



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: September 25, 2024

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Matilda Novak, Steph Newton Azorr, Ray Kopczynski, Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee

Councilors absent: None

Special Presentations

6:01 p.m.

Festival Latino

Ana Ojeda Duffy, speaking on behalf of the Hispanic Advisory Committee, said the Festival was first held in 1997. Festival Latino is held for all of Albany, not just the Latino community.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) annual report

6:05 p.m.

Ryan Vogt, executive director of OCWCOG said they recently hired their first grant writer who has already helped them to receive two large grants for highway safety planning. Moving towards more coordination, the boards of the OCWCOG and their sister agency Community Services Consortium (CSC) have agreed to work under a single executive director.

Director of Senior and Disabled Services Randy Moore described the services provided by the agency. The Meals on Wheels program provided 75,000 meals last year in Albany alone. Adult Protective Services responded to 266 calls in Albany in the last six months.

Business from the Public

6:17 p.m.

Allyson Dean said she is concerned about "inaction" on Lee Greenwood's comments at the July 4 River Rhythms concert. She suggested that the City form a citizen advisory board representing different Albany communities to help choose future performers.

Robert Springer said he lives across from the Meadows Apartments. Residents of the apartments smoke on the sidewalk and the smoke invades his and other neighbors' houses. He would like the City to ban smoking in public.

Raj Johal said he wants to open a cannabis store, but his property is not zoned to allow cannabis sales. He asked how to get the zoning changed.

Sarah Whiteside spoke against Greenwood's comments. She agrees that there should be a community body of diverse voices to approve proposed concert performers.

Viyanna Langager spoke about her experiences helping people who have “fallen through the cracks” and are homeless.

Carol Davies, outreach program director of Community Outreach Action Team (COAT) said the problems existing with Marvin’s Garden could be solved if an organization was in charge. Those who live there are not eligible to go to shelters.

First Reading of Ordinances

6:36 p.m.

Camping and Shelter Ordinances

- 1) Amend AMC 7.20, Camping Regulations

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Councilor Marilyn Smith moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Councilor Ray Kopczynski seconded the motion. The motion failed 0-6. The ordinance will come back to the council on August 7 for an automatic second reading.

- 2) Add AMC 8.06, Temporary Emergency Shelters

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Smith seconded the motion.

Kidd read the ordinance a second time in title only.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilor Jackie Montague seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Ordinance No. 6046.

Councilor Matilda Novak said she had questions. Her questions were related to the next ordinance on the agenda

- 3) Add AMC 8.07, Emergency Transitional Housing

Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Kidd read the ordinance a second time in title only.

Novak asked for several clarifications of meaning in the ordinance. Code Compliance Officer Kris Schendel explained. The emergency shelters would not be run by the City. This ordinance allows certain types of organizations to run them. “Fees charged by the council” are fees to review proposed shelters.

Novak asked whether the language in the ordinance adopting 8.06 means that a temporary emergency shelter could be built on land in North Albany zoned Rural Residential. Director of Community Development Matthew Ruettgers said yes, this is a state requirement.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the ordinance. Kopczynski seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Ordinance No. 6047.

- 4) Add AMC 8.08, Conversions for Emergency Shelters or Affordable Housing
Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Smith moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Kopczynski seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Kidd read the ordinance a second time in title only.

Kopczynski said Schendel has done a great job wading through state regulations and tuning the City's language to them.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the ordinance. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Ordinance No. 6048.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

p.m.

- a. Appointments
 - 1) Appointing Eduardo (JR) Beroncal to the Airport Commission
 - 2) Appointing Wanda Buck to the Arts Commission
- b. Recommendations to OLCC
 - 1) Approve additional annual liquor license renewals
 - 2) Approve full on-premises, liquor license application for New RCI Holdings Inc, dba Regal Albany
- c. Adoption of resolutions
 - 1) Acceptance of Statewide and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLGCP) Grant

RES NO. 7350

MOTION: Councilor Ramycia McGhee moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Staff Report

7:03 p.m.

Tax Increment Financing feasibility study

Economic Development Manager Sophie Adams said the cost of the feasibility study was covered by grant funds. She described the study.

Nick Popanuk of Tiberius Solutions presented the report. He explained how tax increment financing (urban renewal) works and showed the boundaries of the proposed district. Adams explained why the proposed boundaries were chosen. Nick showed slides* and used the tables and graphs to draw a financial picture of the life of the district.

Montague asked for a copy of the findings. Adams will provide copies.

Business from the Council

7:31 p.m.

McGhee said she agrees that there should be a committee to review potential concert performers. She also said Johnson II's statement about Greenwood's comments should be more accessible to the public.

Councilor Steph Newton Azorr said the U. S. Constitution protects freedom of speech, but a person can be held accountable for what they say when under contract. She agrees with the idea of a community

group to be involved in selecting concert performers and suggests using the Human Relations Commission (HRC).

Montague condemned Greenwood's speech and said free speech is not free from consequences.

Smith said Greenwood's statements are a proven lie. She said expanding the HRC's duties to include suggestions of potential performers is a good idea.

Johnson II said he will work with the communications and engagement officer to make his statement more visible.

City Manager Report

7:52 p.m.

City Manager Peter Troedsson said that in Albany, marijuana shops are not allowed within 300 feet of a residential area. He also said Parks and Recreation is working on a code of conduct to be included in future performers' contracts. He clarified that the River Rhythms series is not paid for with taxpayer money, as was stated earlier in the meeting. It's funded largely by local sponsors.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, August 5, 2024; 4:00 p.m. work session

Wednesday, August 7, 2024; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing cityclerk@albanyoregon.org.*