

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2022**

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 Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

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

PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: Councilors Greg Ervin, Candace Solesbee, and Jon Stinnett

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Richard Meyers, Police Captain Conrad Gagner, and 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, Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson, City Planner Eric Mongan, and Assistant City Planner Matt Laird

CITY ATTORNEY: None

MEDIA PRESENT: Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel
Cameron Reiten, KNND Radio (Virtual)

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Jeff Gowing gave his State of the City Address which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A".

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- (a) Public Hearing for Ordinance Amending the Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan Land Use Diagram Map & Title 14 Land Use District Map for Don Nordin (MCPA 3-21)

Mayor Jeff Gowing opened the Public Hearing.

City Planner Eric Mongan acknowledged letters that were received by staff by the 5:00 pm deadline (written comments are attached see Exhibit B). He said the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments on the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Plan Land Use Diagram Map & Title 14 Land Use District Map. The Ordinance would redesignate .55 acres located on and adjacent to Chestnut Ave and North L Street from Low Density Residential to Medium Density Residential to allow the properties to be developed for a mix of Medium Density Residential and commercial uses and rezone the property to Residential Commercial. He said both parcels are owned by the applicant Don Nordin and the Planning Commission held Public Hearing on November 17, 2021 and did not recommend approval of (MCPA 3-21).

City Manager Richard Meyers stated the letters Eric mentioned are on the Agenda on the website.

Mayor Gowing asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Bruce Kelsh, 78340 Halderman Road Cottage Grove, Oregon, said Cottage Grove is in need of additional housing and economic development. He said it seems that Don Nordin's proposal speaks to the fact that the Comprehensive Plan needs to be adaptable and adjustable to the times and the conditions of the community. He said he encourages Council to consider the proposal as another way of introducing a different kind of model housing. He said it is worth noting the positives that can come out of this and understands it pushes the limits as far as what the regulations in the past have been.

Don Nordin, 239 Adams Cottage Grove, Oregon, said he has the subject property at 1142 Chestnut Ave. He said City staff has went through the conditions of approval and found no problem and every criteria was met, although Planning Commission decided that was not good enough. He gave background information about a previous plan he had for Cerro Gordo that had limited success in doing what was proposed in the base plan, but all of the elements that were put into the plan forty years ago are still very real today. He said one issue that has not changed is how housing was developed and now we are looking at the situation and realizing there is a crisis.

Mayor Gowing replied to Don Nordin that he is running out of time to speak.

Don Nordin said he is trying to experiment with housing, using a mix use of three families and six individuals. He said the housing will have the infrastructure to gather solar power, address transportation issues by not allowing private ownership of automobiles but have shared transportation.

Mayor Gowing told Don Nordin he is over his time.

Don Nordin continued that he wanted to bring up his last item of the Residential Commercial designation. He said he could not articulate to the Planning Commission why he needed the designation. He said one thing that is necessary is to be able to invite other people to come in.

Mayor Gowing asked Don Nordin to sit down.

Lawrence Lannen, 230 North K Street Cottage Grove, Oregon, said he is new to the community and lives three houses away from the proposed land use. He said he is concerned about the consideration to zone the property as commercial not knowing what might happen to the property once it is zoned commercial. Lawrence stated Planning Commission said the development could be done as proposed without zoning it commercial. He also said he fails to see the value to the neighborhood. He said he worries about the extra traffic, use of the infrastructure, going from low density to medium density and how many people will be in the small area.

Laura Lannen, 230 North K Street Cottage Grove, Oregon said she submitted a letter earlier this afternoon at 4:15 pm and she then read it to Council. She added the neighborhoods need to be protected. She said she loves Don Nordin's idea but does not think it is appropriate for the neighborhood. She said as home owners if they do not keep the area intact then people will not be able to afford to maintain the beautiful gems of architecture in the neighborhood and those places will disappear. She pleaded with Council to not turn this into a commercial property. Laura presented to the City Recorder her written letter.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of December 10, 2021 Agenda Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of December 13, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
- (c) New Full On-Premises Liquor License Application for San Sushi & Teriyaki,
60 Gateway Blvd

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

A citizen approached the podium and asked where she could sign up to say something to Council. Mayor Gowing told her that she needed to sign up before the beginning of the meeting. She said she was working. Mayor Gowing told her, it is the rule. The citizen asked what she can do to say something further. Mayor Gowing explained he has closed the Public Hearing. She asked where she can say something later. Mayor Gowing let her know that she cannot. Councilor Fleck added that she has missed her opportunity.

Mayor Gowing proceeded to call the vote on the motion.

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

City Planner Eric Mongan said applications are being accepted for the Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant as a funding opportunity. He said in the year 2015 Council adopted the Main Street Refinement Plan. He said the plan included the reconstruction of East Main Street from 8th Street to the Coast Fork of the Willamette River and from the Armory to the Community Center, it also included reconstruction of the alleys north and south of Main Street. Cost estimates for the fully designed and constructed plan were over 13 million dollars. The ceiling for the grant is five million dollars, therefore staff is proposing to limit the project scope to Main Street reconstruction only. He said the EDA grant request will be for five million dollars, and the City match of 20 percent will be in the form of in-kind and cash contributions totaling one million dollars. Eric stated it is necessary at this time to adopt the Resolution to authorize support for the submittal of the grant application and acknowledge the required 20 percent contribution should the grant be awarded to the City.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2059.

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) Second Vote on Ordinance No. 3153 Repealing Chapter 5.12 of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code Regarding Tobacco Retail Licensing and Sale Regulations

City Manager Richard Meyers said Council decided in November 2021 to adopt and allow the State to operate the statewide law regarding the licensing and sale of tobacco, making the City ordinance unnecessary. This will be the final vote to adopt the Ordinance repealing the City local tobacco licensing program.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 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							

(c) First Vote for Ordinance Amending the Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan Land Use Diagram Map & Title 14 Land Use District Map for Don Nordin (MCPA 3-21)

City Planner Eric Mongan said Council has held the Public Hearing on the proposed amendment. He said the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the attached Ordinance on November 17, 2021 and after the hearing and discussion the Commission unanimously recommended Council not approve the Ordinance. He said the minutes from the meeting are attached for the purpose of giving Council an understanding of how the Planning Commission arrived at the decision. He said generally speaking, Planning Commission arrived at the decision to not recommend approval due to the belief that there are existing mechanisms the applicant or property owner could use to obtain the desired goal of developing the site as a mixed use cottage cluster, with housing and limited commercial opportunities. He said it is now appropriate Council consider the applicants Type 4 legislative application to amend the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use District Map. Mongan added there was a small error in the draft ordinance that was published with the sentence "Council Ordains..." just below the header and it has been removed.

Councilor Fleck said it is always a tough situation when you have neighbors who come before Council or Planning Commission and they are not objective. He said if this was a land use item Council would not be having the conversation. He said City staff determined the applicant met all of the standards in the City code. He said the problem is, and the Planning Commission hit the nail on the head, the RC is the question mark. Councilor Fleck said this is a difficult situation to look at. He said he does know that Mr. Nordin ran a bicycle trailer business out of the property for a number of years, so this property has been in a Residential Commercial quasi state. Councilor Fleck said he is going to support the Ordinance. He was not sure coming into the meeting how he would feel about it, because he does worry about the impact on neighborhoods. He said the City of Cottage Grove has a vacancy rate lower than 1% for rentals, and he has pushed out of his comfort zone and allowed the City to change code to allow smaller properties, to allow higher density. He said he feels the City needs to do this to meet the needs of the community and be able to adapt.

Councilor Savage said her confusion comes from staff recommending approval and the Planning Commission not approving. She said she asked the same question in Agenda Session on Friday, and it is her understanding that the application meets the criteria, and the proposed development can happen without changing the zoning. She said the development is not what we are voting on tonight, but instead we are voting on the zone change. She said the development would be a positive impact for the community, we need housing desperately and it can happen with the current zoning, and all is needed is a Conditional Use permit.

Mayor Gowing said he supports the concept but not the zone change, because the Planning Commission voted unanimously to not change the zone and he does not want to undermine the Planning Commission.

Councilor Ervin asked under the current zoning what kind of businesses could be there and how much weight public comment has in the decision making process in a Conditional Use application.

City Planner Eric Mongan stated the types of businesses allowed under the current zoning R1 with conditional use are things like a tutoring center, office space, general commercial retail sales and service such as a nail salon or corner market under 2,000 square feet. He said those are just examples of development types that would be allowed in the RC zone, but would be subject to review by the Planning Commission.

Councilor Ervin asked to clarify if those examples were for an RC zone and stated he was inquiring about the current zoning.

City Planner Eric Mongan apologized and said those are examples with the R1 zone with a conditional use permit. He said the conditional use permit process requires the applicant would have to send notice to every neighbor within 300 feet and hold a neighborhood meeting as part of the pre application process.

He said the applicant would then have to apply for the conditional use permit, staff would send out notices to the same neighbors within 300 feet around the subject property, and a Public

Hearing would be held. He said the intent of conditional use in City code is to lessen the impact of proposals on adjacent development, specifically light, noise, dust, odor, and all of those things are fairly subjective. He said it could be prohibitive to development if a case was made by people speaking at the hearing. He added that conditional uses are subjective, and if there is perception of adverse impact to the neighborhood the permit can be denied.

Councilor Ervin asked City Planner Eric Mongan to clarify if the decision that is being made right now is objectively based on the criteria in City code or if there is an element of subjectivity.

City Planner Eric Mongan replied this is a policy based decision potentially guiding us into the future even though it does go through some testing to determine if it meets the 19 Statewide planning goals, but in the end it is a policy decision vote or subjective.

Councilor Fleck followed up that he agrees it is a subjective decision and we would not be here if it was, because all of the criteria of the applicant followed. He said he needs to stick with City code and the intent of it, and he said he believes the applicant met that intent.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 3154.

Councilor Ervin said he is trying to balance the preservation of the thing that makes Cottage Grove desirable and he remembers pushing against changing the lot sizes and what is permitted on them. He said he will be voting no on the zone change understanding that goes against what Mr. Nordin is trying to do on his property.

Councilor Stinnett said he is torn on this item. He said he understands the need for housing in Cottage Grove and does not doubt Mr. Nordin's good intentions for the property and the neighborhood. He said that he is deferring to the expertise of the Planning Commission and the concerns of the neighborhood and will be voting no.

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			
NAYS	X	X	X		X	X	X
ABSTAIN							

MOTION FAILED 1-6

- (d) Ordinance Amending the Title 14 Land Use District Map for 78282, 78286, 78290, &78294 Hwy 99

City Planner Eric Mongan said on December 13, 2021 Council adopted Ordinance 3150 annexing 1.57 acres into the City of Cottage Grove. He said as a requirement of annexation the property owner is required to apply for a zone change of the subject property to redesignate the zoning from County zoning to City zoning. He said Planning Commission held a Public Hearing for the zone change on December 15, 2021 voting 6-0 in favor of the zone change, and now council is being asked to adopt the Ordinance. He said the Ordinance has been available for more than one week prior to this meeting and staff is recommending adoption.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 3155.

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) Election of Council President

City Manager Richard Meyers said every year City Council elects a Council President. He said Councilor Fleck has served this past year and it is now up for Council to make the selection for the next year.

Councilor Roberts nominated Councilor Fleck as Council President. He said he did a great job of sitting in when needed and his wisdom would be best for the City.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN THAT COUNCILOR FLECK BE ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Councilor Fleck thanked Council for the support and announced his candidacy for Mayor in the upcoming election.

Councilor Roberts said to Councilor Fleck since working with him outside of Council he has gotten to know him better and thanked him for his help and making him a better Councilor.

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 Subcommittee and Liaison Appointments

City Manager said at the start of the New Year Council also gets to decide on Subcommittee and Liaison Appointments. He said there is a list attached to the memo with one change, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency is listed as Greg Ervin and Lane Workforce Partnership Council is listed as Mike Fleck, those two appointments will be switched. He also said when making the appointments the only one that needs to be adopted specifically by the Council is the Vision Keeper Appointments.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE MAYOR'S SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS AND THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILOR ROBERTS AND COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO THE VISION KEEPERS COMMITTEE.

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) Planning Commission Appointments

City Planner Eric Mongan asked if Councilor Ervin would like to present the recommendation of the Interview Subcommittee.

Councilor Ervin said the Subcommittee interviewed the applicants, thanked those who applied and encouraged Donn Rust to continue to apply.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT TIM BURNS, ASHLEY RIGEL AND DAVID CHRISTOPHER BE APPOINTED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THREE YEAR TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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) Homelessness Work Session

City Manager Richard Meyers recalled at the last City Council meeting there was a discussion about homelessness in Cottage Grove. He said staff is putting together a package considering all of the information that has been received and would like to present it in a work session on January 31, 2022 from 6 to 8 pm so the City can take some sort of action at the Council meeting in February.

Councilor Roberts asked if the City Attorney will be at the meeting.

City Manager Richard Meyers said she is scheduled to be at the meeting on January 31st if that date works for all of the Council.

Mayor Gowing confirmed the date for the Work Session with all Councilors.

(e) Parking Analysis; Downtown

Assistant City Planner Matt Laird presented the findings from the Downtown Parking Analysis. He outlined the dates and times the analysis took place, and the number and types of spaces available. He said the data gathered indicates downtown Cottage Grove does have enough parking even at peak times. He said the parking data gathered shows the biggest driver of parking occupancy is food and restaurant related and the three most occupied areas of parking are next to Jack Sprats, Coast Fork Brewing, and in the evening El Tapatio. He said it is worth noting the parking counts were conducted during the COVID -19 pandemic and may be lower than what was previously considered normal.

Councilor Fleck said he appreciates staff doing the analysis. He said overall there is a lot of parking and there are some areas that are very busy. He said he recalls the Main Street Refinement plan talks about bulb-outs on the ends of both streets which will remove two more parking spaces in addition to the spots that have been lost because of the streateries. He said he would urge real caution about losing any more parking spots in those areas and expressed concerned about the lack of parking in the area of the Armory.

Councilor Savage said she is going to reiterate her comments from Friday Agenda session. She said she works downtown and appreciates the visuals provided in the analysis. She said her concern is the people who park downtown and stay longer than the two or three hour parking limit. She said she has seen cars parked in the same spot for five days and there is zero enforcement, so it is left to business owners and tenants to call in and have it enforced. She said there are two parking lots over by El Tapitio that need better lighting, surfacing, and striping so they get used more.

Councilor Roberts said he lives downtown and would like to find a way for people who live downtown to have an easier way to park closer to where they live without punishing them. He said there is plenty of parking and he does not have a problem finding parking in front of or around his building. He said he agrees with Councilor Savage that in order for our City lots to be used by more people they need to be better lit, and better taken care of. He asked when the Armory becomes what it can be, will there be enough parking for a big event there.

Councilor Ervin said he would like to emphasize the perception issue of the parking lots. He said nicely paved and marked parking lots that are well lit are things you desire and expect out of a downtown area. He also said even with small events at the Armory, you cannot park close, there is not very good lighting, and the sidewalks are junk. He said we need a decent parking area where you can have bigger events and attract people downtown. He said he thinks we miss a lot of traffic and opportunities because of the drive by perception. He thanked staff for the study and said it is an important thing to consider, but he said a more important thing to consider is who we are trying to be.

Mayor Gowing said he walks around town a lot and the City parking lot by the Umpqua Bank parking lot has very few cars in it, if any. He says he lives five blocks from the Armory and he just walks and he thanked staff for the study.

(f) Municipal Court Judge Contract Renewal and Amendments

City Manager Richard Meyers said the Municipal Court Judge's contract expired December 31st, 2021. He said Council held the Judge's evaluation and as a result he is asking for a monthly increase of \$400 in his 2022 contract. Richard said the Judge's current salary is \$2100 per month and the last increase was in 2017. He said there is a contract amendment prepared and attached for Council to consider.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE RENEWAL AND AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT AMENDMENTS.

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							

(g) Bid Award for Community Center Roof Repairs

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson reported that the Community Center roof has been leaking for years and even though the City patched the roof last fall it is starting to leak again. He said the City advertised request for bids beginning December 7, 2021 through January 6, 2022 and received two bids. He said staff determined the apparent low bidder Richard's Remodeling LLC is fully qualified to submit and bid for the project. He said the contractor will be required to be substantially complete by September 30, 2022. Staff recommends the Council award by motion the Community Center roof repairs project to the Richard's Remodeling LLC in the amount of \$781,328 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and confirm all associated documents subject to the expiration of the protest period for resolution of any timely filed protests. He added that City Manager Richard Meyers may have some comments regarding funding of the project.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the amount is higher than what was budgeted and in order to do the project the City would have to take out a loan to pay for the construction costs above what we have for the total amount.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE THAT COUNCIL AWARD THE COMMUNITY CENTER ROOF REPAIR PROJECT TO THE QUALIFIED BIDDER RICHARD'S REMODELING LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$781,328.00 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT AND CONFIRM ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROTEST PERIOD FOR RESOLUTION OF ANY TIMELY FILED PROTESTS.

Councilor Roberts asked how many years the roof will last.

City Manager Richard Meyers that the City is getting the roof with a 30 year warranty.

Councilor Roberts said that was his next question, if there was a warranty on the roof.

Councilor Solesbee said the bids were very close and asked how the City came to the decision to choose one contractor over the other.

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson said the City first looks for the low apparent bidder, whether the contractor submitted all of the required materials, and looks for complaints against them by the Contractor Board. He said Richard's Remodeling has a perfect record and was the one contractor out of the two that submitted everything they were supposed to and submitted their prequalification form.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Mr. Sisson for the information and said her concern was in the name of the contractor and wanted to make sure they were actually roofers.

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson thanked Councilor Solesbee for the clarification and said that very reason made him pay special attention on the analysis.

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							

(h) Vision Keepers Committee Interview Subcommittee

City Manager Richard Meyers said there are two At-Large vacancies on the Vision Keepers Committee. He said the City would like to have a Council appointed committee to do those interviews.

Councilor Roberts asked if Councilors who are on the Vision Keepers Committee are allowed to be on the interview committee.

Mayor Gowing said he thinks the two Council representatives on the Vision Keepers Committee should be two of the three that are on the interview committee, and he is willing to be the third person on the interview committee.

Mayor Gowing asked if there needs to be a chair.

City Manager Richard Meyers replied yes, it would be nice.

Mayor Gowing asked if Councilor Savage would be the chair.

Mayor Gowing appointed Councilor Roberts, himself and Councilor Savage as chair to serve on the Vision Keepers Interview Subcommittee.

(i) Concerns from Council

Councilor Roberts asked if the area on Main Street in front of the new Verizon is the final patch in the road or if it will be redone.

City Manager Richard Meyers replied that it will be redone and it is temporary.

Councilor Roberts said he would like everyone to reread the Main Street Refinement Plan in case the City receives the five million dollar grant, because Council will have to decide what is best for Main Street and our businesses in the area.

Councilor Roberts also informed Council that as a member of the Cottage Grove Carousel Board of Directors the carousel is now paid off. He said he is hoping the City will work to get the carousel close to downtown and it would be great economic development for downtown businesses. He personally invited everyone to come to the Open House Saturday January 15, 2022 at the King Estate Winery in the warehouse at the Industrial Park to take a ride.

Councilor Roberts added that he is looking forward to working with Council and City Staff on the homelessness issue. He said he has enjoyed helping Councilor Fleck and his staff with the Warming Shelter.

Councilor Fleck said the Warming Shelter was activated for eight days in a row from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day and that it could not of been done without his staff , all of the people who stepped up to help, and City staff. He commended the Mayor for his State of the City Address and it hits the nail on the head.

Councilor Savage reminded Council of an issue she brought up at the last Council regarding traffic and speeding on Kalapuya Way. She expressed gratitude to Chief Shepherd for getting the speed signs up in the area. She said the same resident expressed parking issues on the street and she appreciates the speed of the response to get back to the resident.

Councilor Savage said she would like to encourage Don Nordin to continue down his path. She said tonight's decision does not mean no to his project, and she wanted to clarify it was about the zone change and not a personal no against the project.

Councilor Savage said this is an election year and she encourages everyone to reach out to people who are running in local, and state elections. She said getting to know the people who are running is incredible and it helps people come together.

Councilor Ervin thanked Mayor Gowing for the State of the City Address and wished him best of luck in his running for the legislative position.

Councilor Ervin asked if Council could get a meeting scheduled to revisit Council rules.

He also asked for an update on the Taylor sidewalk rebuilding.

Councilor Ervin acknowledged an email he received regarding a Skate Park Survey and asked what is needed to drive things forward and if we are looking at anything realistically happening and he volunteered to help.

Ervin also mentioned there is a fair amount of property theft happening. He said it is unnerving that kid's bikes get stolen out of the yard, in a pretty good neighborhood with people watching. He said he would like to see more accountability on parents, and that kids who are involved in theft and other things that destroy the nice culture that we have and would like to discuss ideas around the topic.

Mayor Gowing said that he is blessed to work with the best Council in the state. He said he is the President of the Oregon Mayor's Association and he gets to brag about Council a lot. He added that it is a pleasure to represent Council.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Home Share Oregon Presentation

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced Judy Smith from Home Share Oregon.

Judy Smith thanked Council for letting her come to the meeting and said that she let Teresa Cowen know she would like to sit in on the Council meeting for a while so that she could get a feel for the community. She said she is impressed with the way the City pulls together and makes things happen.

Judy Smith presented an overview and explanation of Home Share Oregon (the presentation is attached as exhibit C). She explained the housing crisis and the financial challenges homeowners are facing. She said that Home Share is flexible, affordable, efficient, and independent. She said the Home Share Oregon goal is to help homeowners find secure, compatible people to live with them. She said this is done by building an online profile with Silver Nest, viewing matches, and starting a conversation with prospective people. Silver Nest provides background checks, and gives people the tools to create a customizable agreement between the parties.

Judy Smith shared in the year 2021 over 10,000 people visited their website and 316 homeowners have listed their spare bedrooms for rent. She asked Council to help spread the word, consider volunteering for the Home Share Action team, and sign up to receive their newsletter.

Councilor Ervin thanked Judy for the presentation and asked if Home Share Oregon has considered getting homeless in the homes and addressing concerns that the homeowners may have. He said there may also be an opportunity to get into contact with owners of vacant properties and find a solution for renovation or making the homes livable.

Judy Smith replied the unhoused are not their target and there are other organizations that are working diligent in the area to provide support and case management to help the unhoused. She said their target is the people who are working, but can't afford the cost of an apartment but could afford a room in someone's home. She said home sharing is a way to prevent someone from becoming unhoused in the first place. She said that she can't speak to the idea of using vacant properties for home sharing, it then becomes more of a rental than a home share.

Councilor Ervin thanked Judy for the answer and explained that his understanding is that a portion of the homeless in our community have steady income but still cannot afford a rental.

Judy Smith said there is definitely opportunity and they do not tell someone that they cannot apply, but they cannot guarantee housing because it is based on compatibility and is negotiated between the homeowner and potential renter.

Councilor Fleck asked what a typical contract is like.

Judy Smith replied that the agreements include a clause that says if the arrangement is not working for either party that it can be dissolved. It is a legal document that is signed on DocuSign. She said the contract is negotiated between both parties and it reflects what they both want, they both sign it and it becomes a legal document.

Councilor Savage gave personal testimony regarding a time when her husband worked in a different town than her family and he stayed in the home with a widower until her family was able to move down. She said it was an amazing relationship and they were grateful for the space. She thanked Judy for the presentation and is encouraged by the program.

Judy Smith thanked Councilor Savage and asked if she could reach out to her to share her story.

(b) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers said the Red Cross did not need the facility this past weekend, the water receded and it was not needed. He said the Red Cross was shown the Armory, they are impressed with facility and look forward to using it when it has the handicap access.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the City received a thank you note from Nadine Kelly and read the card to Council. He said the pilots drop off donations to help pay for gas and maintenance on the Airport Courtesy Car and a check was enclosed for \$120.00.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

- (a) Report from City Attorney

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gowing recessed the meeting at 9:08 pm to go into Executive Session.

Council reconvened at 9:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:30 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held January 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor