

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 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

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
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PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	None
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COUNCIL ABSENT:	None
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STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, Police Chief Scott Shepherd, and City Recorder Mindy Roberts
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STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	Finance Director Roberta Likens and City Planner Eric Mongan
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CITY ATTORNEY:	None
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MEDIA PRESENT:	Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel and Cameron Reiten, KNND Radio
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Mayor Gowing read the Arbor Month Proclamation aloud and presented it to the Chair of the Urban Forestry Committee Reilly Newman.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Richard Meyers said there is a Letter of Commitment to Banner Bank to be added to the Agenda as item 8(b) and the Resolution 8(c) would need to be removed as the contract with Banner Bank is not complete.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR
ROBERTS TO ADD APPROVAL OF LETTER OF COMMITMENT BANNER BANK
FINANCING AS ITEM 8(B) TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any 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							

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Johanna Zee 1305 Girard, Cottage Grove, Oregon said she read in the Friday Update that the City asked people to respect businesses that still require people to wear a mask and it is concerning to her because she said there was no respect for people who could not wear a mask or for various reasons did not. She said the City is following the OHA recommendation and they have no authority and are a regulatory agency. She said the City is allowing businesses to discriminate and treat them as second class citizens. She shared personal stories of her brother and others who have had negative experiences from getting the vaccine and others who experienced ramifications from not getting the vaccine. She said respect is giving people information and choices, reaching out to those who have suffered. She finished by saying as the City turns its attention to the homeless situation to remember that respect for human dignity is not just giving handouts but helping people to learn to stand up on their own and giving them support to do that and having an end plan.

Mayor Gowing announced that Mr. Taddie signed up to speak but he did not appear to be online and Bonnie Sano signed up to speak but she left the Council Chambers.

Police Chief Scott Shepherd said that Bonnie Sano had left her notes at home and had left to go get them.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of February 25, 2022 Agenda Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of February 28, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any 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) Resolution Establishing Appropriations within the Special Trusts Fund for the Expenditure of an Unforeseen Specific Purpose Donation from Cindy and Ralph Weeldreyer

Finance Director Roberta Likens said the City has been provided a donation of \$1000 from Cindy and Ralph Weeldreyer to be used to provide assistance for people in the community that are unhoused. She said if the funds are not spent in the current fiscal year the Trust Fund maintains the integrity of the donation and it is carried forward to the next fiscal year. She said staff is recommending that Council adopt the resolution.

Mayor Gowing asked the City Recorder for the Resolution Number.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2064

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any 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 2064 carried.

- (b) Resolution Supporting Downtown Cottage Grove's Application for an Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant for Rivers Edge (303 East Main Street)

Councilor Savage declared an actual Conflict of Interest and recused herself from the topic as her employer is the company applying for the grant and left the Council Chambers

Councilor Stinnett declared an actual Conflict of Interest and recused himself from the topic as the Program Administrator of Downtown Cottage Grove and left the Council Chambers.

Mayor Gowing clarified the Resolution would be number 2065.

City Manager Richard Meyers reported that this item is a Resolution to support the grant application on behalf of Downtown Cottage Grove for the Rivers Edge project and the City would act as the fiscal agent. He said it is a \$200,000 grant and Downtown Cottage Grove would also receive a portion of the grant for administration fees. He added that the grant application is for 303 East Main to fix the façade and open up the building to create an open and inviting atmosphere that will open into the river and the Centennial Covered Bridge and Historic Main Street Bridge.

Councilor Ervin expressed concern that every building in downtown represents the culture of Cottage Grove and has an effect on what we attract in the future and asked what the opportunities for public comment are and what the historic restrictions on the site are.

City Manager Richard Meyers said this building does not have specific criteria as a Historic Building but is contributing to the Historic District and will have contributing features that it has to meet.

Councilor Ervin asked what that looks like.

City Manager Richard Meyers said there are restrictions so that it would not attempt to look too much like a historic building and take over, but would use the same type of materials, lines and definitions of buildings in the area.

Councilor Ervin asked about specific restrictions such as cantilevered roofs, patio areas, second stories, and sidewalks.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it could restrict those to the extent if those features distract from the Historic nature of the District.

City Planner Eric Mongan added that the intent is to mimic but not overshadow the other properties.

Councilor Ervin asked who the determining body is.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it would be the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilor Roberts said the building was built in 1952 and rebuilt in 1973. He said the goal is economic revitalization and he supports the item and asked how many businesses applied for the grant.

City Manager Richard Meyers said there were four or five applicants and it could possibly be verified by Jim Gilroy with the Downtown Cottage Grove organization, who is present at the Council meeting tonight.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2065

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion.

Councilor Solesbee said she supports the plans and that it will be a good addition to Cottage Grove.

Mayor Gowing called 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
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Councilor Savage and Stinnett reentered the Council Chambers.

(c) Resolution Authorizing Full Faith and Credit Borrowings to Finance Community Center Roof Project

This item was removed from the Agenda as noted in previously recorded motion.

Mayor Gowing announced that Bonnie Sano has returned from going home to get her notes and he can see that Mr. Taddei is now online and he allowed both of them to speak under item five, Appearance of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda.

Bonnie Sano Cottage Grove, Oregon said that she thinks Council is primarily interested in following the Governors personal mandates, housing the homeless that have come into the community, and hiring a well-paid Engineer, while the City streets and water pipes need attention. She proceeded by reading an anonymous letter from an individual who has experienced harassment because they chose to wait to get the COVID vaccine.

Duane Taddei 77561 Hwy 99, Cottage Grove, Oregon said that there is supposed to be a dusk to dawn location for the homeless so that we comply with the 9th Circuit Court decision. He added that the City should consider creating a Prepared Food Tax to help pay for the shortfall that may come in the budget to help pay for the road conditions.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) South Lane Community Health Clinic

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced Jim Gilroy from Be Your Best. Jim Gilroy introduced Committee Members; President of Lane Community College, Marge Hamilton, South Lane School District Assistant Superintendent, Brian McCasline, Lane County Director of Health and Human Services, Eve Gray and Lane County Commissioner, Heather Buch.

Jim Gilroy started by reminding Council that many years ago, one of the top items that came out of the Vision Keepers strategic planning session was Community Health. He proceeded by presenting a power point demonstration that outlined why a Community Health Center is important, who it would serve, the program services and educational components, the amount of people who would be employed and the projected budget. He concluded by indicating that there is a gap in funding and the estimated budget and asked Council to consider a \$100,000 donation from pandemic-related community funds.

Councilor Fleck asked City Manager Richard Meyers if ARPA funds could be used.

Richard said the expenditure of the ARPA funds are scheduled to be discussed at the next Council meeting and this request could be brought into that meeting.

Councilor Ervin asked specifically about Family Planning Services.

Jim Gilroy directed the question to the Director of Health and Human Services, Eve Gray.

Eve Gray said most commonly they offer no cost birth control and family planning advice.

A resident in the Council Chamber asked Eve Gray what is meant by that.

Eve Gray proceeded to answer.

Councilor Mike Fleck called Point of Order stating this is not a time for public comment.

Councilor Ervin asked if the Clinic would be providing abortion services.

Eve Gray indicated that the Clinic does not provide abortion services.

Councilor Stinnett asked Richard to discuss the ARPA funds and the feasibility of the City being able to help out with the project.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the City has received the first payment of the ARPA it just has not been put into the budget expenditure lines yet. He said at the next meeting Council can look at the priorities and start making decisions and it can be put into the next budget for use after July 1st and it is currently present and being spent in the current budget year.

Jim Gilroy said anything the City could contribute to support the Stakeholders and their efforts to provide the service to the community would be welcome.

Councilor Ervin asked if there is any way for the funding to have a return on investment beyond the community benefit.

Councilor Fleck said he will not seek reimbursement and would look at it as an investment into the healthcare needs of our community.

Councilor Solesbee said she is concerned with the timing of the request and also has concerns with some of South Lane Mental Health (SLMH) services being next to the High School.

Councilor Savage said this is an investment into our future to have education available with Lane Community College and the opportunity to earn professional licenses.

Councilor Roberts said he is concerned with SLMH being next to the High School and added that the City is in tough economic times and trying to determine how to pay for street repairs.

Councilor Stinnett said this is a way to invest in preventative care and helps keep the costs down in the emergency rooms and he is in support.

Councilor Ervin asked if lack of support from the City jeopardizes the project moving forward.

Jim Gilroy said yes, other funders want to know who else is participating financially and want to see the whole community participating.

Councilor Roberts said he thought the original concept was a dental clinic and it seems that it has grown.

Jim Gilroy clarified that there is no connection with the original idea of a Dental Clinic and that it was a concept from the Rotary Club, Ford Family Foundation, and South Lane School District.

Councilor Roberts said he has concerns with certain things and asked if there would be a needle exchange at this facility.

Eve Gray said they do not currently have needle exchanges in the Primary Care Clinics and most of the Behavior Health services that would occur within the Federally Qualified Health Center would be integrated behavioral health as part of Primary Health Care.

Councilor Roberts asked if there would be a contract and if that could that change.

Eve Gray said there would not be a contract around the services that they provide. She said a needle exchange is not a common primary care program and there are other programs that have measures to reduce harm.

Councilor Fleck asked if there are a lot of issues around the other facilities.

Eve Gray replied no, and that they work to make sure the area around their facilities are clean, well-cared for and safe for staff and patients.

Councilor Fleck said there are benefits to providing these services in our community and hopes that Council will have a long thoughtful conversation about this issue and that he is willing to advocate if needed.

Councilor Ervin said he recognizes the value of community support and also wants to be fiscally responsible. He said \$100,000 seems more than necessary and that 10% of that would show financial support.

Councilor Fleck asked how much ARPA money the City is receiving.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it is around \$2.4 million.

Councilor Fleck said he thinks \$100,000 is a reasonable request and he does support it.

Mayor Gowing said this is a non-action item tonight and it will be brought back to Council if they want to go forward.

(b) Approval of Letter of Commitment Banner Bank Financing

Finance Director Roberta Likens said that City's Legal Counsel, Local Law Group had prepared an agreement for the financing of the Community Center Roof loan and that Banner Bank has now indicated that it needs to be prepared by Bond Counsel. She said the proposal stays the same and that staff is asking Council to authorize the City Manager to sign the commitment letter to Banner Bank. She said staff would come back to Council at a later time with a Resolution to approve the new financing agreement.

Councilor Ervin asked if Council was given the contract for the proposal.

Roberta Likens said the agreement drawn up by the Local Law Group was included with the original Resolution and the new agreement will be very similar and it will be drafted by Hawkins Delafield and submitted to the bank.

Councilor Ervin said his question is related to the overall cost.

Roberta Likens said the cost of the project is \$781,328 and the City included asbestos abatement of approximately \$25,000 as well as a contingency amount to arrive at the \$930,000.

Councilor Ervin asked if we do not use the contingency will the City get it back.

Roberta Likens said with the cost of materials and the length of time the project is going to take, she anticipates the contingency is going to be very close.

Councilor Fleck said it reads that we cannot pay the loan off before the second year, but after that it could be paid and the contingency could be applied to the principle.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN THAT CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE COMMITMENT LETTER WITH BANNER BANK.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any 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							

(c) Homelessness Discussion

City Manager Richard Meyers shared a power point that will be presented at the Town Hall on April 5th. He said this is an opportunity for Council to view the presentation so that they can be prepared to answer questions and see if there is any information that needs to be added. The power point included information prepared by EcoNorthwest highlighting Myths and Facts regarding homelessness, income vs. homelessness statistical data, local indicators of homelessness, recent legislation regarding homelessness and how it affects the City, and proposed plans.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said that the increasing homelessness in our community and around the state is a result of the increasing costs of housing and outlined how case law has identified what we can and cannot do as a City regarding homelessness. She addressed specific cases that clarified the meaning of Martin vs. Boise, what local jurisdictions must focus on and emphasized the importance of not having laws in place that are objectively unreasonable. Carrie reviewed City Code with the Councilors and gave samples as to how code could be worded to come into minimum compliance and options that would give certain public spaces some protections. She added that another possible objectively reasonable amendment would be to allow camping in a vehicle on City right-of way if it meets certain conditions and regulations.

Richard said that he has identified approximately 20 vehicles that are parking or that people are sleeping in on the streets or in public parking lots in the City. He added that the City Code does not have anything that prohibits sleeping in your vehicle, but we do enforce that vehicles cannot be stored in the right-a-way for more than 72 hours.

Councilor Fleck asked if the City is keeping the 72 hour limit in the proposal.

Richard said yes, it is one of the parking regulations.

Councilor Fleck asked in Martin vs. Boise if homeless are only allowed to have things to keep them warm and dry or does it include belongings.

Carrie Connelly said the case in Grants Pass was the beginning of that change and House Bill 3115 codified that.

Councilor Solesbee said there are No Camping signs on Interstate 5 and asked how the State gets away with that.

Carrie Connelly said House Bill 3115 does apply to the State and the State would probably argue that they have alternatives and the hazard and safety concerns to the individuals experiencing homelessness and the drivers would factor into the totality of circumstances.

Councilor Stinnett asked what the reasoning is to prohibiting overnights in the riparian and wetland areas.

Richard said the wetlands are considered sensitive lands with specific rules that the City has to protect and the riparian zones in Cottage Grove are impacted by rivers that significantly change by the amount of water released from the reservoir.

Councilor Stinnett asked if Riverside Park is a Community Park or a Riparian.

Richard said the City could expand it to include the greenway because the riparian zone is only a portion of the greenway. He added that most of the greenways are designated as Community or Neighborhood parks and if they are not they would be eligible for camping.

Richard said that if some of these areas flood and are no longer considered available as an alternative shelter sight then the other sights may be open because there is no place else to go.

Carrie Connelly said that is another reason to continue to add to the list of alternatives.

Councilor Solesbee said none of this is enforceable.

Carrie Connelly said she does not want the City to be a test case.

Councilor Solesbee said the City cannot be sued if we do not arrest.

Carrie Connelly said that is correct now but it changes on July 1st, 2023 when House Bill 3115 takes place.

Richard clarified that even if we are not enforcing the rules but laws are still on the books the City could be sued.

Councilor Solesbee said it feels like the City is being held hostage. She said she believes Eugene and Portland are the highest in the nation for homeless.

Richard said LA, Seattle, and Hawaii are the worst.

Councilor Solesbee said they have a lot of shelters and that could happen to us to.

Carrie Connelly said she understands. She said the standard concern she is hearing from the communities is “If we build it, they will come”.

Richard said we are working on a Regional approach so that people do not move around, and it is also why he pointed out that only two people came down from Eugene to our Warming Shelters. He said the Housing By Name List is helpful to know if people are moving around, and added that the studies done around the country show that it is not a significant number.

Carrie Connelly said there should not be an influx of people coming if it is a Regional solution and everyone is incrementally increasing alternative shelters and transitional housing and the number of homeless does not correlate to the number of services provided but to the cost of housing.

Councilor Solesbee said there is a big number of homeless that have been homeless a very long time and that is a different core group and she is worried about it growing.

Richard said the reports indicate that the lack of affordable housing has been an issue for a long time.

Richard said that there are some who should not be on the street and should be in a State Hospital and the police end up being the first responders for mental health crises. He said this problem has not been solved at the State and Federal level and has been pushed on to local governments to address.

Councilor Savage asked what our local homeless local count is.

Richard said the Point in Time Count is done one night per year, from dawn to dusk, and they go out and try to find and count the homeless. There has been hesitation as to how valid the method is and that is one of the reasons the County has switched to the Homeless By Name List (HBNL), so they can record people as they are getting services and find out how many people are declaring themselves homeless. He said our Point in Time Counts have been 35 to 40 and our HBNL is 188 and if you subtract the youth it goes down to 132.

Councilor Savage asked if the HBNL would recognize when someone is here from another area.

Councilor Fleck responded that the service point is Lane County.

Richard Meyers said that taking the minimum action does not protect the quality of life in Cottage Grove, it does not protect the parks so that everyone can use them, it does not protect the use of the right-of-way, and it does not take any action to help the people who are homeless in our community out of that situation.

Richard said staff is proposing that the City take care of the ordinances but also try to approach a housing first model with a focus on exiting the temporary shelter as quickly as possible. He returned to the power point, presented information as to what the City is currently doing, and a proposed plan to provide sheltering.

Richard said the City needs to decommission the sites at the Community Center and City Hall by May 1st as the contractor is moving in to start the Community Center roof replacement and the City is suggesting temporarily using the Warming Shelter site. He said the site would be managed by a third party organization experienced in shelter management and the housing first model while the Hwy 99 site is being developed as a regular immediate low barrier shelter site. He said once the Hwy 99 site is developed everyone would be moved there from the Warming Shelter site. He added that if the City is going to be successful, we have to get permanent, very affordable, low income to extremely low income housing developed.

Councilor Mike Fleck asked City Attorney Carrie Connelly if he should declare a Potential Conflict of Interest. He said the agency that he works for provides services for the Warming Shelter and if no other agency applies for Shelter Management his agency may decide to do so.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said each time the subject comes up she recommends that Councilor Fleck reiterates the possible Potential Conflict of Interest if his employer chooses to apply.

Councilor Mike Fleck declared a Potential Conflict of Interest.

City Manager Richard Meyers continued by saying the use of the Warming Shelter Site will only be while the new immediate shelter is being set up. He said the City will not decommission the electricity and water systems because there is the potential for other uses. He said the Hwy 99 property has room for 33 pallet shelters, has a house on it with restrooms, shower, and kitchen and can be used for administration, counseling, training spaces, and all of the needs that a third party vendor would need.

Richard said that he has shown Homes for Good the Douglas Ave property and they are interested in potentially developing low income housing. He said they are currently building a site in Eugene that is a four-story building with 45 studio apartments for a supported housing operation. He added that Senator Merkley and Wyden have sent out requests for direct spending and the City would like to move forward with putting in a joint request with Homes for Good to get funding for constructing low income housing.

Richard said the City tried to create a plan that doesn't just provide free sheltering but one that would help move the homeless rapidly into some permanent assisted housing.

Richard said the City has also put together plans that would require ordinances to allow private sheltering options, transitional housing, overnight camping, and allowing churches, businesses and individuals help and improve the situation for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Mayor Gowing said the Town Hall will need to be longer than two hours and he is willing to stay as long as he needs to.

Councilor Stinnett asked if the Hwy 99 is the only access to the Hwy 99 site.

Richard replied yes, and eventually R Street will go through and have good access to the South Lane Community Health Clinic.

Councilor Stinnett said it seems dangerous to potentially have people walking down Hwy 99.

Richard said yes, the shoulders on Hwy 99 are pretty good until you get on the other side of the bridge, then they reduce. He added that South Lane Wheels could bring people out and Carry it Forward has access to transportation.

Councilor Savage asked if the City moves forward with this plan can R Street still come through.

Richard replied yes.

Councilor Savage asked if there would be sidewalks on R Street.

Richard replied yes.

Councilor Savage asked if the City has preapproved ADU's

Richard replied that there are two plans on the City website that are free.

Councilor Ervin asked how court cases are being tracked.

City Attorney Carrie Connelly said the higher court decisions mean the most to her and they are tracking them but it is a slow process.

Richard added that the League of Oregon Cities has a page specifically for homeless solutions and they are constantly updating with new information, studies, and efforts.

Councilor Ervin asked if there was anything public available.

Carrie Connelly said that she would just watch the League and any decision that will be coming out they will have it.

Councilor Ervin asked about the proposed change to code requiring 100 feet from a school or park.

Richard said the 100 feet was in reference to on street camping and could be in the Community Parks during the day as well.

Councilor Ervin asked why that would be a good idea.

Richard said for safety purposes and peace of mind for people.

Councilor Ervin said would have to pass the test of reasonable accommodations

Carrie Connelly said yes, and you would have to determine if imposing that limitation in that area leave other areas open so that you have alternatives.

Councilor Ervin said as a parent he would interpret that to mean that you could only play on the playground because that is your safe distance from those who we do not have any control over and it seems like the whole park should be safe.

Councilor Ervin said in the road discussion the topic was to tax the tax payer to get it funded, but he has not heard that in the homelessness discussion. He said he believes that it is because there is more awareness and financial support from Federal, State and County levels towards the issue.

Councilor Fleck said Lane County is the Community Action Agency for this area and they are the continuum of care under HUD and have the Poverty and Homelessness Board.

City Manager Richard Meyers said some of the other collaboration would be with a third party and they are a part of other things that are going on within the County, so we are not creating it ourselves but pulling from the organizations that are having success.

Carrie Connelly asked Council to give her guidance on what would help clarify the matter for the public, specifically what worked in the presentation and what did not.

Councilor Ervin asked how do we know what people are paying for rent or mortgage.

Richard Meyers said the Housing Needs Analysis did that work to determine what housing is needed in the community. He said the new housing that is being built on Harrison is in the middle to high income level and will pull some people from lower income housing which will help some of the lower income housing open up.

Councilor Ervin said it makes sense to not just infill but expand out, and asked what is being done to address the availability of buildable lands.

Richard said the Housing Needs Analysis looked at that and the City does have the capacity for lands inside the Urban Growth Boundary to meet our needs.

Councilor Stinnett said his direction for the Town Hall is to have a balance of give and take and a lot of the people who take the time to come to the Town Hall are going to want to make their views known perhaps even irrespective of what we have to tell them. He said the trick is to give them enough information to have a productive conversation and probably will not be able to go that deep with the general public in order to get something back from them that we can use.

Carrie Connelly asked if information should be pulled out.

Councilor Stinnett replied maybe or simplify it.

Councilor Fleck said the presentation did an excellent job of showing the why, the bare minimum that could be done, and what is proposed to be done.

Councilor Savage said she agrees there needs to be a balance of give and take at the Town Hall and maybe take some stuff out so that people can ask the questions that need to be answered. She added that the presentation needs to be simplified in a way so that it can be understood and to do a lot of listening and responding instead of forward projecting to create the interaction.

Councilor Ervin asked how this ruling affects the condemning of houses. He said if you have an argument that someone needs to have their blankets and things that support them from the elements and they are being evicted, he asked if any cases have come up for home owners that are challenging the laws in that situation.

Carrie Connelly said no, because this does not affect the right to eject people from their own private property and the 5th Amendment protects the private real property rights.

Councilor Ervin said he didn't make himself clear and asked how you can condemn a property that would be more shelter than a tent and a blanket.

Richard said that was a discussion that was had when the City was considering condemning a property and the danger that it created and the danger for the neighborhood and weighing that against the creation of homelessness.

(d) Concerns from Council

Mayor Gowing announced Happy Pi Day.

Mayor Gowing said he had his first Oregon Mayors Association Board Meeting where Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler asked the Oregon Mayors Board to create a task force. He said the Task Force will be working to get a region of people together to go to State Legislature and ask for funding to address Homelessness.

He said he also attended a Mayor Roundtable with Lane County Mayors. He said they talked about Homelessness and the challenges.

He said that Faye Stewart and Bruce McDonald came to Weyerhaeuser to look at the picnic area, took some pictures and are trying to develop a plan to get the one replace at Prospectors Park.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager reminded Council of the Tree Giveaway on April 2nd from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with over 1,000 trees to giveaway through the grant that was received from the Urban Forestry Committee.

Richard announced the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 5th at the Armory.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

Carrie Connelly assured Council that staff in her office works constantly to insure that what the City is doing is in compliance with the law. She said she appreciates tonight that Councilors were aware of their ethical obligations and they are doing a wonderful job of listening and following through.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:30 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held March 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor