

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2023,
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Tobias Colvin – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – John Nielsen –
Kathryn Osborne – Shannon Wedding – Cat Zwicker

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Keith Witcosky – City Attorney Keith Leitz –
Deputy City Manager John Roberts – Deputy City Manager/Chief
Financial Officer Jason Neff – Police Chief Devin Lewis –
Housing Programs Analyst Linda Cline – Communications
Director Heather Cassaro – Airport Director Zachary Bass – City
Engineer Jessica MacClanahan – Interim Public Works Director
Jon Skidmore – Streets Division Manager Brad Haynes – Water
Division Manager Josh Wedding – Fleet Services Manager Scott
Gibson – Accounting and Financial Reporting Director Brooks
Slyter – City Recorder Kelly Morse – IT Specialist II Christian
Armatas

MEDIA PRESENT: Central Oregon Daily News

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

BLESSING

Pastor Thomas Bengtson of Redmond Community Church led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Wedding led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

A. Written Comments from Judy Dow

Redmond resident Jay Patrick stated that Redmond should proceed in its response to homelessness but ensure that the City makes good use of state, federal, and county funding.

Redmond Resident Slater Kellstrom expressed his support for restrictions on sources of combustion and penalties for the reckless usage of fireworks and explained why a prohibition on all fireworks is unnecessary.

Redmond resident Jeff Stevens provided sources that indicate marijuana dispensaries are associated with increases in crime rates and other detrimental effects.

In honor of Black History Month, Redmond resident Donna Abelein shared the story of James Armistead Lafayette one of her heroes from the Revolutionary War. She opined that Redmond's citizens should be taught pre-1960s Black history.

Redmond resident Scott Stuart referenced resources he gave Council to help them govern well, spoke about citizens' distrust in the voting process, and government overreach during the Covid pandemic.

Redmond resident Debbie Meadows read a letter opposing marijuana dispensaries in Redmond on behalf of Judy Dow.

Bend Pastor Jack Dennis addressed the Council regarding fireworks noting his church has sold fireworks for 19 years. Pastor Dennis stated that less than 1 percent of all fires in Oregon are caused by fireworks.

At this point in the meeting the Fireworks and Fire Season Discussion took place.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of January 10, 2023, Council Meeting

B. Amendment to contract with Nelson Roofing for Public Works Transportation Warehouse: \$183,858.60

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Wedding, to approve the Consent Agenda, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

At this point in the meeting, the Council proceeded to Action Items.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

A. Fireworks and Fire Season Discussion

TNT Fireworks Regional Manager Jason Trout addressed the Council regarding fireworks and offered his assistance on developing an agreement for the best way to move forward with fireworks this year.

Redmond Police Chief Devin Lewis, Redmond Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal Tom Mooney, and Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center Executive Director Geoff Hinds presented their respective agencies' experiences with the Fourth of July holiday including the Police Department call volume, requirements for illegal fireworks citations, the extent of past incidence of fires around the holiday, conditions that contribute to general fire danger, advice on safe use of legal fireworks, and public information campaigns.

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager Nate Garibay shared information on the scientific background of fire behavior, drought factors and monitors, the seasonal outlook, climate predictive services, and the energy release component.

Redmond Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eric Sande addressed the Chamber's history with the annual July Fourth fireworks event.

The panel addressed questions from Council.

Slater Kaelstrom noted that the fire in June of 2021 was not due to fireworks but escaped campfires from the homeless camps east of town. Mayor Fitch clarified that the fires in the transient camps and fireworks are both important issues.

At this point in the meeting, the Council took a short break.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance #2023-02 - An ordinance amending the Redmond City Code Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 regulating camping on public property, enforcement of property in rights-of-way, making technical changes to improve administration and declaring an emergency

City Attorney Keith Leitz explained the City needs to put in place regulations about Time, Place, and Manner (TPM) by July. No action is anticipated on the item until February 28, 2023.

Mayor Fitch framed the discussion by noting there are currently no regulations in place and the City is bound by a number of court decisions and state law.

Deputy City Manager John Roberts presented the context of the TPM regulations adding that the focus of this discussion will be Chapter 5 of the City Code which regulates camping on public property. He identified seven areas recommended for prohibited camping. Mr. Leitz provided a quick overview of the relevant case law and legislation.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Housing Programs Analyst Linda Cline addressed questions from Council and described past and potential coordinated response.

Steve [last name unknown] inquired as to why there are not more restrictive measures in the buffers and setbacks, opining none of these efforts are sustainable but only a bandage.

Redmond resident Jeannette Von Steele spoke to the tents along the Central Oregon Irrigation District canal in front of St Charles and opined that since the property is owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation, they should be at the table with Redmond working on a solution.

Redmond resident Jay Patrick asked what the regulations mean to those parking on public streets, especially if the street ends near private property.

A gentleman who lives across from several RVs explained that his compassion has become a “nightmare” noting that he has witnessed drug activity, a person running through his yard from the police, arrests, overdoses, and fights. He opined that the discussion contained nothing about Redmond citizens, homeowners, and taxpayers.

Redmond resident Keri Lopez requested the Council consider increasing the boundary for school properties from 500 feet to 1000 feet which would make it consistent with the gun-free school zone as well as marijuana dispensaries.

Redmond resident Sally Griffin said while drug use and mental illness are overwhelming issues for everyone in the country, homelessness is caused by other reasons as well. She opined that many homeless people who cause trouble are showing bravado because they are ashamed of being homeless and do not know what to do.

Redmond resident John Hamlin stated that regulating zones with “toothless” enforcement will push people into residential zones. He opined that homeless people are drawn to Redmond because the City is too lenient, and they should be taught there is a rule of law.

Redmond resident Marlene Stevens commented that when traveling across country she did not see homelessness, vagrancy, or begging. She asked why Redmond does not fight the homeless legislation.

At this point in the meeting the Council took a short break.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Extension of the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone Agreement Extension with S.A. Piazza & Associates LLC (Wild Mike's Pizza)

Deputy City Manager Jason Neff requested a nine-month extension on the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone Agreement with Wild Mike's Pizza.

Redmond Economic Development, Inc Executive Director Steve Curley presented information about the company and its Redmond project as well as the Enterprise Zone Program, including its history and performance.

Mr. Neff and Mr. Curley addressed elements specific to the agreement including the proposed property tax exemption on the \$40 million investment, a community investment fee that comes back to the City to be applied to public service, and Wild Mike's impact on public safety including the cost.

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Colvin, to approve an extension to the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone Agreement for S.A. Piazza & Associates LLC which will now expire December 26, 2023. Motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

B. Contract with Ameresco to convert streetlight fixtures to LED technology: \$585,049.

Joe Mankiewicz, Ameresco, requested approval of the contract to improve Redmond's street lighting from the current high-pressure and medium-pressure sodium lights to more energy-efficient streetlights and LED technology.

Councilor Colvin moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, to award a contract to Ameresco in the amount of \$585,049 for the installation and conversion of City streetlights to LED and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract. Motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

PRESENTATIONS - Continued

A. 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan Review

City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan presented Redmond's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). She described the purpose of the CIP, the development process, cost confidence and project cost timeline, and the GIS dashboard. Planned projects by fund total \$140 million for which Mr. Neff addressed the different funding sources. Staff addressed questions from Council throughout their presentation.

B. 2023-2025 Council Goalsetting

City Manager Keith Witcosky presented the Council's seven highest priority goals for final approval. He explained the objectives of each issue area which are housing policy, homelessness policy, public safety, growth management, Redmond Airport, Downtown/Midtown/Medical District, and good governance. Mr. Witcosky shared the results from a January poll asking residence for their top three priorities for Council which align well with Council's proposed goals.

Councilor Evelyn moved, seconded by Councilor Zwicker, to adopt the City Council Goals for 2023-2025. Motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

C. Fiscal Year 2022/23 - 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Neff presented the 2nd Quarter financial report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - Continued

A. Resolution #2023-02 - A resolution adopting the Community Development Block Grant 2022 Annual Action Plan Amendment, and authorizing the submission of the Annual Action Plan Amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development when required.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Ms. Cline requested approval of the amendment to the 2022 Annual Action Plan, to move \$85,000 to the acquisition pot to be ready for the potential acquisition of the Cinder Pit property which is currently under environmental review with HUD.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Fitch closed the public hearing.

Councilor Nielsen moved, seconded by Councilor Zwicker, to adopt Resolution #2023-02, a resolution adopting the Community Development Block Grant 2022 Annual Action Plan Amendment. Motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

B. Resolution #2023-03 - A resolution adopting the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan Amendment, and authorizing the submission of the Citizen Participation Plan Amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development when required.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Ms. Cline requested approval of the amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan which identifies how the community can be involved in decision-making. She described the three changes the amendment makes to be in compliance with HUD.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Fitch closed the public hearing.

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Nielsen, to adopt Resolution #2023-03, a resolution adopting the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan Amendment. Motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Witcosky announced that the Redmond DMV is open again from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Staff will bring the TPM matter back to Council for further discussion, but no decision will be made on February 28, 2023. At the next discussion, staff will address available resources and possible use of them with Council priorities, such as Oasis Village. Legislatively, he will work with Economic Development for Central Oregon Executive Director Jon Stark to draft a letter in support of extending the enterprise zones and site readiness which could bring structure dollars to Redmond. A letter from the Central Oregon Cities Organization regarding House Bill 2075 was also sent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Osborne reported the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC) actively sought two new grant opportunities. DURAC is working with Staff to organize tourism panels to raise the Council's knowledge from the local level to the state level. She requested Council select a council meeting where decisions can be made on the Safe Parking Program list.

Councilor Zwicker appreciated those who attended the meeting and thinks this year will be exciting with a lot more discussion on all sides. She is watching House Bill (HB) 2260 regarding system development charges and HB 2806 which would allow discussion of public safety for public officials, public buildings, and cybersecurity to be held in executive session.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch reported he and Mr. Witcosky are working on a plan to address homeless issues, specifically Oasis Village and Safe Parking. They anticipate meeting twice a month with the County and key people involved in the programs. The goal is to make both programs a reality by the end of this year.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services
Reviewed by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 28th day of March 2023.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder