

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA SESSION MINUTES
February 23, 2024

Mayor Solesbee called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Council in attendance virtually and in person: Mayor Solesbee, Councilors Dreher, Ervin, Merryday and Stinnett.

Staff present virtually and in person: City Manager Mike Sauerwein, Assistant City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart and Finance Director Roberta Likens.

Mayor Solesbee reminded Council of the Work Session at 6:00 pm preceding the February 26, 2024 Council Meeting.

Resolutions and Ordinances

- (a) Resolution Demonstrating a Commitment to Support a Grant Application for a Department of the Interior National Park Service Grant, The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart explained that the resolution is in support of a grant application with awards from \$250,000 to \$750,000. He added that Staff would be applying for \$750,000 and has a compelling case to receive the grant, coupled with the Main Street Revitalization efforts starting in late 2024.

Councilor Merryday inquired about implementing a blight tax for properties that have been vacant for years.

Public Works and Development Director responded that City Planner Eric Mongan is researching other communities that utilize an existing blight tax.

Business from the City Council

- (a) Oregon Department of Transportation Presentation of the Cottage Grove ADA Ramp Project

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart explained that Jenna Berman, ODOT Region 2, Active Transportation Liaison will be at the Council meeting to present the work ODOT will be doing over the next two years. He said the intent is to improve that section of Hwy 99 to today's ADA standards. He added there would also be changes recommended for South Hwy 99 to improve the bicycle and pedestrian use of the road and the angled intersections.

Councilor Merryday stated that he confirmed ODOT coordinated with individuals involved with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

(b) Annual Police Chief Report

Mayor Solesbee announced that Police Chief Cory Chase will be at the Council meeting to present an annual report.

(c) Industrial Park Lot # 1 Purchase Offer from Stratosphere Storage

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart announced a proposed purchase and sale agreement for a lot at the Industrial Park.

Council asked how many remaining lots there are to sell, if the sale of this lot would satisfy the debt and what the breakeven point is for the Industrial Park.

Public Works and Development Director responded that there would be three remaining parcels to sell and provided a brief description as to the locations and potential uses. He said the payment for this sale would cover about 2/3 of the debt, make the payments for the year. He added that he would calculate the breakeven point and present the information at the upcoming Council meeting.

(d) Annual TMDL Update to Mayor and Council

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart shared that City Planner Eric Mongan provided a TMDL report to the State and would be providing an update to Council at the upcoming meeting.

Public Works and Development Director clarified that TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load. He provided a brief explanation as to the different areas and associated requirements of TMDLs.

(e) Zipty Presentation

Assistant City Manager Jake Boone shared that Zipty is interested in bringing fiber service to Cottage Grove. He added that the City has an Ordinance requiring undergrounding of new equipment and Zipty will be presenting to Council a request to place their lines on existing overhead poles.

Council discussed the stability of underground equipment with potential seismic events, the costs and time associated with restoration of underground equipment; types of material used underground and shared a personal experience with the length of response time to get downed overhead equipment addressed.

Public Works and Development Director provided a brief explanation of materials used underground and discussed overhead telecommunications infrastructure and standards compared to that of power.

(f) Concerns from Council

Councilor Merryday reminded Council of Coffee with the Cops taking place at Pour 818 until 10:30 am.

Business from City Manager

(a) Report from City Manager

City Manager Mike Sauerwein encouraged attendance to Coffee with the Cops, announced the Work Session date of May 18th to discuss issues surrounding homelessness, and commended Public Works Director Faye Stewart and the Ad Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee for the successful Community Forum.

City Recorder Mindy Roberts requested Council RSVPs for attendance at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and Lane Council of Government Appreciation Dinner.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart shared that the Ad Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee will be scheduling a meeting in order to formulate a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Solesbee adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Candace Solesbee, Mayor