

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA SESSION MINUTES
August 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gowing at 8:30 am.

Those in attendance virtually and in person: Mayor Gowing and Councilors Savage, Fleck, Ervin and Roberts.

Staff present virtually and in person: City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart and City Planner Eric Mongan

Items to Be Added to the Agenda

None

Public Hearing

None

Consent Agenda

- (a) Approval of July 18, 2022 Work Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of July 22, 2022 Agenda Session Minutes
- (c) Approval of July 25, 2022 City Council Minutes

Resolutions and Ordinances

- (a) Resolution Establishing a Freight/Loading Zone on South 17th Street Adjacent to McCoy's Pharmacy at 1645 E Main Street

City Planner Eric Mongan informed Council that McCoy's Pharmacy has requested a loading zone be designated on 17th Street. He said the owner has discovered that UPS and other frequent deliveries are interfering with the flow of drive thru traffic.

Councilor Savage asked where the drive thru is located.

City Planner responded that it is located between the two northern buildings.

Councilor Savage asked if it is a right hand turn only onto 17th.

City Planner replied that you can turn either direction onto 17th from the drive thru.

Business from City Council

(a) Lane County Parks – Proposed Local Option Levy Presentation

City Manager Richard Meyers informed Council that Brett Henry, Lane County Parks Division Manager will attend the Monday night Council Meeting to present information about the proposed Local Option Levy. He said the provided memo highlights some of the changes or improvements that are being included in the Levy that would directly impact Cottage Grove. City Manager said that the Board of County Commissioners will be making a decision on Tuesday, August 9th and if Council has comments they would need to be given at the Monday night Council meeting. He added that if the item is added to the ballot and Council chooses to take action to show support, it would need to be in the form of a Resolution from a Councilor, as City Staff cannot advocate for or against a ballot measure.

(b) Urban Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee Appointment

City Planner Eric Mongan informed Council that the Urban Forestry Committee is seeking to establish an Advisory Committee to assist with the Urban Forest Management Plan. He said Staff is asking for two Councilors to volunteer to support the Advisory Committee over the next eight to twelve months.

Councilor Fleck asked how long the commitment would be.

City Planner replied, one meeting a month for eight to twelve months. He added that he is asking for two Councilors in case one cannot make it.

Councilor Fleck said he is busy, but if no one else can do it, he will.

Councilor Ervin asked what time the meetings would be.

City Planner replied that the time has not been established yet, but they try to find the best fit for the members.

(c) Concerns from Council

Mayor Gowing offered to give tours of the Weyerhaeuser facility for interested Councilors.

Business from City Manager

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers informed Council about a fake Facebook post that pictured two people allegedly throwing beer bottles at a Cottage Grove Police Department drone. He said it is a spoofed image and has no credibility.

Mayor Gowing asked how many drones the Cottage Grove Police Department has.

City Manager replied that the Police Department does not have any drones and neither does the City of Cottage Grove.

Councilor Fleck asked if there are any repercussions for someone doing something like this.

City Manager replied that it is being looked into.

City Manager Richard Meyers informed Council about another social media post that took place earlier in the week. He said the post claimed there was a massive raw sewage leak flowing from the Wastewater Treatment Plant across Douglas Ave. He said it was not a sewage leak, it was groundwater that was being pumped out of the clear well, in order to repair a gate. He said the water was being pumped into a man hole on the property and the man hole was not capable of handling the flow from the groundwater. He said it flowed through the parking lot, across some of the landscaping, taking some of the bark mulch and dirt. He added that a report was filed with DEQ, they reviewed the report and determined that there was no violation.

City Manager Richard Meyers told Council that Staff toured Carry It Forward's new facility on Roosevelt and Bethel. He said it was an interesting opportunity to see how they operate and how it could translate into what Carry It Forward could do here in Cottage Grove. He said if Council would like to tour the facility, arrangements can be made for up to two Councilors at a time.

City Manager Richard Meyers told Council if they receive emails or letters regarding individuals on Administrative Leave they are to get the documents to the City Manager's Office. He said the documents will be turned over to the investigator to determine if they are relevant or not. He encouraged Council to not participate in anything associated with individuals on Administrative Leave because it then becomes a public record.

City Manager told Council that there is something exciting to share with them on Monday night.

Mayor Gowing informed Council that the Special Council Meeting to be held on August 15th can only be from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. He said Public Comment will not be taken because that has already been done.

City Manager said if Council is not going to allow Public Comment at the Special Meeting that it must be a decision with Council approval. He suggested that they discuss it at the Monday, August 8th meeting and make a decision that night.

Councilor Ervin said he contacted the Army Corp of Engineers to get the reasoning behind having low lake levels in prior years but did not receive any information back.

City Manager said that the City can contact the Corp of Engineers and ask if they will give a presentation. He said it has been explained to him as a rule curve that has been established for over 50 years.

Councilor Ervin said it would be nice to know what the curve is.

City Manager said they mathematically use the weather model, river flows and watersheds along the Willamette River to create curves. He added that the major reason for reservoirs in our area is flood control.

Councilor Ervin said our reservoirs are directly linked to recreation and asked if we can petition as a community to have it changed.

Mayor Gowing said he has a friend who works at the Corp of Engineers and will inquire about giving out their contact information.

City Manager said reservoirs have different designations and he does not know what the steps are to have them re designated.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said all of the lakes in Lane County are designated for flood control. He said it takes Congressional action to change the way the lakes are managed. He added that as a Lane County Commissioner he worked to get the curves adjusted to accommodate having full pools for recreational purposes, to no avail.

Councilor Savage asked if she needs to declare any conflicts prior to the Lane County Parks presentation.

City Manager replied no, because there is no action being taken.

Business from the City Attorney

None

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

Mayor Jeff Gowing adjourned the meeting at 8:49 am.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor