

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Tobias Colvin – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – John Nielsen – Kathryn Osborne – Shannon Wedding (Virtual) – 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 – Water Division Manager Josh Wedding – Accounting and Financial Reporting Director Brooks Slyter – City Recorder Kelly Morse – IT Network Technician Tyler Roppe

MEDIA PRESENT: Central Oregon Daily News – KTVZ – Redmond Spokesman

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

BLESSING

Pastor Duane Pippitt from Redmond Assembly of God led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Evelyn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point in the meeting, the Council proceeded to Recognitions.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

A. Written Comments from Bonnie Trotter

B. Written Comments from S. Ritter

C. Written Comments from Sloan Holloway

Redmond residents Liz Goodrich and Marvin Kaplan spoke in support of using the Cinder Pit property for affordable housing.

Redmond resident Jay Patrick encouraged the Council to include churches in the 1,000-foot buffer because they host children several time a week. He added that if churches cannot be included in the buffer, they should be permitted to apply for a setback.

Redmond resident Trevor Johnson condemned People's Rights for spreading Covid-19 misinformation and degrading LGBTQ2 communities.

Redmond residents Gary Einhorn, Steve Trotter, and Bonnie Trotter, as well as an unknown female reading written comments on behalf of Wally Stone, expressed concern over vehicles speeding on SW Metolius Avenue between SW 23rd and SW 27th Streets. They asked the Council to consider speed deterrents such as a stop sign or speed bumps.

Redmond resident Donna Abelein spoke regarding judiciary overreach, the Second Amendment, how homeless people seem to get more rights than others, and suggested Council needed to uphold the Constitution over an Idaho ruling.

Redmond resident Merlin Toney opined homelessness was not an issue when he was younger because people were expected to work. He asked the Council to work on changing the law by telling the State legislature the existing laws do not work for this community.

Redmond resident Scott Stuart suggested Council issue a zero-tolerance homeless encampment ordinance and work with the Deschutes County Commissioners on infrastructure.

Redmond resident Sloan Holloway spoke about the Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership program.

Redmond resident Christine Whamsley expressed concern over the heavy and dangerous traffic on 6th Street in the Downtown area.

Redmond resident Lena Barry opined the Redmond community needs to do more for houseless neighbors and stop inhumane solutions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of January 31, 2023, Council Meeting

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, 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 Presentations, Item A.

RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of the 2023 State Champions - Redmond Panthers Wrestling Team

The Council recognized the Redmond High School wrestling team and coaches on winning the state championship for the first time since 1959. In addition, MacKenzie Shearon, was recognized for winning the girl's state wrestling title in her weight class.

At this point in the meeting, the Council proceeded to Comments from Citizens at the Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Latino Community Association of Central Oregon Update

Latino Community Association's (LCA) Leader Coordinator Hilda Leon and Client Services Manager Ana Bueno presented the Council with an overview of the LCA, highlighting their mission, services, impact in Redmond, the Madras Latino Fest, and the path to citizenship. She read a list of Redmond's Latino businesses. LCA Board President Zavi Borja shared information regarding Welcoming America, a national non-profit that looks to build a nation of neighbors.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Continued - 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.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Deputy City Manager John Roberts provided an overview of the camping Time/Place/Manner regulations compiled from feedback from the February 14, 2023, and February 28, 2023, public hearings. Proposed amendments include a 1,000-foot buffer for schools and school zones with a 500-foot buffer for major utilities and a ban on camping in the entirety of the Dry Canyon area.

Mr. Patrick asked for clarification on why System Development Charge (SDC) credits are included in the ordinance. In response, Mr. Roberts explained that the proposed changes to the SDC credits are minor but serve as incentives for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.

Mountainview Community Development Executive Director Rick Russell and Redmond Safe Parking Program Director Sierra Hopper thanked the Council for the inclusion of safe parking locations within the buffer zone for camping. Mr. Russell requested permission to begin the public notification process for a new safe parking location on South Highway 97. Ms. Hopper provided an update on safe parking locations in the pipeline.

Councilor Evelyn read a statement on homelessness crisis. Councilor Nielsen concurred with Councilor Evelyn's remarks and added that the community will need to decide if it is worth putting energy and efforts into the problem. It will take the Council working with many regional communities, local and state government, and non-profit partners. In response to questions from Councilor Nielsen, Police Chief Devin Lewis stated the proposed code amendments are a step in the right direction.

Councilor Zwicker explained that the Council has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on the homelessness issue and she asked for the community's patience as the issue will not be resolved overnight.

A Redmond citizen stated he has noticed a large amount of trash after downtown events and requested the Council approve an ordinance requiring downtown business owners to take care of the area in front of their business. He added that speeding is prevalent throughout Redmond and encouraged the City to invest in additional portable speed sensors for areas outside of school zones.

Redmond resident Elaine Walthinsen reminded the Council to be mindful of those who were once excited to move to Redmond but are now moving away due to safety concerns due to the homeless situation.

Mayor Fitch stated the ordinance was crafted with the Council's goal to protect neighborhoods and the downtown in mind. The Council is working to balance the needs of Redmond's nearly 38,000 residents with the needs of the estimated 250 homeless individuals.

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

Councilor Osborne moved, seconded by Councilor Zwicker, to have a first and second reading of Ordinance #2023-02 by title only, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

City Attorney Keith Leitz provided the first and second reading of Ordinance #2023-02 by title only.

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Nielsen, to approve Ordinance #2023-02, motion passed. (ROLL CALL: Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

At this point in the meeting, the Council took a break at 7:26 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m. Mayor Fitch returned to public testimony for the ordinance as a citizen was inadvertently overlooked.

Redmond resident Forrest McCauley stated he was an ex-addict who was saved by Jesus three years ago. He encouraged the community to find a solution to homelessness that is in keeping with the law of God.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Purchase Agreement for the Cinder Pit Property in the Amount of \$240,000 plus Closing Costs

Housing Programs Analyst Linda Cline and Housing and Community Development Committee Chair Andrew Hoeksema requested approval to authorize Staff to proceed with the purchase of the 8.35 acre cinder pit property for \$240,000. Ms. Cline and Mr. Hoeksema addressed income criteria requirements for use of Community Development Block Grant funds, the developer selection process, and public outreach.

Councilor Nielsen moved, seconded by Councilor Colvin, to approve the purchase of the Cinder Pit Property, Tax Lot Number 151329BB00300, in the amount of \$240,000 plus closing costs and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary purchase and sale documents, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)

PRESENTATIONS - Continued

A. Airport Terminal Expansion Update and Potential Increase to Airport Parking Fees

Airport Director Zachary Bass presented a status update on the terminal expansion project including the design and construction timeline, iterations of the Terminal Area Concept Plan, available funding, and requested funding. He also sought Council direction on increasing Airport parking fees to assist with the terminal expansion costs and presented passenger and parking statistics and regional airport parking rate comparisons.

The Council concurred that parking fees would allow the region to assist with the costs rather than impacting Redmond taxpayers by using General Fund monies. Councilor Wedding commented that while the increase is needed for the terminal expansion project, raising to \$24 a day is difficult for passengers. Mayor Fitch explained that Redmond, as a small city, manages a regional asset and opined it would be appropriate for contribution on a regional basis. The direction of the Council was that \$1 per hour was reasonable and it was also suggested that staff consider a parking pass for frequent flyers. Staff will bring the resolution forward on March 28th.

B. Council Conversation: Impressions from the March 7, 2023, Discussion on Homelessness

Mayor Fitch provided an update on the Council's efforts to gain access from Highway 126 for Oasis Village and a RV parking facility by the end of 2023. Because the Oregon Department of Transportation plans to repave that section of Highway 126, they will allow the City to do an open cut across the highway for utilities. This will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Councilor Colvin wants to ensure the City continues communications with Deschutes County on the budget for behavioral health.

In response to questions from Councilor Osborne, Mayor Fitch clarified that financial support for service providers could come from Oasis Village, below-market RV parking, and bills in the legislature for additional monies on an annual basis. Another issue facing the City this summer is displacement of homeless encampments within the Runway Protection Zone which, along with Deschutes County's 60 acres east of 17th Street, is generating the urgency to get facilities in place.

Regarding the housing continuum, Ms. Cline addressed a graphic showing where the City's investments are beginning to add depth and fill in the gaps.

Mayor Fitch stated the City is on the path of making a commitment to assist in the infrastructure between CORE3 and Oasis Village. CORE3 will also be a financial partner in the infrastructure investment. Councilor Wedding expressed concern with committing on infrastructure without doing a capacity analysis by Engineering.

The consensus of the Council was to allow community engagement for Safe Parking on Highway 97 to begin. Mr. Russell and Mountainview Fellowship, working with Ms. Cline, will do the informational outreach, using the Housing and Community Development Committee for initial feedback, then report back to the Council.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Keith Witcosky shared that Mayor Fitch and Economic Development for Central Oregon Executive Director Jon Stark are preparing for a presentation before the Joint Semiconductor Committee in Salem. The City closed on a 23-acre parcel southeast of Ridgeview High School. The property will serve as a future park or natural area. The Police Department will issue a press release regarding traffic safety operations; a report will be given to the Council in the near future.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Nielsen noted it is Pi Day.

Councilor Zwicker appreciated the full audience and asked the community to be patient while Council continues to work on the homelessness issue.

Councilor Evelyn opined the meeting was productive, and he appreciates those who attended.

Councilor Osborne thanked those who attended as well as Staff and the Council for the extreme amount of time they dedicate to the community. She asked those listening or watching the meeting to look into the programs discussed.

Councilor Colvin recommended forming a committee of citizens with hospitality backgrounds to make recommendations on how best to use the transient tax funds that exceed the cap. Mayor Fitch asked Councilor Colvin to develop a recommendation of who the committee would consist of and Council can discuss it at the next meeting. Councilor Colvin congratulated the RHS Wrestling Team on their State Championship.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch thanked everyone for coming and noted that after hearing the community's comments, we are not that far apart on most issues.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

Redmond resident Rick Bailey expressed concern that people cannot go to the cemetery and mourn their loved ones because people are walking their dogs, playing frisbee, and using the driveway as a track.

Redmond resident Bill Burgess stated he is pleased that the Council approved the purchase of the Cinder Pit property but would rather not see involvement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He asked the Council to consider the site for a fire station or an amphitheater or to simply rezone from R-2 to Open Space and leave it in its current state.

There being no further business for open session, Mayor Fitch took the Council into Executive Session and indicated there would be no motions as a result of the Executive Session. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Fitch convened the Council into Executive Session at 8:44 pm in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(h) which authorizes executive session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Mayor Fitch closed the Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 9th day of May 2023.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder