

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solesbee 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 Candace Solesbee and Councilors Alex Dreher, Greg Ervin, Mike Fleck, Dana Merryday, Chalice Savage and Jon Stinnett

PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Kassidy Poetzl

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Finance Director Roberta Likens, Interim Police Chief Jeff Groth and City Planner Eric Mongan

STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING: City Manager Richard Meyers

CITY ATTORNEY:

MEDIA PRESENT: KNND and The Sentinel

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Linda Olson 1305 Girard Ct, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern about conduct of community members at City meetings that violates the Building Code of Conduct.

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon expressed concern with the Mayor reading an anonymous letter at a past Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Liquor License Annual Renewals

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

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

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Mayor Solesbee announced motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) A Resolution Establishing Appropriations Within the General Fund for the Expenditure of an Unforeseen Specific Purpose Grant From the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Heritage

Finance Director Roberta Likens provided background information regarding a \$6,000 grant that the City received from the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Heritage. She said that the grant is to be used specifically to provide funding for a consultant to conduct a market analysis for the Historic District. She added that to lawfully spend the money, the City must comply with the requirements of Local Budget Law and it is recommended that Council adopt the resolution to establish appropriations.

Mayor Solesbee asked if there were any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2096.

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

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

(b) A Resolution Approving Transfer of Public Transportation Assets From the City of Cottage Grove to Lane Transit District

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone presented Council with information regarding the City’s management of transportation grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to South Lane Wheels. He explained that Staff time to manage the grants had significantly increased over the last year and it is likely to become unsustainable. He added that after extensive discussions, Lane Transit District had agreed to take over the City’s efforts starting on July 1, 2023. He said in order to do so, ODOT is requiring a letter from the City and LTD authorizing the transfer of existing grant obligations between the two entities. He said it is Staff’s recommendation that Council approve the attached resolution which would serve as that letter, and would transfer the right to take possession of two grant-funded buses from the City to LTD, along with the associated obligations.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2097.

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

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

(c) A Resolution Granting Multiple Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) to Pine Springs, LLC

City Planner Eric Mongan presented to Council an application for the MUPTE program submitted by the property owner. He explained the public benefits components contained in the Staff report, indicated that the application meets the MUPTE eligibility criteria and advised Council to consider whether to approve the application.

Councilor Fleck said he is impressed with the efforts put forth by the developer to make sure this is a wonderful development.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2098.

Mayor Solesbee announced the motion with a second and asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Merryday said that the city must be reaching the satiation point of market rate housing and we must include affordability in future MUPTE applications.

Mayor Solesbee asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none she called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Annual Urban Forestry Committee Report

City Planner Eric Mongan introduced Urban Forestry Chair Reilly Newman to provide the update.

Reilly Newman highlighted the past year’s achievements of the Urban Forestry Committee including; earning the Tree City USA Award, the Oregon Tree City of the Year, the 6th Growth Award, hosting an Arbor Day Celebration, reclamation of the timber from the removed Coastal Redwoods and the planting of 50 new street trees. She informed Council of the intentions for the 2023-24 fiscal including restarting the City of Cottage Grove’s Urban Forestry Plan and revising the street tree list. Reilly Newman concluded by announcing that she will be stepping

down from the committee. She thanked the City of Cottage Grove and City Council for allowing her to be a part of the committee for many years.

Mayor Solesbee thanked Reilly Newman for all of her committee work.

(b) Information Regarding the FEMA Flood Map Update

City Planner Eric Mongan briefed Council on the history of flood maps being updated by FEMA and said that in January of 2022 the process was reinitiated. He presented the current flood maps compared to the proposed flood maps and highlighted steps that have been taken to notify people who would be affected. He offered detailed data from West Consultants and the Coast Fork Flood Study which were used to help evaluate the accuracy of the flood maps and determine if they warrant the significant change in flood plains. He expressed concern about the increased number of people who would be required to carry flood insurance and the associated financial burden.

Councilor Ervin asked if the new maps are a nationwide rollout.

City Planner said that FEMA chooses different areas at various times and these changes will affect Central Lane County.

Councilor Ervin asked what tactics are available to abate the tax insurance premiums at a legislative level.

City Planner replied that there are BRIC grants available and he mentioned some steps that we could take to make them more likely to be considered.

Councilor Ervin asked what percentage of property owners have federal backed mortgages and if there could be an appeal to the Army Corps of Engineers to make improvements upstream to mitigate issues.

City Planner Eric Mongan said a multitude of factors that come into play, but the majority are based on intensity and saturation.

Councilor Stinnett asked if there is historical information regarding flooding.

City Planner said the last event was a storm in 1996-97 and the community did see some limited flooding. He added that FEMA considered it to be a 100-year flood event and he included information for them as to how it actually affected the community.

Councilor Stinnett asked what strategies other communities are taking to influence FEMA to reconsider the flood maps.

City Planner said that he discussed different approaches with Eugene, Springfield and Lane County and it was recommended to include concepts of equity, economy and science.

Councilor Stinnett asked if being situated between two rivers and a wetland puts us in a worse situation than other communities.

City Planner shared examples of the difficulties other communities are facing and the substantial difference it would make if the proposed maps are adopted.

Councilor Fleck said the dams need to not only hold water but there is a risk of the Cascadia subduction event. He asked the City Planner about fill requirements and homeowners being able to lift their home.

City Planner explained that the fill requirement helps the City to maintain the City's Class 16 rating in the Community Rating System program, which allows people who carry a policy to get a 20% premium reduction. He added that if we strike the fill requirement we would need to implement another enhanced regulation to maintain the rating.

Mayor Solesbee asked if there were any other questions.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart thanked City Planner Eric Mongan for the many hours of effort and hard work put into finding a way to reduce the burden on homeowners if the FEMA flood maps get adopted.

Councilor Ervin asked if it is adopted, when homeowners would see the insurance cost increase.

City Planner said it is fairly immediate.

Councilor Ervin asked what the percentage of federally backed mortgages.

City Planner said the information from American Community Survey did not distinguish which mortgages were federally backed vs private loans.

Councilor Fleck commented that homeowners will need to get flood insurance whether they have a federally secured loan or not.

(c) Councilor Subcommittee Appointment for Historic Preservation Committee

City Planner Eric Mongan explained that there are three applicants to interview for three Historic Preservation Committee vacancies. He recommended that a member of Council be appointed to the subcommittee position that was vacated by Councilor Roberts to interview applicants.

Mayor Solesbee volunteered to fill the position.

(d) Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition Presentation

Scott McDowell, City Manager of Brownsville and Sean Tate, Tate Public Affairs presented to Council information about the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC), attached as *Exhibit A*. Scott McDowell gave background information as to what lead to the formation of

SMAC. He said after discussing issues that smaller communities are facing with the League of Oregon Cities, he and four other small communities leaders sought a way to focus on advocacy priority, professional assistance and internal policy. He said those conversations lead them to meet with Sean Tate of Tate Public Affairs.

Sean Tate shared his personal history, the SMAC business plan and objectives. He explained that SMAC would focus on small town problems and concerns. He said they would provide education and training, strategic counsel, legislative session support. He outlined a timeline for training of members and costs associated with SMAC membership.

Councilor Fleck expressed concerns about what the policy positions would be, the size of SMAC in comparison to the strength of League of Oregon Cities (LOC) with 240 cities and said he would need a lot more information about what was being promoted.

Councilor Stinnett asked how many communities are involved in SMAC, how many communities expect to join and how many communities would it take to achieve the market rate for his services.

Councilor Savage said the LOC represents a diverse group of communities and she expressed concern about the redundancy in what SMAC is proposing. She shared a list of upcoming LOC committee opportunities that would allow for the voices of small communities to be heard.

Councilor Ervin asked what the entry points and opportunities are to having discussions with policy makers.

Sean Tate and Scott McDowell took turns answering Council's questions regarding the focus and intentions of the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition.

Mayor Solesbee asked if there were any other questions.

Councilor Ervin asked to clarify if the membership is \$500 per Council member or per month.

Sean Tate replied that it is per month.

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone responded to a question regarding the cost of LOC dues.

(e) Concern from Council

Councilor Fleck mentioned the LRAPA and LACT committee meetings that he recently attended. He said LACT is asking all of their participating agencies to present a wish list of road projects that they would like completed.

Councilor Stinnett asked if the City studies traffic volume outside of there being a specific need for a project.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart replied that analysis was done including trip counts and other transportation related data in preparation for the Transportation System Plan. He said since then most of them are done strategically for specific applications that come to the Planning Commission.

Councilor Stinnett said Main Street is so busy these days and he asked if it is related to the construction on the Connector.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said the impact of the Hwy 99 and Connector construction has caused the increased traffic on Main Street and it is compounded when there is a train. He added that he has been told that sometime on Wednesday it will be opened back up.

Councilor Ervin inquired about having a parking study done after the traffic flow is back to normal. He added that he would also like a community survey coordinated with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to get answers to pertinent questions so they can move forward with support.

Mayor Solesbee reminded Council of the Memorial Day event at the Armory at 11:00 am on Monday.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Report from City Manager

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone reported that the City Manager is out sick and will be able to update Council when he returns.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said the first Ad-Hoc Meeting will be the upcoming Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Youth Representative Cassidy Poetzl said that she will not be able to make that meeting and asked if future meetings will also be on Thursday evenings.

Public Works and Development Director indicated that at the first meeting they get committee members availability for the months of June and July to determine the best dates and accommodate as many as possible.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Solesbee recessed the meeting at 9:10 pm to enter into Executive Session.

Council reconvened at 9:49 pm.

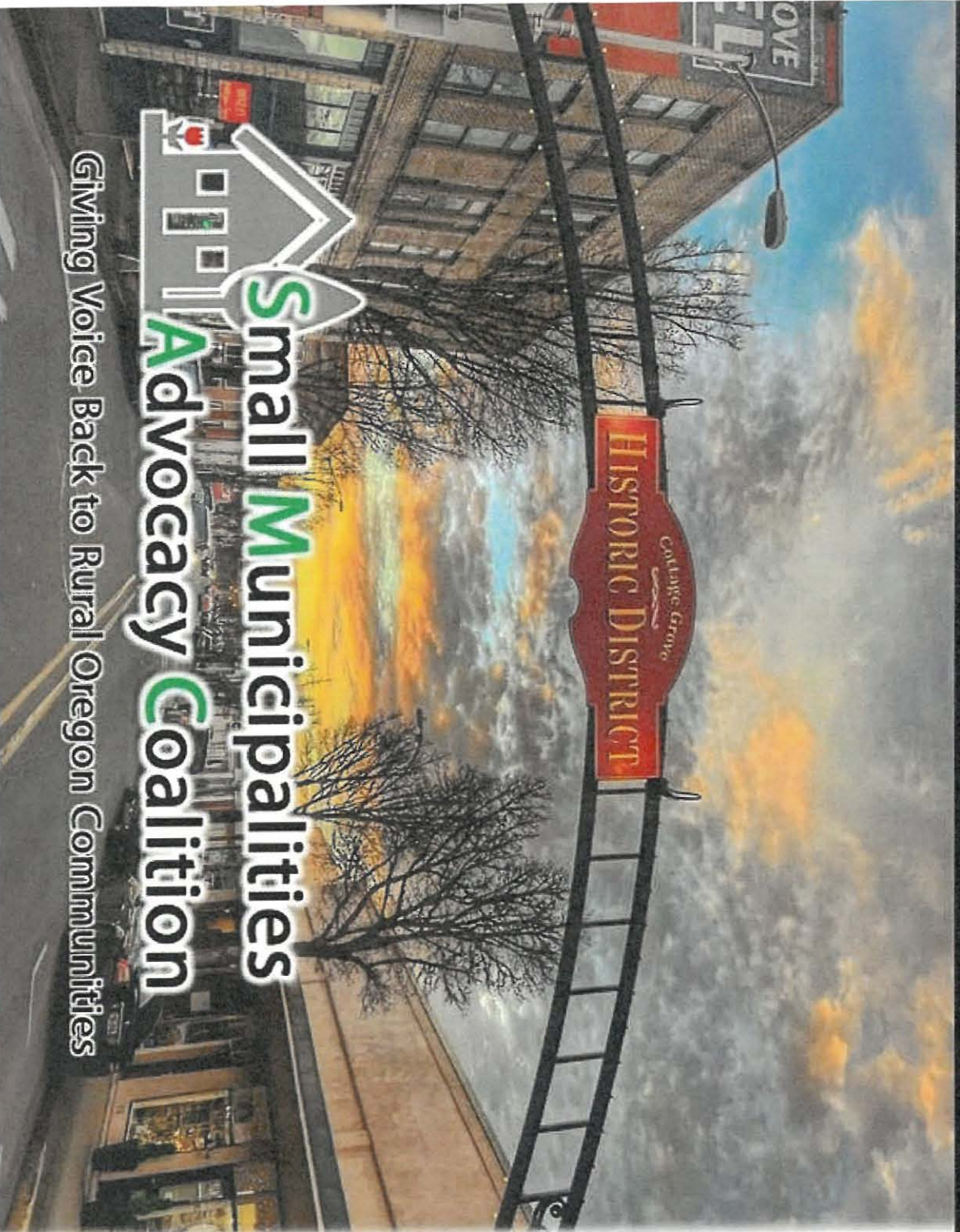
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Solesbee adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:50 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held June 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Candace Solesbee, Mayor



Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition

Giving Voice Back to Rural Oregon Communities



May 22, 2023

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.”

~ Pericles, Greek General & Politician

COTTAGE GROVE, ORE.

2-57-1



Our Mission, Vision and Values

The LOC is the trusted, go-to resource that helps Oregon city staff and elected leaders serve their cities well and speak with one voice.

Our Vision

That all Oregonians live in thriving communities that are equitable, healthy, and safe.

Our Mission

The LOC is the essential and trusted partner for local, state, federal, and community leaders in developing policy and legislation to empower Oregon's cities through collaboration, advocacy, training, and sharing best practices.

- 1. Full Funding and Alignment for State Land Use Initiatives
- 2. Local Funding to Address Homelessness
- 3. Infrastructure Funding to Support Needed Housing
- 4. Community Resiliency and Wildfire Planning
- 5. Protecting Public Employees and Officials
- 6. Return to Work
- 7. Attorney Client Privilege
- 8. Address Measure 110 Shortcomings
- 9. Building Decarbonization, Efficiency, and Modernization
- 10. Continue Investments in Renewable Energy



- 11. Investment in Community Climate Planning Resources
- 12. Adequate Funding for State Climate Initiatives
- 13. Property Tax Reform
- 14. Lodging Tax Flexibility
- 15. Economic Development Incentives (co-sponsor with the Community Development Committee)
- 16. Marijuana Taxes
- 17. Alcohol Revenues
- 18. Digital Equity and Inclusion
- 19. Resilient, Futureproof Broadband Infrastructure and Planning Investment
- 20. Incentives for Broadband Affordability, Adoption and Consumer Protections



- 21. Cybersecurity & Privacy
- 22. Transportation Safety Enhancement
- 23. Road User Fee – Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Structure
- 24. New Mobility Services
- 25. Funding for Recovery of Abandoned Recreational Vehicles
- 26. Water Utility Rate and Fund Assistance
- 27. Place-Based, Water Resource Planning (Program Support)
- 28. Infrastructure Financing and Resilience
- Write-in Option





September '22 | "The Letter"
December '22 | "The Meeting"



Five Cities Agreed On:

- ★ Advocacy Priority
- ★ Professional Assistance
- ★ Internal Policy

...Laying the groundwork for



Giving Voice Back to Rural Oregon Communities



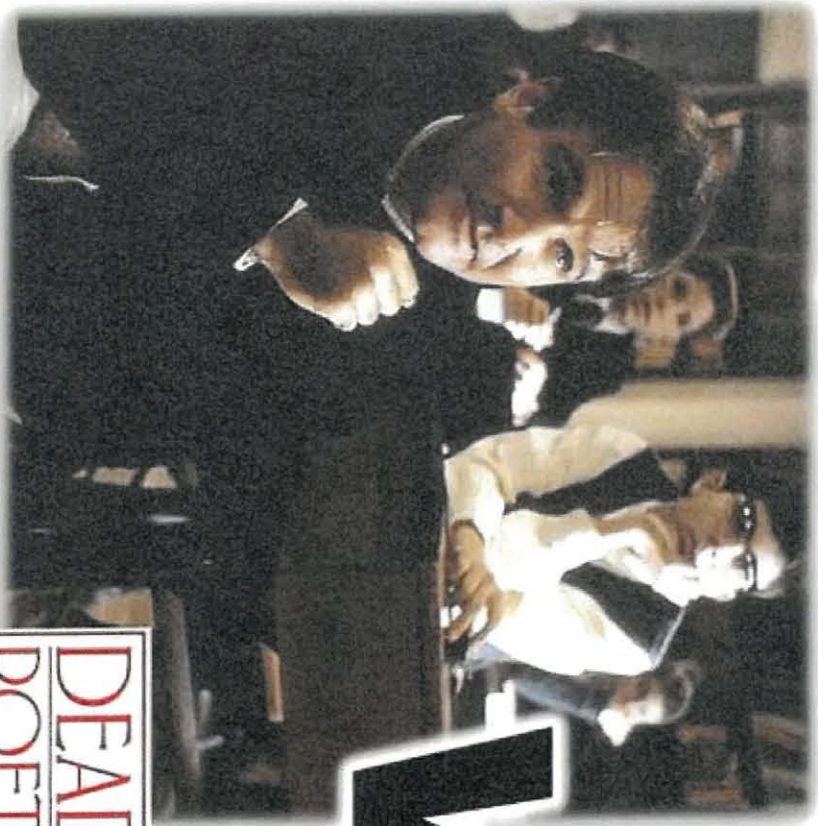
SMAC-Oregon Model:

1. Educates & Trains
2. Helps Develop Priorities
3. Creates Alliances
4. Builds Consensus
5. Identifies Opportunities
6. Fights for Rural Values & Needs
7. Strengthens Rural Voices

TATE
public affairs

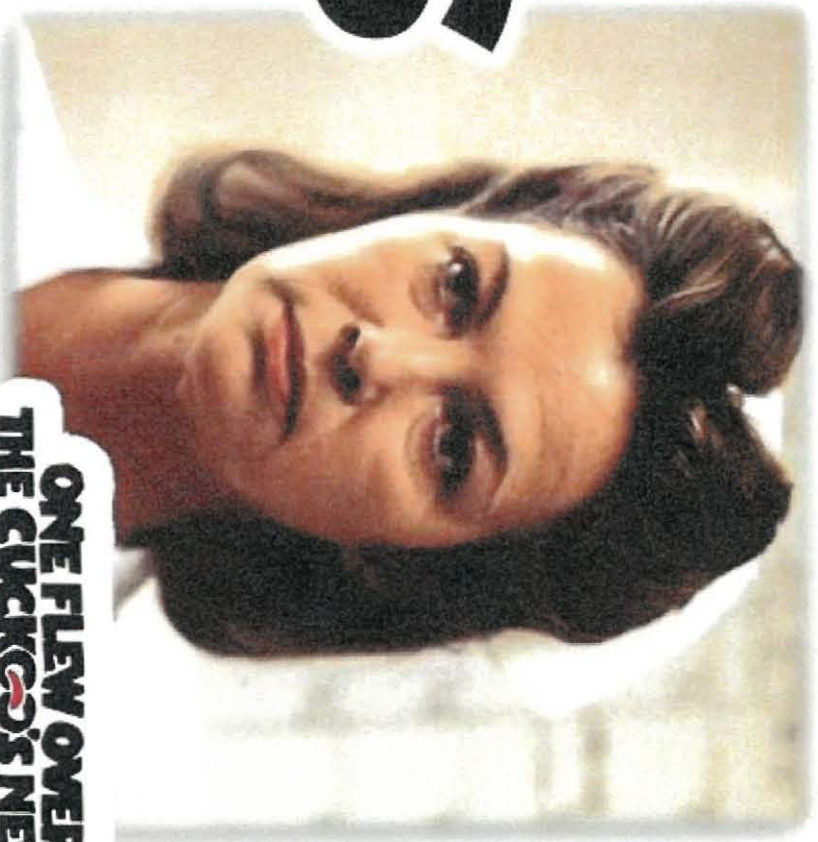


Sean Tate



**DEAD
DOETS
SOCIETY**

VS



**ONE FLEW OVER
THE CUCKOO'S NEST**






Representative Government

Representative Government

Resentment

The elected officials have an amazing responsibility and influence that can be used to protect and strengthen cities.





Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition

Giving Voice Back to Rural Oregon Communities

T A T T E
P U B L I C A F F A I R S

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape during autumn. The scene features rolling hills covered in trees with vibrant yellow and orange foliage. In the center, a green golf course is visible, and a small white house with a dark roof is situated in the lower-middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, containing the text 'SMALL TOWN PROBLEMS'.

SMALL TOWN
PROBLEMS

SAME AS THE BIG TOWNS

Rural communities suffer the same problems and challenges related to infrastructure, housing, developable land and revenues



SMALL TOWN
PROBLEMS

SAME AS THE BIG TOWNS

Rural communities suffer the same problems and challenges related to infrastructure, housing, developable land and revenues

RURAL UNDERSTANDING

Few policymakers outside rural districts understand our rural economy and communities. We need to be seen as more than “quaint” towns to visit.

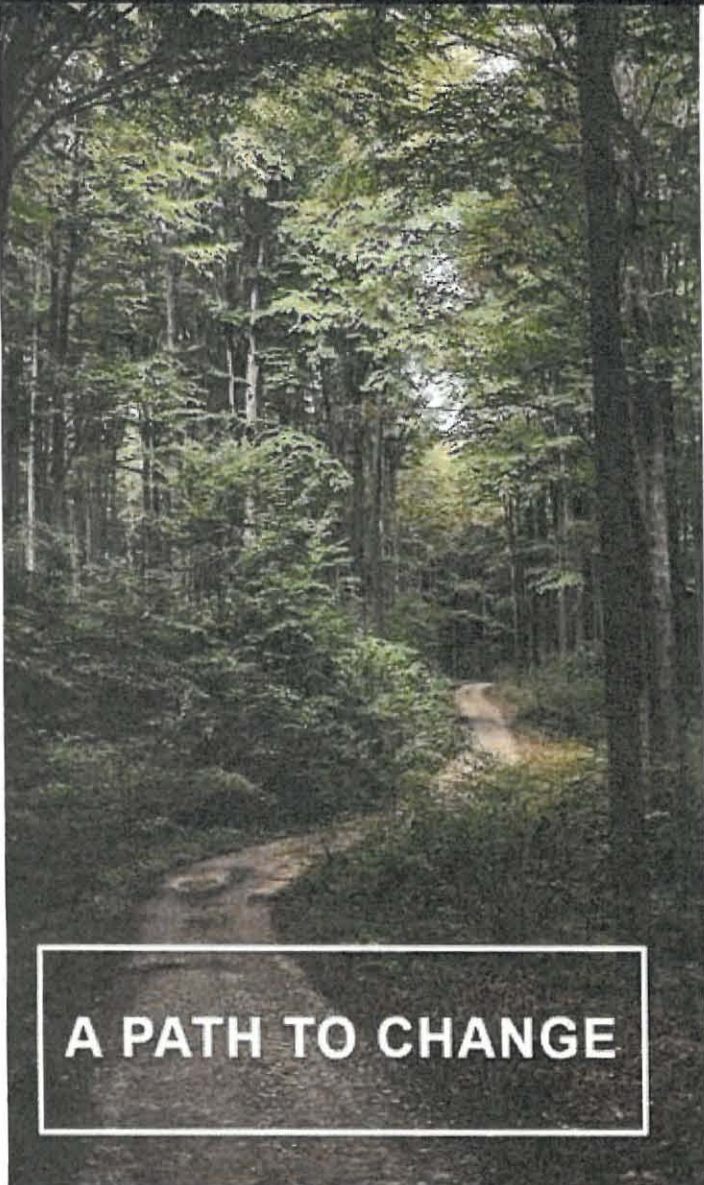
LITTLE GRACE FOR DIFFERENCES

Fewer resources to act on unfunded mandates, and the same heavy-handed enforcement tactics with no understanding of our capacity to process change.

INEFFECTIVE ADVOCACY MODEL

Oregon's larger Cities and their Representatives drive policy - rural community needs are left out of larger policy packages and discussions.

One vote for 200 communities.



A PATH TO CHANGE



Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition

Giving Voice Back to Rural Oregon Communities

FLIPPING THE MODEL.
Restores Rural advocacy to the those that matter most.

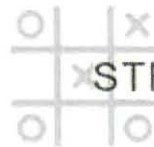
YOUR PASSION, OUR HELP.
Oregon's smallest communities confidently bring their needs directly - and effectively - to policymakers

SMAC-Oregon is a growing partnership of Rural communities, mutually invested in being an effective voice for critical change.

EDUCATION & TRAINING



- Policymakers:
The Shocking Truth
- Policymaking and Agency procedures
- Effective communication strategies
- Policy priority/mission development
- Engagement protocols and procedures




STRATEGIC COUNSEL

- Policy analysis and review
- Engagement planning and support
- Communications and collateral development support
- Strategic planning
- Regular group connections
- Policy development

SESSION SUPPORT



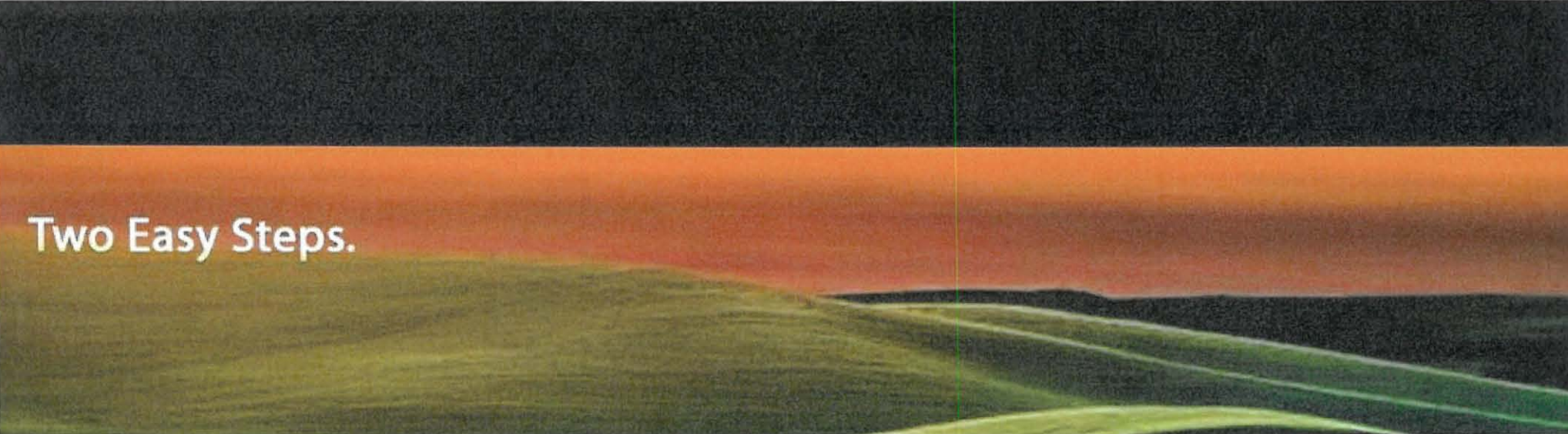
- Legislation tracking and reporting
- Logistics support for Councils and LATs
- Management support for Administration
- Messaging and Testimony support
- Regular communication with Councils



Two Easy Steps.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENTS BIND
COALITION

WORK CLOSELY WITH
TATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



Two Easy Steps.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS BIND COALITION

- Common mission, common circumstances, common need.
- Informal association
- NOT for fundraising and PAC activity
- Agreeing to work together with principles

WORK CLOSELY WITH TATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

- All training and support
- Group and local priorities
- Legislative Action Teams
- 24/7 access, for better or for worse.
- Communications and collateral
- Strategic planning sessions
- Consistent engagement at City level

Strategic Timeline

6/23

9/23

12/23

1/24

2/24

3/24

Education and Training

Sess. Prep



Strategic Timeline

6/23

9/23

12/23

1/24

2/24

3/24

Education and Training

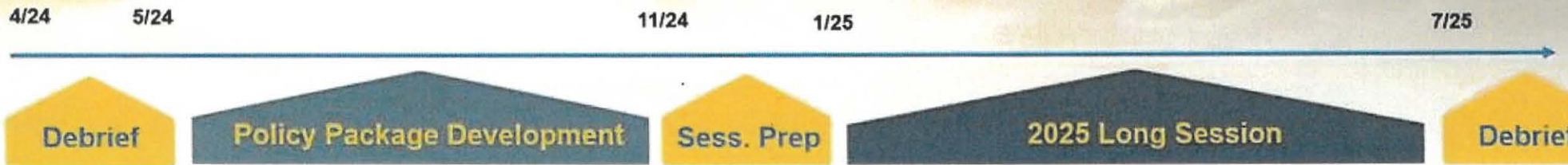
Sess. Prep

2024 Short Session

Debrief



Strategic Timeline Continued...





SMALL INVESTMENT, BIG POTENTIAL

The SMAC-Oregon model of training, educating and supporting DIRECT rural voices and advocacy will provide the highest long-term value for your monthly investment.

Based on community population, membership has a low barrier to entry for even Oregon's smallest towns:


**Community Size
Monthly**

Up to 750	\$75
751-1000	\$100
1001 – 1500	\$175
1501-5000	\$300
5001 – 10,000	\$400
10,001 +	\$500



ROI: Future Returns Rely on Current Engagement.

OUR SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE...



ROI: Future Returns Rely on Current Engagement.

OUR SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE...

- **All Member-Municipalities actively engaging in Salem**
 - **Strategic, focused policy work that sets the future stage**
 - **SMAC – Oregon visibility and branding**
 - **Well informed and well aligned Advocacy Partners**
 - **Strategic relationship development = priority 1**
 - **Policymakers recognizing the resource**
- 



Meet Sean Tate

I founded Tate Public Affairs in January 2020 after serving as a VP of Public Policy and Business Development since 2013. An (almost) lifelong Oregonian, I represent my clients' business and policy interests wherever needed, building partnerships and working towards positive outcomes.

I am active in healthcare, education, and business development policy circles, and enjoy good, no-nonsense relationships with legislators, legislative leadership, staff, and colleagues from all policy perspectives.

Prior to working in public affairs, I spent more than 20 years in business development, marketing, and sales management in the print media industry in Oregon and Montana. I am an experienced marketer and consensus-builder, and I like to take an inside-out approach to understanding client issues.

I serve on the board of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and the Albany-Millersburg Economic Development Corporation. As a registered lobbyist, my primary areas of policy focus are business and workforce development and higher education.

I live in Lebanon and engage in many of Oregon's recreational opportunities including road and mountain biking, fly fishing, hiking and camping.