



MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024
Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall
Approved: October 23, 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

Public Hearings

6:01 p.m.

- a. CDBG Consolidated annual performance report
Mayor Johnson II opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Planner II Beth Freeland presented the report, summarizing how Albany used Community Development Block Grant funds to meet community needs.

Councilor Steph Newton-Azorr asked why the number of Hispanic people served in the most recent year was fewer than the number for the previous year. Freeland said she will review outreach for the two years.

Newton-Azorr asked how close the served numbers are to population ratios. Freeland said they're broadly in line. The ratio depends in part on who is seeking assistance.

No one else wished to speak.

Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

MOTION: Councilor Marilyn Smith moved to authorize Planning staff to submit the report to HUD. Councilor Jackie Montague seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

- b. PRO Housing grant application
Johnson II opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

6:13 p.m.

Comprehensive Planning Manager Anne Catlin said Planning applied for this grant a year ago but didn't get it. This year they've broadened the scope of the application to include a request for more money to start an affordable housing fund.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked several clarifying questions, which Catlin and Public Works Director Chris Bailey answered. Novak said she can only support the application if North Albany is excepted from all of it. Catlin said the grant could apply to any affordable housing development and the climate-friendly area in North Albany off Hickory Street is identified as an opportunity area.

Gamael Nassar, of Habitat for Humanity, said Albany is one of the best cities in the area in supporting affordable housing.

Johnson II closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

MOTION: Montague moved to approve the grant application. Newton-Azorr seconded the motion and it passed 5-1, with Novak voting against.

Business from the Public

6:29 p.m.

Dennis Abeene read a statement about the wild turkeys in Mennonite Village. He asked for an ordinance that included fines for feeding them.



Abeene also spoke about a neighborhood cat that urinates on his barbeque cover.

Jessica Becker, of Albany Helping Hands, presented an idea for use of the three properties next to theirs and asked the council to declare them surplus.

Brad Dennis, of the North Albany Neighborhood Association, said the association is working to bring together agencies who manage roads in North Albany to solve problems.

Audrey Eldridge, secretary of the North Albany Neighborhood Association, asked several questions and presented a petition to review the three-basin rule.*

Trevor Lee said the people of Albany don't want a transportation service fee.

Lise Grato, executive director of the Albany Downtown Association, presented an update on downtown activities.

Joe Esker asked the council to consider all funding options for street maintenance.

Second reading of ordinance

6:57 p.m.

Creating AMC Chapter 14.30, street maintenance fee

The ordinance was read for the first time in title only at the meeting on August 7, 2024, but a motion to read it a second time at the same meeting didn't pass.

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance in title only.

Bailey said the council has received presentations on this subject since August 2023. This ordinance provides legal authority to establish a new fee. It does not establish a fee. The authority is needed in order to develop a methodology for a fee. Public Works staff has looked at all options, and is talking about a fee because the council directed them to do so.

Montague said this has been a problem for a long time, and it won't go away. It will just get more expensive.

Councilor Ramycia McGhee said, no one has come to tell the council "we want a fee." Based on the people who come to the council, it doesn't seem to be a popular idea.

Newton-Azorr said she has also heard that people don't want a fee, they want a gas tax.

Novak objected to the implied power given to the public works director.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski said, we are elected to make hard decisions. It's time to do it. All this ordinance does is allow staff to go forward and develop a methodology.

Smith agreed.

Bailey said the council can choose not to pass the ordinance, but then they will have to pass a motion to direct staff how to proceed. She said all options are still on the table. We will need a combination of them.

Novak said a constituent pointed out \$8.4 million available in the budget. Bailey said that was the year-end balance from 2022. The money was available to use as of June 30, 2022, and was rolled over for use in FY 2023.

Smith called for the question.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the ordinance. Kopczynski seconded the motion. On a roll-call vote, Kopczynski, Montague, and Smith voted for adoption, and McGhee, Novak, and Newton-Azorr voted against. Johnson II voted for adoption to break the tie, and the motion passed 4-3. The ordinance was designated Ordinance No. 6050

Award of Contracts

7:40 p.m.

- a. Exemption from competitive bidding and sole-source procurement of fire alerting system

Smith asked what the fire alerting system is. Fire Chief Chris LaBelle said when a 911 call is received, the existing system manually directs an alert to the appropriate station. The system has been in place since the early 1980s. The new system broadcasts the alert to the stations as the call is being handled.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the resolution. McGhee seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. The resolution was designated Resolution No. 7354.

- b. Exemption from competitive bidding for sole source procurement of document management system support

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the resolution. Kopczynski seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. The resolution was designated Resolution No. 7355.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

7:47 p.m.

- a. Appointments
 - 1) Appointing Tami Cockeram to the Human Relations Commission
- b. Approval of minutes
 - 1) July 22, 2024, city council work session
 - 2) July 24, 2024, city council meeting
 - 3) August 5, 2024, city council work session
 - 4) August 7, 2024, city council meeting
- c. Adoption of resolutions
 - 1) Granting public utility easement and dedicating right-of-way on South Albany Park property – Kim Lyddane RES NO. 7356
 - 2) Accepting grant funds from Oregon Criminal Justice Commission organized retail theft grant – Marcia Harnden RES NO. 7357
- d. Approval of agreements
 - 1) Authorize City of Albany Fire Department to enter into a lease agreement with Hughes Fire equipment at 1980 Three Lakes RD SE – Chris LaBelle RES NO. 7358

MOTION: Montague asked to pull item c2 for discussion. A motion to approve the consent agenda with item c2 removed passed 6-0.

Montague asked how much staff time use of the camera system would require. Fire Chief Marcia Harnden said it's all automated.

Newton-Azorr expressed concern about data sharing. She also said license-plate readers disproportionately gather data in under-privileged areas. Harnden said they are designed for a specific use against specific criminal behavior. Newton-Azorr said she has read negative things about the company that produces the readers.

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the resolution accepting the funds. Kopczynski seconded the motion, which passed 5-1, with Newton-Azorr voting no.

Staff Reports

8:01 p.m.

Ratification of decisions made during the council break

- a. Contract award for AR-24-21, fixed base operator (FBO) building and historic hangar rehabilitation and approval to apply for and accept a Federal Aviation Administration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant RES NO. 7359
- b. Contract for BR-22-01, Salem Avenue bridge over Cox Creek
- c. Contract extension for water meter reading services

Bailey said this is unusual. These three contracts had to be executed while the council was on their summer break. Now the council needs to ratify their execution.

MOTION: Montague moved to ratify all three contracts. McGhee seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Business from the Council

8:03 p.m.

Kopczynski asked staff to look at modifying Albany's wildlife ordinances to bring them into line with other cities. Smith said she wants the ordinance to prohibit feeding only wild turkeys.

Code Compliance Officer Kris Schendel said he will work on it. He will also update the Municipal Code as it applies to cats.

City Manager Report

8:15 p.m.

Interim City Manager Chris Bailey said the September 30 joint meeting has been changed. The city council will meet from 4:00 until 5:15 that night, and the planning commission will meet beginning at 5:30.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, September 30, 2024; ~~5:15 p.m. joint work session with planning commission~~ 4-5:15 work session

Monday, October 7, 2024; 4:00 p.m. budget review committee work session

Wednesday, October 9, 2024; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 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.*