

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 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, and Kenneth Michael Roberts

PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: Councilor Candace Solesbee, Chalice Savage, Jon Stinnett, and Greg Ervin

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Richard Meyers, Police Chief Scott Shepherd, 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, and Assistant City Planner Matt Laird

CITY ATTORNEY: None

MEDIA PRESENT: Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Johanna Zee 316 Quincy Ave, Cottage Grove, Oregon thanked Council for giving her the time to speak. She said she has prepared a statement because a lot of people are concerned. She said she counts on the City Council, the Mayor, and the City Manager to make decisions that are in the best interest of our community and she hopes the decisions will be made using experience, wisdom, and compassion to guide Council in making decisions. She said what is being seen is a great conflict of interest, a lack of transparency, and outright lies. She said this past weekend a bus showed up in Cottage Grove and workers went to great lengths to accommodate them, paid for by FEMA a government organization that is well known for its intimidation tactics and

threats to anyone who does not follow their agenda. She said in response to the show of force against humanity, more than two dozen residents showed up to make it clear that they did not want or need them in our town. She said yes, some people were so disgusted by what was going on, like the forced restraint of a young girl who was screaming, that they reacted in kind. She said if Council does not know by now that the injections can be lethal, she invited them to remove their heads from the sand, clear their mind, and do some research. She said she is all for choice, but she is also for informed consent, and there was no informed consent. She said Council has a choice, they can ignore this and they will be held liable by virtue of her putting Council on notice at this point, or Council could do their own research and take action to stop the attack on our citizens. She said masks and the jab don't work.

Mayor Gowing told Johanna Zee that her time to speak is up.

Johanna Zee said that injections are dangerous and it is a crime to administer them. She said it is a violation of the Oregon Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Nuremberg Code to allow vaccine mandates and they are obligated to remove a tyrannical government.

Monique Peppers 460 Boardwalk Place, Cottage Grove, Oregon thanked Council for taking the time to hear her speak. She said she wanted to give Council information that she has found about masking. She proceeded to read information indicating why masks are harmful and are not effective in a social environment to control, prevent, or eliminate the spread of COVID. She said if you look on the box of paper masks it states that it does not prevent COVID 19 or any other viruses.

Sara Myers approached the podium, stated her name and that she is a resident of Cottage Grove.

Mayor Gowing asked her to state her address for the record.

She said that she would prefer not to give her address and asked if that was okay.

Mayor Gowing told her that it is Council rules to provide your name and address for the record.

Bill Christiansen 1337 Elm Ave, Cottage Grove, Oregon said he has been a part of the protest involving FEMA for the last three days and the people involved in the protest that he knows, believe they change hearts by information and persuasion not by blocking driveways, flooding toilets, and whatever else the group as a whole is being accused of. He said when you see protesters in town, he will probably be there and he will be smiling and trying to persuade people by truth not by lies, anger, screaming and yelling.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of January 7, 2022 Agenda Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of January 10, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

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

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) Resolution Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart said this Resolution amends two sections of the Comprehensive Fee Schedule. He said the Planning section was amended to add a fee for Erosion Prevention Permits at a cost of \$55 for inspection fees which includes up to four inspections and a \$27 fee for a single inspection. He added that the minimum fee for Land Use Review for building permits was increased from \$20 to \$25 to align with other minimum planning fees. He said section eleven was being amended to change the Cleaning Deposit to a Key/Cleaning Deposit for the Armory. He said with the installation of the new exterior doors, all doors will be keyed the same and if a key is lost or not returned there would be a substantial cost to the City to rekey the doors. He said the amendment also shows the adjustment to the System Development Charges that went into effect January 1, 2022. He said the SDC's are adjusted pursuant to Ordinance, by taking the annual increase average of 20 cities from the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index, which was 7.34 % and for reference, the Construction Cost Index for Portland was over 19%. He said it is recommended that Council adopt the Resolution amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2060.

Councilor Stinnett asked if Portland was one of the 20 cities that was used in the averaging.

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart said he wanted to point out, if the City went only with the City of Portland's Construction Cost Index that amount was 19%, he added that he could not affirm if Portland was used in the 20 city average, but he will check with City Engineer Ron Bradsby.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion.

There was no further discussion.

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. 2060 was adopted.

- (b) Resolution Establishing Appropriations within the Special Trusts Fund for the Expenditure of an Unforeseen Specific Purpose Donation from the First Presbyterian Church's Earth and Social Justice Committee and the Ministerial Association.

Finance Director Roberta Likens explained that the City had received a \$400 donation with the potential of up to \$2000 or more. She said the donation is to specifically be used to provide assistance to persons in the community through the Cottage Grove Police Officers, when they identify a need. She explained if the funds are not spent in the current fiscal year the Trust Fund Moneys are maintained and carried forward to the next fiscal year. She said in order to lawfully spend the money that is being donated the City must comply with the requirements of the local budget law and that it is recommended that Council adopt the Resolution.

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon thanked Council for allowing him the time to speak and also thanked Bert, Richard, and Scott for working with him to come up with the idea and make it manageable for the City. He said initially when he came up with the idea the intent was to have a fund that would provide each officer with about \$100, and since there are about 20 officers that is how he came up with the amount of \$2000. He said there are a couple pieces to the idea that are very appealing, in that it allows Police Officers to use their own discretion as to what the needs are and it provides the resources for them to be able to act on that. He said he appreciates the Council's consideration and thanked City Staff for making it possible and fiscally responsible.

Councilor Ervin thanked Bruce Kelsh for all that he has done to make this happen and asked for clarification if the amount is governed by Police Policy and are the Officers limited to \$100 each.

Bruce Kelsh replied that he just picked that dollar amount because it seemed like a good place to start and if there is an increase in the donations he thinks it is up to the City to do what seems reasonable.

Council Ervin expressed concern that the gifts of kindness could get too big and how they are distributed as far as favoritism. He said at the \$100 amount he is not too concerned but maybe it should be added to Police Policy.

Finance Director Roberta Likens replied that the Officers will use their City issued credit card to provide the need and those receipts will be reviewed monthly by Chief Shepherd and herself as those bills are being paid.

Police Chief Scott Shepherd added that he appreciates what Bruce Kelsh has put together and there is a need. He said that City Officers have used their own funds to help people in need on a regular basis throughout the year. He said he understands concerns about misuse and it will be something that will be monitored. He said he believes that the funds will be used for things such as gas, food, diapers, and not rent, as there are programs in the City that would take care of those needs and the officers would steer them in that direction.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Bruce Kelsh for the program and shared a personal story about a situation that she witnessed downtown. She said the officer who responded to the call started first by asking the suspect if they had taken their medication, had they eaten, did they have enough water and she said the Officer responded in a very caring way.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2061.

Councilor Fleck continued by saying that he supports the idea and would like to make a donation. He said in his role with Community Sharing he often witnesses the Police Officers and appreciates the kindness and firmness in their roles. He said he is conscientious about making sure money is used appropriately and he trusts the Chief and the Officers.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion.

There was no further discussion.

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. 2061 was adopted.

(c) Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with South Lane Wheels Regarding 5310 and STF Funds

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart explained that the City is the pass through agent for Lane Transit District to South Lane Wheels for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Funding. He said it is recommended that Council adopt the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the agreement.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2062.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion.

There was no discussion.

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. 2062 was adopted.

(d) Resolution to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with South Lane Wheels Related to (2020-2023) 5311 Transit Grant

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart explained that this Resolution is similar to the previous one and that the City is required to enter into agreement with South Lane Wheels regarding the administration and implementation of the 5311 Federal Funds. He said it is recommended that Council adopt the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2063.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion.

There was no discussion.

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. 2063 was adopted.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Leak Adjustment Request – Witherspoon Court

City Manager Richard Meyers explained that a water leak was experienced starting in March of 2019 at Witherspoon Court located on Pennoyer. He said the leak started in the beginning of March, the City changed the meter half way through March, and as of March 21st, the day the meter was changed out, the meter had measured consumption of 448 and the previous entire month was 406. He said in November of 2020 the City notified Witherspoon of a possible leak, and Witherspoon indicated they did not believe there was a leak because they could not detect anything. In December of 2020, the City notified Witherspoon that it appeared there was still a leak and at that point Witherspoon hired a leak detection company and discovered the leak. He said the leak was about 120 feet from the meter. He said as a result of fixing the leak, a one month leak adjustment was given according to City Code and that this request is from Witherspoon Court to City Council to assist them with the overage for the wastewater portion of the leak in the amount of \$10,051.00. Richard said this is up for Council discretion and he added that Witherspoon Court is a Senior Low Income Housing run as a nonprofit and that Board Members James and Barbara Gant, and Bruce Kelsh are in attendance to speak on the topic.

Jim Gant 910 Taylor Ave, Cottage Grove, Oregon said he is a 65 year resident of Cottage Grove, served on City Council for a six year period in the 1970's, and later served six years on the Lane County Family Commission. He said he has a sense of what it takes to be a City Councilor, the time, effort, dedication, and thanked the Council for their service. He said he is the Board Chairman of Witherspoon Court and speaks in support of the City staff recommendation that Council consider helping Witherspoon with the water bill that occurred as a result of the leak. He said the water that occurred from this leak went into the ground and was not served by the wastewater system of the City and would like the help of Council to serve the people of low income.

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon said the important thing to consider is that Witherspoon Court has paid out ten thousand dollars for wastewater fees and that service was not used because water did not go into the wastewater system. He said he knows there has been a time delay in sorting things out, and Witherspoon is asking for Council consideration of repaying for services that they paid for, but did not receive.

Councilor Fleck said this is a difficult situation, in that the City is willing to waive one month's fee and then hope that customers will recognize there is a problem and get it fixed, and in this situation the leaking lasted a year and a half. He said he appreciates that the applicant is only looking for the wastewater portion to be reimbursed. He said he asked City staff on Friday if approving this request would be setting a precedent. He added that Witherspoon does great work for the City of Cottage Grove, is a nonprofit and acknowledged the leak was probably a tremendous burden on their budget. He said he would support waiving the charges, but would be reluctant to do so in the future unless there is compelling argument.

Councilor Ervin said that he does not support the adjustment and that it is not a reflection of the good work that is being done or the affordability of homes that is being provided by the organization. He said his decision is out of general fairness to other utility paying organizations and individuals and hopes that Witherspoon can take it up with their management company because he feels that is where the responsibility lies.

Councilor Savage said she feels conflicted in that the City notified the company twice about the leak and nothing was done. She proposed that the City repay them for December and November for a total of three months.

Councilor Solesbee said she cannot look at the issue as nonprofit vs. private citizen and that it is a precedence that is being created. She said she understands that it was a mistake but it has to be some sort of a learning experience. She said that she would agree with Councilor Savage's suggestion.

Councilor Fleck said he wanted to make Councilors aware that Witherspoon is only asking for the wastewater portion and assumes that the water portion was a like amount. He said even if we grant the adjustment, the agency is still out about ten thousand dollars that they are not asking for assistance on. He said he feels compelled to support the adjustment and also shares the other Councilors concerns to have everybody in town come to Council when there is already criteria in place.

Mayor Gowing said if there is no more discussion he would entertain a motion.

Councilor Stinnett said he thinks everyone appreciates the work that the nonprofit does. He added that if the property management company was notified they probably should of caught the leak beforehand and it seems like it was their mistake, not the nonprofit and they should be doing their upmost to make sure that something like this doesn't happen. He said he would not be opposed to some sort of good faith reimbursement to the nonprofit, but did not know what dollar amount seemed fair.

Councilor Ervin said he is interested in hearing what measures have been taken with the property management company.

Councilor Solesbee suggested that the adjustment is for anything above their normal use for the time that they did not know about the leak for only the sewer portion. She said she is also interested if the bill was auto paid or if someone was actually writing a check monthly.

Finance Director Roberta Likens replied that the payment is not automatic.

Bruce Kelsh said that Kim Schellman, a representative of the Property Management company is virtually present at the meeting.

Kim said the property management company does feel some responsibility for not recognizing the leak. She said it is now set up that the City is sending the bills straight to the property so that the community manager can keep an eye on the water usage.

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart added for clarification that the City installed a test meter in March of 2019 to see if AMI meters were going to provide better readings and any type of cost savings to the City. He said the meter was installed but it was not hooked up for nearly a year to the automated meter reading system where the meters send information directly to the Utility Clerk. He said the meter was read manually and it was his understanding that the Utility Clerk would take the manual reads and compare them to previous like months to see if there was any indication of an issue. He said the Utility Clerk did look at the usage and because it was the end of March and a little bit drier than usual, the extra usage was not concerning. He added that the usage was watched throughout the year, but indication of a leak was not seen until the meter was registering readings every 15 minutes, at that point you could see that there was water usage 24 hours a day. He said although it was a one year period and there was no clear definition to the Utility Clerk at the time, it was also at a time where staff was heavily involved in meter installation and logging the information into the computer that it may not have been as apparent.

Councilor Fleck said what he is hearing from other Councilors is that maybe a portion of the amount may be acceptable. So he asked if 50% of the request would be something that would be supported.

Mayor Gowing asked if Councilor Fleck would like to make a motion.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT COUNCIL WAIVE THE USAGE CHARGES FROM THE WASTEWATER PORTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.

Mayor Gowing restated the motion and called for a second.

Councilor Stinnett asked if the City is waiving charges or refunding.

Councilor Fleck said refunding.

Mayor Gowing called for a second.

Mayor Gowing announced that the motion died for lack of a second.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE THAT COUNCIL GIVE A REFUND FOR THE WASTEWATER CHARGES FOR A TOTAL OF THREE MONTHS.

City Manager Richard Meyers asked for clarification and asked if the motion is for the entire bill or just the wastewater portion.

Councilor Savage clarified, only the wastewater charges for an additional two months if the City has already done one.

City Manager Richard Meyers asked if the adjustment is for wastewater usage part of the bill and the fixed wastewater improvement fee.

Councilor Savage asked what the City had already refunded.

City Manager Richard Meyers explained that the refund was a portion of the wastewater usage charges for one month. He said if Councilor Savage is proposing the total amount of wastewater usage for three months the City can calculate that amount and subtract what the City has already refunded.

Councilor Savage restated her motion to read.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SOLESBEE TO REFUND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF WASTEWATER USAGE CHARGES FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS LESS THE AMOUNT THAT WAS ALREADY REFUNDED.

Councilor Ervin said he is curious if we separate the discussion to, we like what this nonprofit is doing and we just want to give them a gift as a thank you, would that change the decision making process. He said that is what he is sensing in the motion and in the discussion and it feels unfair to everyone who pays utility bills. He said to keep the process clean, we have a procedure, we refund a month and it is nondiscrimination. He said what Council ends up doing is making concessions to express our gratitude to nonprofits. He added that there is already a precedence, in that organizations come to Council asking for special treatment in terms of SDC's, fees, or refunds on things that are their responsibility and it is concerning to him.

Finance Director Roberta Likens said it did come up in the discussion with the nonprofit that they are in need of replacing a roof. She said that other nonprofits have come to Council asking for donations for specific purposes and what she believes Councilor Ervin is suggesting is something along those lines vs. making the adjustment based on a utility bill.

Councilor Stinnett said he thinks after listening to Faye Stewart, that in a perfect world the City might have caught the leaking earlier and maybe that is the reasoning we give as opposed to we like you and the work you do in this community.

Mayor Gowing added that this doesn't happen very often, he recalled that it has been three or four other times since he has been on Council.

Councilor Solesbee said she agreed with Councilor Stinnett's comments. She said the thought of doing a gift puts it into tax dollars, it should be a non-issue once the smart meters are all installed, and the leaking did not cost the City anything because it was wastewater.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Mayor Gowing announced the motion carried.

(b) Urban Forestry Committee Appointments

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart said the Subcommittee held interviews for the three vacant positions on the Urban Forestry Committee and it is recommended to appoint Jimmy Schaper, Ona Chambers, and Mark McCaffery to a three year term beginning January 1, 2022 and expiring on December 31, 2024.

Mayor Gowing asked Councilor Solesbee, as chair of the Subcommittee if she would like to make the motion.

Councilor Solesbee stated Mr. McCaffery is very qualified for the position and the City is lucky to have him on the team.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SOLESBEE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT MARK MCCAFFERY, JIMMY SCHAPER, AND ONA CHAMBERS BE APPOINTED TO THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 ENDING 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							

(c) Vision Keepers Committee Appointments

City Manager Richard Meyers said the applicants were interviewed by the Council appointed committee and it is recommended that Linda Dunn and Cindy Weeldreyer be appointed to the terms that will expire on December 31, 2023. He added that Cindy Weeldreyer regretted that she could not attend the meeting tonight, but expressed her appreciation for considering her for Vision Keepers.

Mayor Gowing asked Councilor Savage, as Chair of the Subcommittee if she would like to make the motion.

Councilor Savage commented that all three of the interviews were good and it was not an easy decision and she appreciates the passion.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN THAT LINDA DUNN AND CINDY WEELDREYER BE APPOINTED 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							

(d) Cottage Grove Skate Park Survey Results

Assistant City Planner Matt Laird presented the findings of the 2021 Skate Park Survey. He outlined the history of the park, the original two phases of the park, funding, and initial construction. He said from the beginning there have been questions regarding who is responsible for maintenance of the park and in October of 2004 the City began mowing, weekly garbage service and periodically unplugging the drains. He stated that the Skate Park is 18 years old and is clearly showing its age.

He noted that in May and June of 2021 Council discussed issues with the Skate Park and Planning staff began collecting community feedback about design concerns, and suggestions for improvements. He said generally speaking, most respondents are frustrated with the design and construction of the park making it difficult to enjoy it and he read through a list of requested improvements. He said it is the recommendation of City staff to group improvements into short, medium and long term goals, begin discussions with ODOT about acquiring additional public right-of-way to expand the park size, continue to reach out to design companies, start community conversation regarding a volunteer group, and begin the dialogue regarding funding.

Councilor Ervin thanked Matt Laird for the survey. He said the Skate Park has been of interest to him as a park user and that it provides activities that are lacking for certain age groups. He said he sees potential for the park, but in its current state and not being maintained it becomes a habitation for nefarious behavior and an eye sore to the community. He said it also makes a statement to youth and those that use it, which is neglected, out casted, caged in, and separated. He said he is glad that Council is having the discussion and his hope is to provide a year round facility with a roof, well lit, and invites all age groups. He stated that Harrisburg has a good design and he asked if there was input as to what parks might work well in that space.

Assistant City Planner Matt Laird said the field trips to other parks were done before he was employed at the City of Cottage Grove. He said he did see in the write ups that Harrisburg, Willamalane, and Eugene were visited, and added that the City design would have to be tailored to fit the space which is long and narrow.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further questions or comments.

Councilor Stinnett said the survey indicates there were 122 responses and he imagines that is not all of the people who have a connection to the park, and 70% of those are either a skateboarder or a parent of a skateboarder. He also noted that the use of the park is frequent by those who do use it, and there are a significant number of people who see value in the park. He said it would be nice to make the improvements and gather the energy and momentum to see it into the next phase and he supports the recommendations made in the report.

Mayor Gowing added that talking to ODOT is a must and it has to be the first step.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any other discussion.

There was no more discussion.

(e) Affordable Housing Implementation Plan Advisory Committee Appointment

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart said the City of Cottage Grove has received a Department of Land Conservation and Development Grant (DLCD), to study the City's current mechanisms to support the development of new market- rate and affordable housing. He said when it is completed it will be adopted as a refinement plan to the Housing Policies section of the Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan. He requested that two City Councilors be appointed to the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan Advisory Committee, which will begin meeting in March of 2022 and conclude by November of 2022.

Councilor Fleck said he would like to be on the committee.

Mayor Gowing asked if any other Councilors are interested.

Councilor Roberts said Councilor Fleck would be the perfect person for the committee with all of his history and that he would like to be on the committee too.

Councilor Savage said she is interested in being on the committee.

Mayor Gowing stated that there are three Councilors who would like to be on the committee.

Mayor Gowing asked if someone would like to make a motion to appoint two to the committee.

Councilor Ervin asked the names of the Councilors that were interested.

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart said there would not be a problem if three Councilors were appointed and stated that it is important to have Councilor representation at each meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR STINNETT THAT COUNCILOR SAVAGE, ROBERTS AND FLECK BE APPOINTED TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion.

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) Setting a Date for a Street Maintenance and Funding Work Session

City Manager Richard Meyers said City Council and City Staff have talked about the issues associated with street maintenance and funding and would like to have a Work Session on either February 28th or March 7th.

Councilor Fleck stated he has a conflict on February 28th and would prefer to meet on March 7th.

Mayor Gowing asked if there were any conflicts with having the work session on March 7th.

Councilor Solesbee asked for the meeting time.

City Manager Richard Meyers said that we could start at 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm and that it was up to the Councilors.

Councilor Roberts said he prefers the time of 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Mayor Gowing asked if 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm worked for the Councilors and he saw no conflicts.

(g) Concerns from Council

Councilor Fleck said he attended a meeting today with Lane Regional Air Protection Authority (LRAPA) as one of his Council appointments and that there had been three meetings to discuss whether or not LRAPA should join PERS. He said he has been concerned about the LRAPA budget for many years as they are one of the remaining air agencies in the state, and is disappointed in the lack of fiscal responsibility. He said at one point he felt that he wasn't sure if he wanted to serve on the committee any longer, but he is going to stay because he feels it is his duty to hold them accountable going forward and he will have a very critical eye.

Fleck said this has been a tough couple of years and his agency has been overwhelmed with the need that the pandemic has created. He said when he hears people complain about the pandemic, he understands, but when he hears comments about the vaccine being lethal, he recalled the last reported number of 700,000 people in our nation that have died from COVID. He said he personally knows people who have been sick and he ended up getting the virus in March of 2020 and it was the sickest he has been with the exception of when he had Pneumonia. He is aware that there are reactions to vaccinations, but said that is very small compared to the lives that are saved with the vaccination. He added that he does not feel we should force people to get the vaccine. He said he would be happy to read documents to the facts that are being reported to Council today, so far none of the information that he has read supports the claims. He said he believes that the City should be supporting vaccination clinics and if somebody wants a shot, it is there right to be able to get one. He said he is appalled that someone would take away the right for people to choose for themselves and added that it is unacceptable and he is ashamed that it happened in our town.

An audience member in the Council Chambers shouted, it is not about that.

Councilor Fleck said this is his time to talk, not yours.

The person replied, that she was not given time to talk and that it is not about making people get a shot, it is about taking her rights away because she won't get a shot.

Councilor Fleck said he was quiet during her time and she will be quiet during his.

The person left the Council Chambers.

A virtual audience member said you did not allow her to speak.

Mayor Gowing asked City Manager Richard Meyers to mute the online person.

Councilor Fleck explained to the audience that they get to express their concerns under public input, under Concerns from Council is his turn, it is not a back and forth. He said he will support the City offering vaccination clinics and if anyone impedes them he expects City Police to hold them accountable.

An audience member stood and used some explicit language as she left the building.

Councilor Ervin said he attended the Lane Workforce meeting and the primary topic was to appoint an interim Director and he asked for an update on the Taylor Street sidewalk project and what the timeline might be.

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart responded that the City Engineer has retired and is back working up to 16 hours per week and is assisting with the Taylor Street sidewalk project. He said that the City is looking at spring to early summer for the project and that he is seeking proposals for engineering services from outside firms. He said Councilors can direct comments regarding the project to him and he added that it would probably be best to have the project take place when school is out of session.

Councilor Solesbee said regarding tonight's public comment that it is a touchy subject, highly fueled with emotion and there are people on both sides of the fence. She said the public concerns are valid and if you read about the court proceedings with the FDA, the FDA is fighting to not release how they approved the Pfizer Comirnaty and that they want to hold those records for 75 years, which instills fear in people. She said if people are going to protest it needs to be in a respectful way and it should be someone's choice if they want to be vaccinated or not. She said she does not believe in mandates and that she supports the public comment tonight and we should always listen to our citizens so that we can hear both sides.

Councilor Savage said she would like to find a way talk and listen to both sides and she is willing to read any articles to help her understand. She said there needs to be middle ground where people can agree to disagree and have that be okay, and that we all need to be heard.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers reported that the eleven bridge beams have been received and are being stored until we are ready to use them. He added that we received the beams for free and the cost would have been over \$800,000.

He said the City has done some reorganizing at the Community Center, the space is more confined, and a better situation for those people residing there. He said the space gives them more security and protection from the elements and that everyone in the space has signed rules. He said next week is the Homelessness Work Session and the City will have some more information, details, options, and the meeting starts at 6:00 pm next Monday.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

- (a) Report from City Attorney

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 8:46 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held February 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor