

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 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 Wells; Councilors Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambee, and Karen Leach; Excused Absence: Councilor Sandie Thomas; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Police Chief, Bob Morris; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; Finance Director, Mike Crocker; Planning Technician, Tere Andrews; 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. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2022

Mayor Ficek suggested updating the language on the vote for Resolution No. 1 to indicate that the motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0, instead of by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.

B. New Comments from Public.

Autumn Hover, 535 SW Juniper, Junction City, spoke on behalf of Emmeray King, who was not able to attend the meeting. Emmeray had filed complaints against Chief Morris, had emailed those to the Council members who had City email addresses, and wanted the Council to be aware of bullying and aggressive behavior to her and others.

Kent Baker, 1025 Green Meadows Avenue, Junction City, stated that he had submitted a complaint on his neighbors having chickens, which was not allowed by City Code, and he asked that this code prohibition be enforced.

Jeff Ware stated that he was a 25-year veteran in the sheriff's office and had seen the Police Department receive more than their fair share of complaints online. He noted that the job of officers was enforcement and it was not always easy to go from confrontation to a finishing school approach to someone. He asked people to be aware that cops were human too and had bad days. He continued that when new ordinances or concentrated enforcement was done in an area, he suggested using neighborhood policing, where you notify citizens of changes and talk to them about enforcement first, before ticketing for something like parking a car the wrong way. He added that he had spoken to the Mayor and a Councilor when they were campaigning and was told they would get back to him, but they never did. Mayor Ficek asked for Mr. Ware's phone number, which he provided.

Caleb Beechem, 395 Juniper Street, Junction City, shared his personal experience and fear of police before moving to Junction City. He shared how Chief Morris had been compassionate, kind, and understanding and had made countless efforts to assist him. He added that Chief Morris had restored his faith that there were good men in the world, and Junction City had the best chief and Police Department in the state.

Lisa Bowen, 320 SW Oleander, Junction City, stated that she and her husband Wally had submitted a complaint on their neighbors having pigs, which the code prohibits in the City limits; however, they were told by the Police Department that these pigs were allowed because of certain circumstances. She referred to the bad smell and expressed concerns about not enforcing the livestock statute in the City's code.

Tammy Darnell, 658 Pine Court, Junction City, shared her history and noted that Chief Morris was a great officer who had helped her family and he was an advocate for her child and other children in the City. She expressed her appreciation for Chief Morris and the Police Department and noted that she felt safe in Junction City.

Steve Weir, 970 W. 12th Avenue, Junction City, shared that he had 27 years of experience in law enforcement and had read a lot of rumors. He noted that they needed to do better and not post complaints or rumors on social media, but to submit complaints through the complaint process. He shared interactions he had with Chief Morris and the Police Department and said they were professional and did what they were supposed to. He encouraged everyone to treat each other better and to treat others the way you would want to be treated.

Dorothy Mason, 290 W. 7th, Junction City, stated that she supported Chief Morris and shared how Chief Morris had helped her after her dog had passed away. She added that Chief Morris had turned the Police Department around, and she was thankful to have him and the officers in the community.

Robert Nelson, 28934 Bailey Lane, Junction City, shared some of his history of being on the Council and some of the Police Department history. He urged everyone to make an appointment with Chief Morris to do a ride along in a police car, to see what was actually happening out there. He continued that 60 to 90% of communications involved looking someone in the eye and that did not occur over the internet. He noted that the Council was elected to protect the citizens of Junction City and keep it in good financial health, and paying attention to the litany of idiocy that was on some of the social media sites was not the way to run public government. He expressed his support for Chief Morris.

Corey Walker, 1694 W. 6th, Junction City, shared that he was a long time resident and noted that the witch hunt for Chief Morris and the Police Department needed to stop. He echoed the words of support that had been expressed for Chief Morris and the Police Department and said that what was happening on social media and petitioning for comments was wrong; citizens could voice complaints, but should do it through the complaint process and not on social media.

Scott Adams, 1160 Oak Drive, Junction City, said that he had lived here close to 10 years and shared the professional and supportive way that Chief Morris and the department had assisted he and his wife when their car was stolen. He added that everyone made mistakes and headhunting someone would not benefit anyone.

5. Public Hearing – Comp Plan Amendment/Rezone (CPA-22-17/RZ-22-18)

A. Public Hearing

Mayor Ficek opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. She asked if there were any Council members who had a conflict of interest or ex parte contacts/bias; there were none. Mayor Ficek read the required statements for the public hearing.

Staff Report

Technician Andrews stated that this public hearing was for a Comprehensive Plan Designation and zoning map amendments for City owned properties. There were 15 tax lots involved that included the block where the Community Center was, City Hall, the Police Department, the well house on the other side of the Community Center, the parking lots at 7th and Holly and 5th and Greenwood, and Founders Park. Currently all of these properties were designated as commercial and had the zoning of Central Commercial, except for the wellhouse which was zoned General Commercial. Because all of these City owned properties currently served a public lands function, it was proposed that the Comprehensive Plan Designation Map be changed from commercial to a public lands designation and to change the zoning on all the properties to Public Lands. Junction City Municipal Code (JCMC) 17.145 allowed the City Council, Planning Commission, or property owner to initiate an amendment to either the code or the maps. On April 20, 2022, Planning Commission reviewed and voted to initiate this Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Zoning Change. On June 17, 2022, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended that the Council approve these amendments.

Technician Andrews continued that LCOG Planner Deanna Wright had written the staff report. This amendment needed to be in compliance with the Junction City Comprehensive Plan as well as applicable Statewide Planning Goals: Goal 1 Citizen Involvement – Notices were mailed to property owners and residents within 300 feet of each of these properties, and notice was published in the newspaper and physically at four locations; Goal 2 Land Use Planning – The City had to have a Comprehensive Plan, which it did and these amendments would better align the Comprehensive Plan with the uses on these properties; Goal 8 Recreational Needs – Public parks would need to be accessed by the public at a minimal to no charge and needed to be accessible by a non-motorized means, and Founder's Park met those; Goal 9 Economic

Development – When the Comprehensive Plan was updated a few years ago, an inventory was done of commercial properties and found that there was a need for 35 vacant acres for commercial development. The subject properties were already developed, so would not fall into the category of commercial buildable lands inventory nor would they meet the larger scale needs because that 35 acres was specific to sub-regional shopping centers like the one at the north end of town; Goal 11 Public Facilities and Services – The subject properties were all public facilities; and Goal 14 Urbanization – The Comprehensive Plan needed to provide for livable, walkable, and densely built communities and because all the subject properties were in the downtown urbanized area, these amendments would bring things into better alignment. Planner Wright's conclusion was that the proposals were in alignment with both the Junction City Comprehensive Plan, as well as the applicable Statewide Planning Goals.

Technician Andrew shared that she did not receive any comments verbally or in writing, prior to this public hearing. She had received three phone calls prior to the Planning Commission public hearing, but those were questions to clarify the notices.

Councilor Washburne noted that site #4 on the Agenda Item Summary (AIS) showed the Q-Hut, but it was no longer there. Technician Andrews responded that she had written the AIS before the Q-Hut was taken down, but the underlying property was still publicly owned.

Applicant Testimony. None.

Public Testimony – Those in Favor. None.

Public Testimony – Neutral Testimony. None.

Public Testimony – Those Opposed. None.

Applicant Final Comments. None.

Further Questions from Council. None.

Mayor Ficek closed the public hearing and the record at 7:20 p.m.

Councilor Wells expressed appreciation to the Planning Commission, Planner Wright, and Technician Andrews for all their work on this.

Councilor Leach expressed appreciation for the maps that had been included. She asked about the other well houses that the City owned. Administrator Knope responded that Technician Andrews had a long list of City properties that would need to be similarly updated and this was the first round.

B. Ordinance No. 1 – An Ordinance Amending the City of Junction City Comprehensive Plan Map and Official Zoning Map for Lane County Assessor's Map 15-04-32-31, Tax Lots 02801, 02900, 03000, 03800, 03900, 04000, 04100, 04200, 04300, 04400, 04401, 05500, 05600, 07000 and 07600.

Attorney Connelly and Mayor Ficek read Ordinance No. 1 in full.

MOTION: Councilor Wells made a motion to read Ordinance No. 1 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

Attorney Connelly read Ordinance No. 1 by title only.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

6. Lane County Deadly Force Plan

Lane County Chief Deputy District Attorney Chris Parosa presented the amended Lane County Deadly Force Plan. The City originally approved this plan on February 12, 2008, which had been created by the Lane County Deadly Force Planning Authority and subsequently approved by cities in Lane County. An amended plan was before the Council to comply with modern police tactics and investigative techniques, based on report recommendations after a 2015 deadly force incident in Springfield and a law that was passed in the 2020 legislative session.

The Council consensus was to bring back a resolution to approve the amended plan at the August 9th Council meeting.

7. School District Report

Superintendent Troy Stoops distributed and reviewed a report from the School District. The report included: School Board updates; Long Range Facility Planning was underway and could have a potential bond on the ballot in the next one to two years; District Strategic (Vision) Planning was underway and would be completed in December 2022; District Maintenance Updates – Stadium Lighting Project almost completed and taking care of some deferred maintenance; Junction City Sesquicentennial – Working on School District involvement; School Union bargaining agreements were underway; District Staffing Challenges; and Summer School was underway. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation and partnerships between the School District and City Police and Public Works and thanked Chief Morris, Director Kaping, and Superintendent Tracer for their continued support and assistance.

8. Business Pandemic Impact Support Program

Gatlin Hawkins, Isler CPA, presented the findings from their review of the Business Pandemic Impact Support Program. The City received a large amount of federal funding from the COVID pandemic and dedicated a good portion of those funds to assist local businesses during their time of need. The City processed 294 applications from 77 different businesses and disbursed a total of \$585,952.85 in grants to those businesses, with the average grant being approximately \$1,950. Mr. Hawkins presented specific details of their review. He noted that governments that received federal fund had immense pressure to get the money out as quickly as possible and from that perspective, this program was a resounding success.

Council members expressed appreciation for the report and noted that it could be used as a learning tool for the future. It was shared that the initial funding for this program came from the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Federal dollars were then received and put back into the RLF and those funds were used for the second year of the program.

9. Building Moving Contract

Administrator Knope presented the contract to move the new City Hall modular building to its new location where the Quonset Hut had been located. Staff contacted three vendors and three bids were received, with Wolfe House and Building Movers being the lowest bidder. An updated contract was distributed at the meeting, and Attorney Connelly reviewed the updates that had been made.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to award the building moving contract to Wolfe House and Building Movers LLC in the amount of \$38,500 and authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wells and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

10. City Engineering Services

Director Kaping presented the request to renew the City engineer's contract with HBH Engineering for another three years through August of 2025. With all the work being done at the lagoon, he requested to extend this contract by three years instead of one year, because of the length of time needed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant pre-design and the design work. HBH Engineering had indicated that they would not increase fees for this three-year addendum.

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to renew the contract with HBH Engineering for three years and authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

11. Library Board Appointment

Administrator Knope reviewed that a Library Board position term had ended on June 30, 2022 and one application had been received for this vacancy. Mayor Ficek appointed Jennifer Daeges to a 2nd term on the Library Board through June 30, 2026.

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

12. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster.

13. Committee Reports

No Committees had met since the last Council meeting.

14. Staff Reports

Chief Morris reported: Department was consistently busy. Many people in mental crisis and many traffic complaints. Were in process of doing backgrounds on three officer candidates; if all three passed, the department would be at full staffing. Officers had been interacting with kids out on summer break, letting them see patrol cars, etc., and this was good for public relations.

Director Kaping reported: The last day to receive Deal Street Project bids was July 8th, and Knife River was the lowest bidder at \$179,500. The City received \$174,000 from the ODOT Exchange to do that job, so \$5,500 would be coming out of the Public Works fund. Installed sewer and fiber to the location for the new City Hall and water would be installed shortly. They would be doing two sewer line projects this summer that were on the master plan projects list.

Director Crocker reported: Monthly statements had been emailed to the Council right before the meeting. The pool had received \$19,000 in receipts in the month of June.

Recorder Vodrup reported: Things were going well, and staff was very busy.

Administrator Knope reported: He noted that he had distributed a memo from Attorney Connelly, which she would be reviewing. Library Director Schneider had been happy with attendance for the Summer Reading Program, which included events at Max Porters. Summer Camp at the Community Center was well attended. Attendance at the pool was strong, and the pool had been open on July 4th.

Attorney Connelly reported: She would be presenting the annual Attorney Report virtually at the August 9th Council meeting, and Attorney Rebekah Dohrman would be attending the September 13th Council meeting. She reviewed her memo, which provided options for the Council on psilocybin. In 2020, the state of Oregon legalized psilocybin to be effective January 1, 2023. She reviewed the Council options, which included doing nothing, doing a full ban or partial ban, or imposing a temporary two-year ban.

The Council consensus was to have Attorney Connelly bring back to the July 26, 2022 Council meeting an ordinance to impose a full ban on psilocybin in the City and to prepare a resolution to refer this to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Election.

15. Previous Month's Expenditures.

None.

16. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Wells expressed appreciation to all the citizens who had attended the meeting and noted that it was nice to see so many people in the audience. He continued that the City had a straightforward complaint system in which people could fill out a form, submit to the City, and then it would go through the process. He noted that the Council did not act upon what was posted anywhere, whether it be the newspaper, radio, or social media and they only followed up on what they received through the process with the City Administrator and the complaint process.

Councilor Wells asked Administrator Knope if they would begin to see some of the goals the Council talked about on the Committee Agenda Forecasters. Administrator Knope responded yes.

Councilor Leach stated that like Councilor Wells said, a citizen would fill out the complaint form and it would go through the process. She continued that she had received complaints from three people via email, and while it was great to hear positive things tonight from citizens, they could not forget or ignore that there were people who had problems. She noted that it was wonderful to see so many people in the audience and to have people share how they felt. She added that they did not receive comments through social media but there was a process for that. She thanked Chief Morris, Director Kaping and all staff for their work.

Councilor Gambie stated that he was happy about tonight's public hearing and the progress the City was making and thanked Technician Andrews and others for their work. He thought the public land issue came up when Ms. Daeges had asked a question about the new City Hall

a few meetings ago, and he thought that was a great example of what happened when the public participated. He expressed appreciation for the swift action on prohibiting psilocybin and referring that to the voters.

Councilor Ceniga stated that the first person who spoke under public comment said that complaints had been sent to the Council members who had City emails. She noted that she had opted out from having a City email, but the complaints had been forwarded to her by Recorder Vodrup. She continued that she appreciated the public coming out and being a part of the Council meetings and said that their voices needed to be heard. She noted that social media was not the place to voice comments, and there was a system in place to handle those things. She continued that if citizens were not happy with something, they wanted to hear from them and try to resolve issues.

Councilor Washburne thanked everyone for staying late tonight and noted that he appreciated people showing up to the meeting. He continued that the Council had adopted a rule that if a Councilor was not going to be at a meeting, they needed to contact the City Recorder or City Administrator. He added that when a Councilor did not show up and there was no quorum, it was a waste of time for staff, citizens, and other Council members.

17. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Ficek stated that she would like to have a plan for the homeless. She asked when the livestock issue would be going to Committee. Administrator Knope responded that he hoped to work with the Finance and Judiciary Committee chair to reschedule a Committee meeting for later in the month. Mayor Ficek continued that she had someone ask if the downtown streetlights would be taken down. Director Kaping responded that the Council direction had been not to replace them if they broke, but not to take them all down at once. Councilor Ceniga added that the Community Development Committee would be looking at other light options. Councilor Ceniga gave Chief Morris a 15th Night document on resources for youth and families.

Jeff Curran, Energizing Junction City, apologized for missing the first part of the meeting and noted that the banners had been placed on Highway 99 for the 4th of July, and Northwest Signs did a fabulous job. He continued that the downtown banners would go up before the City's 150th Birthday Celebration. These banners had been funded through the City's tourism grant funds, and he expressed appreciation to the Council for the grant and input on the banners and to Director Kaping and Public Works staff for installing the banners.

Darin Olson thanked the Council and staff for opening the pool this year and said it was great to be able to have his 10 year old daughter attend swimming lessons.

18. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Beverly A. Ficek, Mayor