed procedural changes and encouraged the Mayor and Councilors to vote no.

Johanna Zee 125 North 12th Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon voiced her concern regarding many of the proposed procedural changes and addressed them individually by section number.

Amber Bahler 640 Lincoln Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon said that she is concerned about the procedural changes and the potential to limit the First Amendment right.

Jeff C. 650 Lincoln Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke in opposition of the proposed procedural changes.

Duane Taddei 77561 Hwy 99, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the proposed procedural rule changes and said he feels that the vote should be postponed or voted against.

Brad Pennington 1548 Bryant Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the procedural rule changes and asked that Council vote against it.

Bernhard Donner 204 Quincy Ave., Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the proposed rule changes.

Ryan Bahler 640 Lincoln Ave., Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concerns regarding the proposed procedural rule changes and asked Council to postpone and to not approve the changes.

Yvonne Miller 1136 E Taylor Ave., Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the procedural rule changes and asked Council to postpone a decision so that the incoming Mayor and Council can decide or vote it down.

Mayor Gowing explained that the discussion to review the council rules started a year and a half ago because it has not been done since the year 2014. He added that council rules should be reviewed every five years and it kept getting set aside because the last year has been so hectic.

Mayor Gowing said that Councilor Fleck mentioned to him that he was going to suggest that Council postpone a decision based on the Agenda Session discussion. He said Councilor Solesbee has made a motion and asked if there is a second to the motion.

Councilor Fleck asked if a motion is needed to postpone the decision.

City Manager and City Attorney replied no.

Councilor Solesbee said that she would like to have a Worksession with the City Attorney.

Councilor Fleck said that he supports having a Worksession or having the Rules Committee meet again to address the concerns.

Councilor Fleck explained that one of the reasons he wanted to address council rules was to make it less confusing for public comment and simplify the process. He talked about obtaining the balance between getting public input and being able to conduct business. He added that there is no intent to limit public speech but there needs to be a better way to get critical pieces of business done.

Mayor Gowing addressed an outburst from the audience.

Councilor Ervin said that he supports reworking the document to find something that works for the City and balances the concerns. He added that he wants to know the reasoning behind some of the changes and who specifically proposed them. He read some of the changes out loud and asked who proposed them.

Councilor Fleck said the process was many months ago and he does not recall.

Councilor Ervin asked who was involved in the process outside of the three that were on the committee.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said that she attended two or three of the committee meetings and at one of them went through the changes that she prepared in October of 2021.

Councilor Ervin asked what the rule changes were a reaction to.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said she is the scribe in the process and does not know the source of the suggested changes.

Councilor Ervin said there is an unnamed source of the changes and asked if the person is present.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly explained the wording change from Councilor to Council Member and said the desire was to show that the Mayor is included as a Council Member. She discussed the process as to how items are placed on the Agenda.

Councilor Ervin said there have been several meetings where there was a disconnect between what was actually happening and the rules. He said some of the rules that have been applied at Council meetings were never in the 2014 rules but are found in the introduction to the Agenda meeting. He said the rules can be changed and adopted with a majority vote of Council and that never happened with the sign up procedures. He asked why we are picking and choosing as to what the rules are and who is choosing.

Mayor Gowing suggested it be postponed and looked at again with the incoming Council.

An audience member called out to let Councilor Roberts speak.

Councilor Roberts said the Rules Committee has been working on this for many months and it should have been brought back in enough time for the Council to look at it thoroughly. He said a lot of time was taken up with the homeless issues and Council should take the time to get it right.

(d) A Resolution Adopting a Management Plan for Use of Public Lands by Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

City Manager Richard Meyers explained that this resolution was previously reviewed in draft form by Council and if passed, would adopt the Management Plan for the use of Public Lands by Individuals Experiencing Homelessness. He said the resolution establishes the basic policy on how to manage the City's public lands and he continued by explaining some of the details of the plan and the reasoning behind the decisions.

Barbara Schaaf 953 South U Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon said that there should be accountability and she wants to have a say in how her tax dollars are spent. She said she wants to have a forum to discuss private stuff not Council stuff.

Johanna Zee 125 North 12th Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the management plan and said it is clear that it is not working. She said she hoped that we could work together as a community but we do not have common goals and she is concerned about the lack of transparency.

Duane Taddei 77561 Hwy 99, Cottage Grove, Oregon spoke against the management plan and recounted a recent experience with a homeless family. He said the focus needs to be a low income affordable housing component to the MUPTE.

Amy Merryday 205 Adams Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern about not having a gray water system at the overflow site, creating a hazardous environment.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2086

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

Councilor Solesbee said she does not support the management plan and said from the beginning she wanted to do a dusk-to-dawn site. She said Council was told that we could not do a dusk-to-dawn because it was a manpower issue, but she said we are using a lot of manpower with the current sites and that could be cut in half if we did dusk-to-dawn. She added that the phrase lying, sitting, sleeping and the act of staying warm has been changed to camping and there is a big distinction between the two. She said passing this plan opens up every single one of our parks and it is a mistake.

Councilor Roberts said it is his understanding that this document protects our parks in a certain order. He expressed concern about the 12th Street site and said that he believes it needs a host. He added that there are several factions of the community fighting over what is best for the site and they are using the homeless as political pawns.

Councilor Stinnett asked how much manpower is being spent on the 12th Street site.

City Manager said the contractor empties the port-a-pottys twice a week and the dumpster is emptied three times a week. He said Teresa and the team are helping to coordinate donations and the oversight is that we are able to drive by the site to see if the rules are being followed.

City Manager said the City does not have the funding to create a host at the site and this resolution would designate spots for camping so that people are not scattered through all of the parks. He added that park rules would apply to land that is designated for camping.

Councilor Savage said that it is better to donate to a service, so that people who need the service can be funneled to the right provider. She said she is concerned with the homeless population growing and she knows due to the rent moratorium people are now losing their homes.

Councilor Savage asked if anyone is at the Douglas overflow site.

City Manager replied no and he provided statistics regarding the 12th Street site.

Councilor Savage asked if we could propose that anything moving forward would be a dusk-to-dawn site.

City Manager explained that the challenge with a dusk-to-dawn site is that as soon as they leave the site, they could set up a tent and be in a park all day long, staying warm and dry. He said they would be scattered throughout the community, you will be moving them back and forth and it does not provide opportunities to make assessments.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said legally you could do a dusk-to-dawn.

Councilor Solesbee said there are other ways of staying warm and dry.

Councilor Fleck said the overflow site is a challenge. He said we are seeing people come from other areas and the community does not have the capacity to serve more people. He explained that Lane County is the Community Action Agency and what their role is. He said this resolution is the final piece of what Council has been working on for the entire year, to make sure that we have playgrounds and parks without people camping in them.

Councilor Ervin asked how we are defining if things are working and said maybe we should set that first.

Councilor Fleck said the challenge is that people are being evicted weekly. He said he is not sure if the state or even the west coast has that answer because there is no housing to support the population. He said at this point, we need to do our best.

Councilor Ervin said it does not work to change course after assessing when there are no means to define if things are working.

Councilor Fleck told Councilor Ervin that he is right, but the problem is that doing nothing is not a solution. He said we should let this go for a period and then assess. He said maybe some other things will change as far as the legislature or other money matters.

Councilor Ervin said if we wait to assess, after we have accomplish all of our objectives, we will be too far down the road and will have wasted all of our time and money.

Councilor Solesbee asked the City Manager what he envisions a dusk-to-dawn management would be.

City Manager explained that a dusk-to-dawn managed site would have an area closed off to any access during the day. He said at a certain time of night you would need at least two individuals checking people in, making sure that things are set up properly and that the area is safe. He said in the morning, you would need staff to be there to make sure that everyone leaves and then those people would be in City parks, while people are trying to use the parks.

Councilor Solesbee said she disagrees and said that as a City we could pass an ordinance that says you could not be there unless it is dusk-to dawn.

City Manager said they will be in other parks, outside of dusk-to-dawn.

Councilor Solesbee asked why and said we can designate what we have available.

City Manager said because the court case does not mean only at night, they have a right to be on public land.

Councilor Solesbee said they could be underneath the cover at trailhead and not setting up a tent and wear a coat like the rest of the people.

City Manager said they could also be in the pavilion at Bohemia and Coiner Park and they could set up pop up tents.

Councilor Solesbee said yes they can and she does not understand why we don't try it and see how much management it truly takes. She recounted a conversation she had with a man who was previously homeless and she said he told her that the City is wrong for allowing the homeless to have too many belongings. She said she doesn't understand why we just don't try it and she explained the process in which she would run it.

Councilor Fleck conveyed his experiences with checking people in and out of the Warming Shelter and explained how labor intensive it was. He said if we do a dusk-to-dawn site, our Police would be taking care of this and they are already shorthanded. He said if the individuals cannot carry all of their belongings, it will be our Public Work department taking care of that. He said from a pragmatic standpoint, a dusk-to-dawn makes no sense. He said if you are moving people, all day, every day you might get some people to leave town and that is ultimately what we are trying to do.

Councilor Solesbee responded to Councilor Fleck by saying that he also said an unmanned camp was a recipe for disaster, which is what we are doing. She said why no give it a shot.

Councilor Fleck asked the Mayor to call the question.

Mayor Gowing said if there is no more discussion he will call 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							

- (e) An Ordinance Amending Chapters 9.28 and 12.24 of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code Regarding Offenses by or Against Minors and City Parks and Public Playgrounds

City Manager Richard Meyers explained to Council that this ordinance contains code provisions that will clean up the code and eliminate the challenges under House Bill 3115. He said the City Attorney has done an audit of City Code and searched for such references and terms. He discussed the provisions that were changed and how they would affect our ability to enforce including curfew, park hours and the appeals process. He added that in some selected sections the word Parks was changed to Public Property.

Councilor Fleck said he want every citizen to have a fair opportunity to appeal and asked for an explanation of the appeals process. He said it does not sound like an easy process for someone who doesn't have the means.

City Manager said that it is not an easy process for either side. He said if someone has two or more violations they could be cited and are given ten days to leave and after they have been cited, they have six days to file an appeal and it would go through the court process.

Councilor Fleck said that he does not want to take away the tools to address bad behaviors. He said he wants to make sure that if someone does not have the means to provide the documents, the City would do so for them.

City Manager said when they get the exclusion, they will be provided the documents.

Councilor Ervin asked what the definition is of a City Facility.

City Attorney asked what section he is referring to.

Councilor Ervin said it was just brought up.

City Manager said in the park definition, facilities are typically the improvements that are on the property such as pavilions, playground equipment, and recreational things that have been developed. He said facilities on public property, excluding parks, would be things such as the Water Treatment Plant, fencing and those kind of things that have been developed.

Councilor Ervin asked if the bathroom in the park would be a city facility.

City Manager replied yes. He said camping inside a bathroom is not allowed and camping inside a public building or facility is not allowed or protected under the constitutional provisions of the rulings.

Councilor Ervin asked to clarify, if a city facility would be any improvement on public land.

City Attorney said that is a good general description.

Councilor Ervin said he is looking at access to City employee's contracts and facilities and it says that Council Members in official capacity must be pre-approved by the City Manager. He said he was wondering if under those proposed rules, if he has to ask to go to the bathroom at a park, because that is how it was written.

City Manager replied no, and that is not in this code, it is in the rules.

Councilor Ervin said, so definitions shift.

City Manager replied yes, definitions shift from title to title and even chapter to chapter.

Councilor Ervin asked if there is no definition in the chapter, how is it defined.

City Attorney said it could vary, sometimes based on context and sometimes it refers to the general Webster's definition.

Councilor Ervin asked who makes that determination.

City Attorney said when you are adopting code, if there is something that is not clear, you would say what you want the word to mean. She said if it becomes an issue and Staff needs an interpretation, they would come to Council and ask for direction.

Councilor Ervin asked if it is the majority of Council's decision.

City Attorney said yes, unless you are challenged and it is taken to court.

City Manager said the City Code was written over the course of the last 70 years or more. He said one Council may define something one way and think that people will understand it, and then fifty years later a new provision is written in another chapter or title, it could be using that meaning or another definition, depending on context.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly updated Council regarding a request for class action in Medford. She said the City of Medford modified their city code, similar to what is being done here, and it was upheld by the same Judge that decided the Grants Pass case at the District level and ruled against the plaintiffs.

City Manager said in addition to that, we have looked at the language that was used in Medford and also Bend and are using much of the same process.

Councilor Solesbee said Grants Pass was pretty harsh with what they were doing. She said she has issues with using the word camping and its definition.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said she was a part of drafting of the ordinance and she also does not like the term camping and would rather not use it. She said it is so burdensome to continue writing the phrase lying, sitting, sleeping and keeping warm and dry.

Councilor Solesbee said but that is the law and this is not.

City Attorney said unless you define camping to mean that and it is the will of the Council.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3167

Mayor Gowing announced the motion with a second.

Councilor Ervin said it would behoove us to change the language.

Councilor Fleck said if there is a friendly amendment to change the camping definition he is open, and asked if the City Attorney could offer a better term.

There was open discussion as to how to change the definition and the use of the word camping in the ordinance.

City Attorney offered a solution to use camp as the broad meaning, but in the recitals, take out the word camping when it is used to describe what is constitutionally required and use the long phrase.

Councilor Ervin said that is his friendly amendment.

Councilor Fleck said that he is open to that amendment.

Mayor Gowing called for further discussion.

City Manager reiterated that Staff will remove camping and camp in the recitals and change it to be sleeping, lying, sitting and keeping warm and dry.

City Attorney added that it would be changed where it is referencing constitutionally required actions.

Mayor Gowing called the voted.

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) First Vote for Ordinance Vacating 198 Square Feet of Right-of-Way located at the Southeast Corner of the Intersection of South 7th and East Fillmore

City Planner Eric Mongan explained that the Public Hearing was held to vacate 198 square feet and the right-of-way located at the Southeast corner of the intersection of South 7th Street and East Fillmore Avenue and to accept 502 square feet of dedicated right-of-way. He said Council can now consider the attached ordinance for the first vote.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3168

Mayor Gowing announced the motion with a second and 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							

Mayor Gowing announced that the first vote for Ordinance No. 3168 carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Approval of Traffic Control Improvements at N. Douglas and Ostrander Lane

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart presented Council with background information regarding the request and findings for safety concerns at the intersection of N. Douglas and Ostrander Lane. He presented Council with the recommendations from Branch Engineering and asked for Council approval to move forward with the improvements.

Councilor Fleck expressed his appreciation to Staff for looking into the matter.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF N. DOUGLAS AND OSTRANDER AND DIRECT STAFF TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES.

Councilor Savage said she appreciates the map and it helped to answer her questions.

Councilor Roberts expressed appreciation for having the safety concerns addressed.

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							

(b) City Council Approve the Local Government Grant Agreement for the Bohemia Park Entry Plaza Splash Pad Project

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart presented Council with background information regarding the grant and the need to approve the Local Government Grant Agreement. He covered a basic timeline for construction and completion.

Amy Merryday 205 Adams Avenue, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern for world climate change and encouraged having an alternative power source to run the water in the advent of a heat dome.

Councilor Stinnett asked if the plans are available for the public to view.

Public Works and Development Director replied not as of yet. He said once the construction documents and the fine details are complete they will be available on the website.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO APPROVE THE ORPD GRANT AGREEMENT LG22-016 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

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							

(c) Concerns from Council

Councilor Roberts announced that he will be resigning as a City Councilor at the end of the January 9, 2023 City Council meeting. He said it was a hard decision but he is following his heart and a lifelong dream.

Councilor Savage recapped her experiences from attending the National League of Cities - City Summit in Kansas City and asked for permission to attend the Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C.

Councilor Ervin thanked Mayor Gowing for his service and recapped the most recent Lane Economic Committee Meeting.

Councilor Fleck thanked Mayor Gowing for his service and told Councilor Roberts that he will be missed. He said he looks forward to having a Council Goal Setting session next year and he hopes that Council will review the MUPTE, reevaluate the city wards and look into having someone manage the overflow site.

Councilor Solesbee told Councilor Roberts that he will be missed and thanked Mayor Gowing for his service.

Youth Representative Kassidy Poetzl recapped her experiences at the National League of Cities City Summit as a Youth Delegate.

Councilor Stinnett thanked Mayor Gowing and Councilor Roberts for their service. He said they both are the picture of dedication to the community.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers asked Council if they support Council Savage attending the Congressional City Conference and recapped the money available in the travel budget.

Council members expressed consensus for her to attend.

City Manager told Council about a program in which the City could potentially be recognized in the All America City Hall of Fame. He said since Cottage Grove has already been an All America City twice, it may be a better option to apply for this recognition.

City Manager said that with the completion of the 2020 census, it is time to look at the Wards and make sure that they are balanced.

City Manager presented Mayor Gowing with a plaque to commemorate his time as the Mayor. He explained that the plaque was made from the original 1931 flooring from the Cottage Grove Armory.

City Manager announced that after the meeting people are invited to stay for a recognition of service for Mayor Gowing.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

City Attorney Carrie Connelly told Council when they meet to discuss the Council Rules she is prepared to provide explanations, descriptions and policy choices for them.

City Attorney thanked Councilor Roberts for the opportunity to work with him and welcomed Mayor Elect Solesbee.

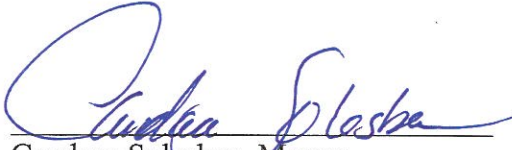
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:32 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held January 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



Mindy Roberts, City Recorder



Candace Solesbee, Mayor