



## MINUTES

Monday, October 21, 2024  
Work Session  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Approved: **November 6, 2024**

### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

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

Councilors absent: None

### Business from the Public

Patrick Winczewski, the founder of the Albany Mushroom Festival, said the festival was a success. Over 100 local businesses participated, and several food trucks sold out. He thanked sponsors and supporters.

### Arts Commission presentation

**4:05 p.m.**

Arts Commission Chair Keth Lohse gave a brief history of the commission, with slides\*. The commission manages the City Hall art gallery, where over 100 artists have been shown since 2022. He asked the council to consider including the commission in the City budget.

The arts commission gave awards to individual artists Eileen Hinkle and Stephanie Lowe. The group award went to Albany Civic Theater's Youth Camp.

### FEMA pre-implementation compliance measures

**4:24 p.m.**

Floodplain Manager Jennifer Cepello showed slides\*. She summarized the history of the implementation plan and described the floodplain in Albany. She said FEMA's goal is to preserve and restore the floodplain. They are requiring cities to decide among three options to meet that goal:

1. prohibiting any development in the floodplain,
2. adopting an ordinance incorporating Endangered Species Act requirements into our floodplain development code, or
3. requiring every permit applicant to complete a habitat assessment to prove no net loss.

Planning staff estimates that the burden on the City of the last two options is the same.

Councilor Marilyn Smith asked about the difference between floodplain and floodway, and how much of each is developable. Cepello said she will have that information for the council at the November 18, 2024, meeting.

Councilor Matilda Novak objected to defining an "area of hazard" as having a one-percent risk of flooding in any given year. She wants to see the science and engineering used by FEMA.

Director of Community Development Matthew Ruetters said in Albany, floodplain is a limited amount of land, most of which has already been developed.

### Business from the Council

**4:49 p.m.**

Novak said she wished to note publicly her gratitude that the City of Lebanon has asked its citizens to vote on continuing to add fluoride, which she said is "a proven neurotoxin," to their drinking water.

Smith said the League of Oregon Cities conference in Bend the week before showed her that the City of Albany is doing a lot of things right in our interactions with Albany residents. She reminded everyone that we serve "residents" of Albany, not just "citizens."

### City Manager Report

**4:56 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson said that while the council is able to make decisions about fluoridation, the City's water fluoridation is completely within the health and safety standards established by health authorities and the FDA.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, November 4, 2024; 4:00 p.m. work session  
Wednesday, November 6; 6:00 p.m. meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 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](mailto:cityclerk@albanyoregon.org).*