

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solesbee called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Recorder Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor Candace Solesbee, Councilors Alex Dreher, Greg Ervin, Dana Merryday, Chalice Savage and Jon Stinnett.

PRESENT VIA
GOTOMEETING:

COUNCIL ABSENT: Councilor Mike Fleck

YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVE:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Mike Sauerwein, Assistant City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart, Finance Director Roberta Likens, Police Chief Cory Chase and City Planner Eric Mongan.

STAFF PRESENT
VIA GOTOMEETING:

CITY ATTORNEY:

MEDIA PRESENT: KNND

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Removed from the Agenda and postponed for a later meeting.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of February 9, 2024 Agenda Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of February 12, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes and City Council/Joint Contract Review Board Minutes
- (c) Approval of February 12, 2024 Work Session Minutes

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

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X		X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) Resolution Demonstrating a Commitment to Support a Grant Application for a Department of the Interior National Park Service Grant, The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program

City Planner Eric Mongan provided a brief description of the grant opportunity and shared that the grant would fund economic revitalization in the Historic Downtown District, with awards from \$250,000 to \$750,000. He added that it is a Super Grant, which means if received; the City would become the grantor for the award monies and then pass it on to other grantees.

Council asked what the process for disbursing the money would be and how long it would take to receive the grant.

City Planner Eric Mongan responded that the basic facilitation would be similar to the current Historic Façade Renovation Program. He explained some of the differences with the grant including; the City is not allowed to solicit projects, there is not a non-federal match requirement and it is not limited to façade improvements. He added that the City could potentially be notified by end of September.

Mayor Solesbee declared a Potential Conflict of Interest, as owner of commercial buildings in the Historic District, and indicated she will abstain from voting.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2128.

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Dreher	Councilor Ervin	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Merryday	Councilor Savage	Councilor Stinnett	Mayor Solesbee
AYES	X	X		X	X	X	
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							X

Resolution No 2128 adopted.

Councilor Ervin declared a Potential Conflict of Interest, as his wife sells goods at a business in the Historic District.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

- (a) Oregon Department of Transportation Presentation of the Cottage Grove ADA Ramp Project

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart introduced Jenna Berman, ODOT Region 2, Active Transportation Liaison.

Jenna Berman utilized a slide deck, labeled Exhibit A to present information about the ADA Ramp Project and to solicit input from Council regarding proposed changes to Hwy 99 in an effort to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

She highlighted near-term and long-term solutions for reconfiguring Hwy 99 South to 4th Street, results of traffic analysis, proposed changes to four intersections, and discussed crosswalk locations and length.

Council discussion included:

- Concern about removing parking along Hwy 99 in the long-term solution.
- Support of short-term solution with visual stripping barriers to improve safety.
- Concern about crossings, dangerous locations and length.
- Support of ADA ramp improvements and design of sidewalks.
- Support of maintaining parking for businesses.
- Desire to improve appearance of entrance into Cottage Grove from the south.
- Concern for those not familiar with Cottage Grove navigating difficult intersections on Hwy 99.
- Acknowledged possible citizen resistance to reducing Hwy 99 to one travel lane.
- Width of sidewalks and use of sidewalks by bicyclists.

Jenna Berman shared next steps including public outreach to share the near-term and long-term solutions.

(b) Annual Police Chief Report

Police Chief Cory Chase utilized a PowerPoint, labeled Exhibit B to present an Annual Police Report. He read aloud the Core Values statement, which he said was created with the involvement of all members of the Police Department and used as the guiding principles. He recapped data and statistics including the organizational chart, budget, calls for service and type, number of cases, reporting systems, arrest details, traffic stops, child abuse cases, citations and dispatch.

Police Chief commended Police Administrative Assistant, Brooke Crow for her efforts in creating the Annual Report and the Records and Evidence team Shawna Bailey and Jill Drury for compiling the data.

(c) Industrial Park Lot # 1 Purchase Offer from Stratosphere Storage

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart announced that the purchase offer was rescinded and the item removed from the Agenda.

(d) Annual TMDL Update to mayor and Council

City Planner Eric Mongan provided an update to Council on the City's efforts to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan and shared the focus for 2024. He recapped the commitment to the TMDL plan and shared strategies currently used to reduce various forms of pollution in the Coast Fork Sub Basin of the Willamette River.

Council inquired about the City's current DEQ compliance.

City Planner responded that there were no written or verbal compliance issues from DEQ in the last year and that Staff supported DEQ with investigations into reported cases of potential violations, resulting with none being present.

(e) Ziply Presentation

Assistant City Manager Jake Boone informed Council that Ziply fiber is in negotiations with the City for a franchise agreement and a representative was in attendance to share information and request the City's undergrounding Ordinance be amended or repealed.

Jessica Epley, Vice President of Regulatory & External Affairs for Ziply Fiber explained the importance of fiber as it relates to economic development. She shared Ziply's investment to overlay the existing network to upgrade fiber capability and said the company goal is to give Cottage Grove access to the network.

She said Ziply could work within the existing language of the Ordinance and it would not need to be amended or repealed. She added Ziply would go aerially if it were currently in place and go underground whenever possible.

Council discussed and asked questions including:

- Shared a personal story regarding downed service with Century Link.
- Concern with sustainability of overhead lines during storms.
- The cost difference between underground and aerial installations.
- How long it would take to build out the Ziply network.
- How Ziply maintained service in the recent ice storm.
- Expressed interest in having more competition.
- Concern with existing poorly maintained poles.
- The costs of services provided by Ziply.

Jessica Epley responded that Ziply customers did not lose service during the recent storm; she shared that the cost difference for undergrounding is approximately five times greater than aerially, the construction target start date is May, the basic cost of service starts at \$20.00 per month, and explained the different types of lines used and evaluation of pole loads.

Council and Staff discussed the intent and requirements of the Ordinance. Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart read Development Code Section 14.34.500 (B) aloud to Council. Discussion held regarding the interpretation of the Code and the use of the language *existing development conditions*.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart shared recent examples of service being placed underground and contrasting examples of where it would not be possible, due to existing conditions.

Assistant City Manager Jake Boone shared that his interpretation of the Code language, *existing development conditions*, is not referring to current overhead lines being a physical constraint.

Mayor Solesbee suggested Council take additional time to consider the request, seek guidance from Staff and legal counsel and then discuss it at the next Council meeting.

Council member asked if Ziply Fiber would be in competition with the City's Fiber.

Jessica Epley clarified that the City's Fiber is predominately an institutional network for city government and other places of community interest.

City Planner Eric Mongan briefly explained the requirements for any changes made to the Development Code and encouraged Council to review the entire Chapter 14.34, which incorporates the purpose and applicability.

(f) Concerns from Council

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager Mike Sauerwein reported:

- Work Session date to discuss issues surrounding homelessness is set for May 18.
- Commended City Staff and the Ad Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee for their efforts in conducting the Town Hall and numerous committee meetings.
- Thanked Pour 818 for hosting *Coffee with a Cop* and to those who attended the event.
- Thanked Mayor Solesbee for joining him at Art Walk and said he enjoyed meeting the downtown business owners.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart shared that the State recommended, in House Bill 4128, the City of Cottage Grove for \$3 million in State infrastructure funding. He thanked Councilor Savage for securing meetings with Representative Conrad and the Governor's office, and added that her efforts resulted in the City receiving one of the top contributions.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

None.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Solesbee adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:22 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held March 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.



Mindy Roberts, City Recorder



Candace Solesbee, Mayor