

**CITY OF OREGON CITY  
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 10, 2012**

**1. Convene Work Session of April 10, 2012, and Roll Call**

Mayor Neeley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Doug Neeley; Commissioner Betty Mumm; Commissioner Kathy Roth; Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr; and Commissioner Carol Pauli.

**Staff Present:** David Frasher, City Manager; Nancy Ide, City Recorder; Nancy Kraushaar, City Engineer and Public Works Director; Scott Archer, Community Services Director; Tony Konkol, Community Development Director; Maureen Cole, Library Director; David Wimmer, Finance Director; Jim Loeffler, Human Resources Director; Bill Kler, Police Lieutenant; Nancy Busch, Code Enforcement Manager; and Eric Underwood, Economic Development Manager.

**2. Future Agenda Items**

David Frasher, City Manager, announced that the American Public Works Association named Nancy Kraushaar, Public Works Director, as the Professional Manager of the Year for Transportation. May 20-26, 2012 was Public Works Week and the theme was Creating a Lasting Impression.

The Commission congratulated Ms. Kraushaar for her outstanding service for the last 15 years.

Mayor Neeley suggested a future agenda item to determine if libraries met the exemption on SDCs. The Commission agreed to the discussion.

**3. Discussion Items**

**a. Downtown Parking Update**

Bill Kler announced he had just been promoted to Police Lieutenant.

Nancy Busch, Code Enforcement Manager, gave an update on the downtown parking study implementation including the revision of parking rates, meter installation, restriping, lighting, pedestrian, and signage improvements, and relocation of parking. She explained what was being done for disabled parking, the placards that were issued, options for parking, and the loss that would occur if more disabled parking was designated.

There was discussion regarding different parking ticket scenarios.

Paul Edgar, representing the CIC, discussed disabled access and handicapped parking. Oregon City's parking plan was different from every other city in the Metro area. There needed to be reasonable access for the disabled to the Courthouse. The lasting consequences were the disabled

were not being treated with dignity and respect and they would not come back to the City. He hoped the Commission would make some adjustments to the plan.

Kevin Hunt, resident of Oregon City, explained his experiences when he was temporarily disabled. He did not think the City would be losing parking spaces if more were designated for handicapped parking. Many disabled also were suffering economic difficulties. He recommended having one disabled member on the Parking Advisory Committee and the City should have a handicapped and disabled citizen advisory committee.

Ms. Busch explained the City was charging \$1 for illegally parking in disabled parking as a third warning. The first warning was on the ticket, and the second warning was coming to the Code Enforcement Office. The reason for the differences from other cities was due to the limitations downtown.

The Commission requested staff to bring back options for more disabled parking downtown.

b. **Trolley Service Cost Assessment Analysis**

Ms. Busch stated staff had been asked by the Commission to research extending the trolley service, but it was not the intended use of the parking revenue. The revenue was to stay downtown and benefit downtown parking.

Commissioner Smith discussed money from the Oregon City Tourism Council that might be available for the trolley.

Ms. Busch suggested starting the trolley season on June 25 for a ten week season. She explained the reasons for reducing the hours of operation to start at 10 or 11 a.m. and run Wednesday through Sunday.

Mr. Frasher said the Transportation System Plan update was a good place to voice ideas for public transportation needs.

There was discussion regarding the future of the trolley and untying it from the parking fund, the possibilities for using the trolley for tourism, and expanding trolley service and revenues.

Dan Fowler, resident of Oregon City, stated the largest pick up spot was the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center where many people parked and rode the trolley downtown. He hoped there would be flexibility in the trolley schedule when a convention or large group was coming to town. He thought there should be an analysis of payroll tax dollars for providing local transportation service in conjunction with what Tri-Met offered.

The Commission requested staff to look into transportation options.

c. **Water Rate Rollback Discussion - Approach and Process to Address the Issue**

Nancy Kraushaar, City Engineer and Public Works Director, gave a presentation on the water rate rollback issue including current infrastructure, build out water demand, revenue and expenditure projections vs. actual, public outreach, schedule, and past rates.

Dan Holladay, resident of Oregon City, explained the reason for the Charter amendment was due to the large percentage increase for water rates at the time. He did not think there was a need for the roll back as it was not the intent of the ballot measure. The City Attorney needed to ask the Judge what his intention was when he ruled on the revenue bonds contract. If the rates remained as they were with 3% increases, there would not be a crisis. He did not think the City should separate from South Fork.

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, supported separating from South Fork to have adequate revenue. He thought the money being taken out of the water fund and put into the building fund was not transparent. That money should stay in the water fund.

Dan Fowler, resident of Oregon City, encouraged selling the excess capacity of water at South Fork at a higher rate and keeping the Oregon City and West Linn rates lower to help keep the rates down. He thought the money for capital improvements needed to be labeled for better understanding. He explained the reason for the rate increase several years ago was for improvements that were needed. Consistent rate increases as the Commission was discussing were preferred.

d. **Composition of Urban Renewal Commission**

The Commission discussed how to designate the citizen representation on the Urban Renewal Commission. The changes would take place once new members started their terms. There was further discussion regarding how the members would be accountable and to whom they would be accountable, changing the number to seven instead of nine members, and the possibility of the members representing the CIC and Chamber.

William Gifford, resident of Oregon City, thought there were issues with citizen representatives reporting back to the body they represented and suggested the Commission reconsider it. He did not think there needed to be a representative from the neighborhood associations on the URC. Citizen involvement did not have to include citizens having voting privileges. The criterion for citizens should be their expertise in business and finance.

Tom Geil, resident of Oregon City, discussed the representation issue and did not think citizen members could speak on behalf of their whole constituency. He thought the CIC should be involved in bringing forward candidates from the neighborhoods.

Dan Fowler, resident of Oregon City, encouraged the Commission to keep in mind the role Urban Renewal played. It needed to function well for the future of the City. He suggested moving to seven members that would be appointed by the City Commission. He thought they should have expertise related to Urban Renewal such as a developer, contractor, architect, engineer, financier, etc. He did not think there should be representatives from any groups.

Dan Holladay, resident of Oregon City, thought going to seven members was the right direction.

The Commission asked staff to bring back a resolution on the composition of the URC through an attrition process for a seven member board, five elected officials and two citizens at large.

4. **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Frasher reported on the Finance Director recruitment.

5. **Adjournment**

Mayor Neeley adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Ide, City Recorder