

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in a work session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Beverly Ficek; Council President, Ken Well; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambee, and Karen Leach. City Administrator, Jason Knope; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ficek opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

2. LCOG Board of Director Report

Councilor Gambee reported that the LCOG (Lane Council of Governments) Board met five times a year, and their next meeting would be held in April. They were currently reviewing their budget, and he encouraged everyone to refer to the minutes and resources on LCOG's website.

3. Lane ACT Report

Councilor Leach reported that there would be a 20-year project to update Main Street in Springfield, which had consistently been ranked as one of the most unsafe city streets in Oregon. First phase would be 28 million dollars for work between 32nd and 42nd, to include installations of medians and roundabouts.

4. Changing Rules in Middle of Meeting

Councilor Thomas stated that at a regular Council meeting a few months ago, a citizen had asked a yes or no question and was told that their question would be answered at a later time. She felt that if they were able to provide an answer immediately, that would be best; however, she understood if staff needed to research something and get back to someone at a later time.

Mayor Ficek responded that in that instance, they did not have the full answer and she wanted Administrator Knope to look into this more fully before responding. She added that she always wanted to give citizens an opportunity to ask their questions and felt it was important to provide accurate and complete answers, which sometimes required staff getting back to them at a later time.

Councilor Ceniga noted that in the past, she had brought up the idea of adding public comment follow up on the Council agenda, so staff could report on answers that were provided to citizen questions.

Councilor Washburne stated that was a good idea, as the question had been asked in public and then the response could be given in public.

Mayor Ficek expressed her agreement and asked for Administrator Knope's thoughts. Administrator Knope responded that he would be fine with that and they could add something like A. Follow-up to Previous Comments and B. New Comments from Public under the regular agenda item of Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda. He added that he could prepare a report for this item in the Council Packets that would include any responses that staff provided on citizen questions that were raised during a meeting.

Councilor Wells responded that he thought this was a great idea, so everybody would know what the answer was.

Administrator Knope noted that in addition to questions asked under Public Comment, he could also include in his report questions that were asked during other regular business items. Council members expressed that would be great.

5. Council Goals

Mayor Ficek stated that they discussed Council Goals at the February 22, 2022 Work Session, and the draft minutes of that meeting were distributed to them tonight. She continued that she wanted to have further discussion on goals the Council would like to see the City provide to the citizens in the next 2, 5, and 10 years, to see how they could make the City be a safer place for all citizens, and what they could do for the future of the children in the community.

Mayor Ficek asked for Council members to share their thoughts, and discussion included the following:

- **Citywide Plan, not Just a Downtown Plan.** (Wells, Gambia, Ceniga)
- **Economic Development Plan** (Wells, Ceniga)
 - Be a focal point to draw people in from the whole state.
 - Have a nice hotel or larger restaurant to accommodate banquets.
 - Consider having a theme for the town, whether it be a Scandinavian theme or other.
 - Market Junction City, whether it was agriculture, cycling, etc. and tie in with things going on in Lane County.
 - Administrator Knope noted that it would be important to overlay the City's current utilities and needs in a future planning process, to make sure capacity needs could be served. In addition, they could look at how to best use the City's fiber optic conduit for the community.
- **Train Noise at Night** (Wells)
- **More Community Involvement** (Wells, Gambia)
 - Add citizen members to Committees.

ACTION: Administrator Knope would bring back information on adding citizen members to the Council.

- **Staffing and Wages Citywide** (Wells)
 - Wanted to make sure the City continued to make adjustments, so it was not behind.
- **Fully Staffed Police Department** (Leach)
- **Reserve Program** (Leach)
- **Examine Future Needs of Community Services** (Leach)
 - Pool, Library, Community Center, and Senior Center
- **City Facilities** (Leach)
 - New City Hall (current project)
 - Other City facilities needs
- **What to do with the 1.4 million dollars from federal government.** (Leach)
- **Communications System Update for Whole City.** (Leach, Gambia)
- **Water and Sewer Projects** (Leach, Thomas)
- **Review of Citywide 5 Step Compensation Range** (Gambia)
 - It was noted that this would be going to the Finance/Judiciary Committee.
- **Traffic** (Gambia, Ceniga, Washburne)
 - Addressing Current Issues and Future Growth
 - Crosswalks/Better Lighting.

ACTION: Administrator Knope would have Director Kaping take crosswalks/better lighting to Public Works Committee.

- **Good Working Relationships with Other Cities** (Ceniga)
- **Involve Youth in Government** (Ceniga, Ficek, Wells)

ACTION: Administrator Knope would gather information from the City of Cottage Grove on their Youth Advisory Council and bring back to Council.

- **Cover Pool** (Washburne, Ficek)
- **Better Reader Board on Highway 99** (Washburne)

ACTION: Administrator Knope stated that there was money in the RTMP funds for this, and they could update the existing reader board near Dutch Brother's. They could also consider putting put a second board on Guaranty property at the south end of town. He would talk with the Scandinavian Festival Association about working together on a board that could be used by them and the City.

- **Expand/New Library** (Thomas, Ficek)
- **Work Towards Decarbonization – Less Gas, More Trees, Expand Parks** (Ficek)
- **Kiddy Pool** (Ficek)
- **Water Park** (Ficek). Administrator Knope noted it would be important to look at the City infrastructure and if a large water user like this could be supported.
- **New City Hall Complex** (Ficek)
- **Expanded Police Force/City Staffing in Future** (Planner/Community Services Director) (Ficek)
- **Increase Recycling Program** (Ficek)

Councilor Wells stated that he thought it would be important to write up these goals and once they had an approved list, to make assignments and begin working on them one by one.

Administrator Knope responded that staff would bring back the list of goals from the minutes, and the Council could review and determine if the list reflected what the Council wanted. He added that staff would bring back information on adding citizens to the Committees and on developing a Youth Advisory Committee.

Mayor Ficek stated that the Council should prioritize the list of goals, set a timeline on how long they would take (such as 2, 5, 10, years or beyond) and get input from citizens. She thanked everyone for their input and good discussion.

6. Update on 150th Birthday Celebration

Mayor Ficek stated that the City’s 150th Birthday celebration would be held September 15 – 18, 2022. The celebration would include: Thursday opening night at the Community Center, Friday night hometown football game, Saturday 5 K run/walk, street festival, and community dance, and Sunday citywide barbeque at Laurel Park.

Administrator Knope added that the list of activities from the Junction City Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee would be going to the Community Development Committee and eventually come to Council.

Councilor Leach noted that there would be an open house at the Viking Sal Senior Center on March 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and the City was currently hiring lifeguards for the pool.

7. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Beverly A. Ficek, Mayor