

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
June 23, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solesbee opened the Work Session at 9:30 am.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor Solesbee, Councilors Greg Ervin, Dana Merryday, and Jon Stinnett

PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart and City Planner Eric Mongan

STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING

CITY ATTORNEY:

MEDIA PRESENT:

Mary Bosch from Marketek shared the research and findings of the Downtown Cottage Grove Retail Market Study. The interactive presentation was made utilizing storymaps and can be viewed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f999042a5f834053b0a84f8c5544f391>. She said the study is a strategy towards building an economic development program for downtown. She continued by highlighting key components of the study and covered information from the six chapter areas, including:

- Customer Markets
- Retail Marketplace
- Opinion Research
- Downtown Competitiveness
- Evolution & Opportunity
- Business Development

Council asked questions about the statistical data, how to encourage businesses to occupy vacant properties, how apartments downtown would affect the mix, what the impact of a downtown parking structure would be and how to recruit businesses to fill niches.

Mary Bosch elaborated on four short and longer-term focused, action initiatives to encourage momentum and demonstrate quick results to increase the economic vitality of downtown.

- Get Properties Ready for Private Investment.
- Keep and Grow Critical Business Anchors.
- Attract New Businesses/Entrepreneurs to Downtown Properties.
- Create a Pro-Active, Results-Oriented Approach to Implementation.

Councilor Ervin excused himself at 10:48 am

Mary Bosch said the study is just the start of the process with tools, approaches and creative strategies and that her goal is to see communities implement components of the study and personalize it.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the Downtown Revitalization project will be a major change for downtown and it would be nice to use that momentum to keep things moving in a positive direction.

Discussion was held about possible business assistance, developing alternative access to businesses and communication with the businesses during construction.

Discussion was held about how to help businesses that are currently struggling, how to help businesses that asked for assistance through the Retail Market Study and developing a list of resources.

The Work Session was adjourned at 11:01 am

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Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

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Candace Solesbee, Mayor