

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session and in a work session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 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 Sandie Thomas; Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambee (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), and Karen Leach; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Rebekah Dohrman; Police Chief, Bob Morris; Public Works Superintendent, Jeremy Tracer; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

REGULAR SESSION

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. Garbage Truck Purchase

Administrator Knope presented the request to purchase a 2015 International Garbage Truck, to replace the garbage truck that had been totaled in an accident.

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve the purchase of a garbage truck from Parris Truck Sales in the amount not to exceed \$180,250 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 – Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, Gambee, Leach, and Wells.

3. Adjournment of Regular Session

Regular session was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ficek called the Work Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. LCOG Board of Directors Report

Councilor Gambee noted that the LCOG Board had not met since the last report and would meet again in September.

3. Lane ACT Report

Councilor Leach reported: Bus and shuttle transportation was successful during the World Track Championships; ODOT was developing a Highway Tolling Program in the Portland/Metropolitan area; implementation on a portion of I-205 would begin in 2024, as gas tax revenue had been reduced with more electric cars; ODOT had main street programs on their list of projects, including ones for Junction City, Creswell, and Springfield; projects were expensive and funding was always an issue.

4. Lane ACT Criteria Review

Administrator Knope stated that at previous Council meetings, there were concerns expressed that Lane ACT was formed to represent small cities and was not doing that; however, the Lane ACT bylaws did not reflect that Lane ACT was formed to represent smaller cities, but was formed to advise ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) on bigger picture issues.

Council discussion followed, which included:

- The importance of expressing traffic concerns directly to ODOT and Lane County.
- The importance of expressing traffic concerns to our state senator and representative.
- From July 2021 to May 2022, there were many small cities that had no or low representation at Lane ACT meetings.
- Around 2014, the City took the High Pass/Prairie Road/Maple Street intersection alignment project to Lane ACT, but that was turned down.
- Examining the value of a Council member attending the two-hour Lane ACT meeting each month.

The Council consensus was it was good for the City to be a part of Lane ACT, to show that Junction City was concerned and find out what was going on in the region, but discretion on attendance would be left up to the two Council representatives; monthly reports were emailed to the Council representatives and that information could be shared with the Council during the Lane ACT report at Council Work Sessions.

- Traffic was already heavy and congested on Highway 99 and the current residential construction west of town and additional vehicles would greatly impact that. Safety concerns were expressed on vehicles running red lights, emergency vehicles not being able to get through the current traffic, and vehicles going down residential streets to avoid the congestion on Highway 99.
- It was noted that in the past, a couplet design had been talked about in Junction City, where traffic would be going one direction on Ivy Street and go in the opposite direction on either Juniper, Holly, or Front Streets, but that idea did not pan out for various reasons.
- ODOT would only work on streets that were federally recognized: Highway 99, 1st, 6th, and 10th.
- It would be important to mail concern letters from the entire Council. It was noted that the letter would be sent to the current senator and representative and if those positions changed after the election, the letters would be mailed to the new representatives.

The Council consensus was to have Administrator Knope prepare a draft letter from the Council to ODOT, Lane County, and the City's state senator and representative and to have those letters brought back to a Council meeting for Council review. After Council approval, the letters would be signed by each Council member and then mailed.

5. Council Goals Review

Administrator Knope presented Council Goals Assignment Worksheets, where the previously discussed Council goals were condensed, given a tracking number, and assigned to either the Council or to one of the Council Committees. He provided the minutes where these goals were discussed and asked for Council feedback, to make sure these worksheets reflected what the Council wanted. Administrator Knope reviewed with the Council:

Public Works Committee Assignments

- PW-05 Create Stormwater Utility. It was asked how much it would cost to create this. Administrator Knope responded they would first need to create a Stormwater Master Plan, which would be between \$25,000 and \$75,000.
- PW-02 through 04 were to review Water, Sewer, and Streets Master Plans and SDCs (System Development Charges). These were very important and would also include PW-06 Westside Water Plant and Well Project and PW-07 Water and Sewer Projects. It was noted that the water SDCs had not been updated in over 16 years.
- PW-08 Increase Recycling in the City. Discussion could include the City being a collection point for other agencies who recycled things like electronics, Styrofoam, etc.
- It was noted that there used to be a private company who took metal scraps for recycling. Administrator Knope responded that Public Works had a scrap metal container from Schnitzer's, and the public could bring metal scraps to Public Works.

Finance and Judiciary Committee Assignments

- FJ-01 Make Sure the City Grows in the Right Way. This could be for things that involved any planning and building related code changes or state mandates, such as accessory dwelling units, etc.

The nutria problem in town was discussed and what could be done about it. Administrator Knope responded that he would discuss this issue with Director Kaping and Superintendent Tracer. He added that the City of Eugene had a nutria program, and staff would reach out to them to look at options to address this issue.

- FJ-04 Impact of Minimum Wage. As the minimum wage increased, the City needed to make sure the entry level positions were not below minimum wage and adjust accordingly.
- FJ-06 Continuity of Business Plan. This was the administrative component of an Emergency Plan for things like City Hall or computer systems going down.

Community Services Committee Assignments

- CS-02 Review Parks Master Plan and SDC. This SDC would be done at the same time as the Water, Sewer, and Street SDCs.
- CS-03 Review Future Needs for the Community Services Department. Would look at each department individually and then Community Services as a whole.
- CS-04 through 06 were pool projects. In the past, discussion included forming a Parks and Recreation District to cover the pool, but that was not successful. It was noted that Cottage Grove School Curriculum included K – 5 students having swim lessons in a year-round pool. Administrator Knope added that discussions on a year-round pool would include how to

fund building that, as well as how to provide and fund staffing; he added that pools never paid for themselves, so revenue had to come from other areas.

Community Development Committee Assignments

- CD-01 Climate Change. This was a broad topic and it would be good to narrow it down. Mayor Ficek noted she had brought this up and thought the City should have more trees to offset the blacktop and pavement that would be occurring with more growth. Administrator Knope responded that they could rename this to look at what it would take for the City to become a Tree City USA. He added that they could also look at reduction of blacktop and using different technologies for asphalt that was more porous.

The Council consensus was in favor of updating this item to What does it take to become a Tree City USA.

It was noted that the Community Development Committee would be working on the street tree list, and Administrator Knope stated that he would like to use the City block where the new City Hall will be located as a demonstration/project block to showcase the different types of street trees.

- CD-04 Better Reader board on Highway 99. There were Rural Tourism Marketing Program dollars designated towards this project and they would need to find a location.
- CD-Economic Plan Development, CD-05 More Viable Downtown with a Hotel and Nice Restaurant and CD-06 How to Attract More Businesses to Town went together. Could look at how to attract more businesses to town on Highway 99 and Downtown, how to revitalize downtown, and put together an economic plan to make that happen. Reference was made to a section of Coburg's downtown that had businesses on the 1st floor and residences on the 2nd. Also noted that there were business incentives and many grants available for community development.
- It was asked if the citywide plan could include people cleaning up and taking care of the exterior of their businesses. An example was the burned-out building on Ivy Street which was an eyesore.

Discussion was held on what would be in the current City Hall offices after City Hall was moved to its new location and in the new Police Department building. Administrator Knope responded that these would be discussed under the City Facilities Discussion.

Public Safety Committee Assignments

- Council members and Chief Morris expressed that the list was complete.
- In response to what might be priority items, Administrator Knope and Chief Morris stated anything that improved police presence and visibility in the community would be priority items.

City Council Assignment Worksheet

- CC-08 Work Towards Decarbonization. Mayor Ficek noted that for this item she wanted more trees and less use of gasoline.
- These items would be put on the Council Agenda Forecaster and brought back to Council Work Sessions.

Administrator Knope added that he would have each Committee add their assignment items to their forecasters as well.

Mayor Ficek and Councilors expressed appreciation to Administrator Knope for doing a great job of condensing and assigning the Council Goals.

6. Adjournment of Work Session

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Beverly A. Ficek, Mayor