

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD JUNE 13, 2023, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Tobias Colvin – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – John Nielsen – Kathryn Osborne – Shannon Wedding (Virtual, left at 7:43 p.m.) – Cat Zwicker

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Keith Witcosky – Deputy City Manager John Roberts – Deputy City Manager/CFO Jason Neff – City Attorney Keith Leitz – Police Chief Devin Lewis – Communications Director Heather Cassaro – City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan – Interim Public Works Director Jon Skidmore – Assistant City Engineer Lindsay Crowsigt – Accounting Manager James Wood – Airport Finance & Analytics Manager Steve Juba – City Recorder Kelly Morse – Urban Renewal Programs Manager Chuck Arnold – Urban Renewal Program Analyst Meghan Gassner – IT Network Technician Tyler Roppe

MEDIA PRESENT: None

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

BLESSING

Pastor Mike Ferry from Cornerstone Christian Fellowship led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Colvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANDERSON PERRY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Mayor Fitch announced that Dakota Wedding is this year's recipient of the Anderson Perry Scholarship Award. Anderson Perry Engineer Josh Robertson presented Mr. Wedding with the award.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch commented the City is drafting Time, Place, and Manner (TPM) regulations for marijuana dispensaries. The plan is to put a ballot measure before voters in November 2023. Mayor Fitch noted if marijuana is ever decriminalized at the federal level, without TPMs they could be placed anywhere in Redmond except where prohibited by state law.

The Council each shared their thoughts regarding the June 5, 2023, hate incident directed toward Mayor Fitch and Councilor Evelyn. The general sentiment was that Redmond is welcoming and not a racist community. The incident will not define the community and would not deter elected officials from performing their duties.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

A. Written Comments from Citizens

Redmond resident Trevor Johnson expressed solidarity and support with Mayor Fitch and Councilor Evelyn, calling upon every Redmond citizen to stand against hate speech and racism.

Redmond resident Steven Schaffer opined that policing cannot be entirely responsible for keeping the peace. Those who claim to be law-abiding citizens have a responsibility to register their concerns when people are less than law-abiding.

Redmond resident Melissa Williams shared that one of her Black daughters has repeatedly stated that Redmond is the most racist place she has ever lived and has been called “the N-word”. Redmond has not made a public stance against racist actions which she opined will cause such incidents to grow if not addressed.

Redmond resident Amanda Page urged the Council to look at the incident as representative of deeper problems and to address it directly in everyday actions and through policy.

Redmond resident Kayla Boyd spoke to the life of the working poor, helping the homeless by making housing for every person a priority, and how she has seen little condemnation and very few consequences for hateful acts. She shared details of a recent incident where an anti-LGBTQ slur directed at her and her children.

Redmond resident Carl Young spoke about the negative effects of marijuana and how they should be considered when putting dispensaries to a vote.

Redmond resident Jamie Townsend explained that cannabis products sold in state-regulated markets are different from products available for research at the federal level. She added that prioritizing dispensaries for the sake of those suffering from chronic pain is ill-advised and should not be done over the safety of the community.

Redmond resident Dave Bisenius stated he calculated that one dispensary in Redmond would result in a financial benefit of only \$50,000, opining it is not worth the negatives that come along with it.

Redmond resident Brian Burns stated he did not think dispensaries should be allowed in Redmond because it will send the message that the community believes in a libertarian view of freedom. He stated the Council needs to set an example and speak to that.

Ten year old Redmond resident Gavin Alston addressed the Council regarding his experience with being called “the N-word” and a monkey. He asked why Black people should suffer from racism and being mistreated, noting it is not fair and Black people should be treated equally.

Redmond resident Adam DuQuette stated that when deciding whether Redmond is racist, the community should be listening to the voices of the victims of crimes and attacks. He added that others will be emboldened to act in a similar hateful way if the individual who targeted Councilor Evelyn and Mayor Fitch is not held accountable.

The Council took a short break.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of May 9, 2023, Council Meeting**
- B. Juneteenth Celebration Day Proclamation**
- C. Immigrant Heritage Month Proclamation**
- D. Investment Policy - Annual Approval**

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

PRESENTATIONS

A. Worksession on Regional and Local Tourism with Panelists

A panel consisting of Visit Central Oregon President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Julia Theisen, Visit Bend President and CEO Kevney Dugan, Redmond Chamber of Commerce and Convention Visitors Bureau Executive Director Eric Sande, and Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center Director Geoff Hinds provided the Council with presentations on their respective organizations and their efforts to attract tourists, businesses and events.

B. Heart of Oregon Corps, Laura Handy

This item was rescheduled for a future Council meeting.

C. Jeff Rola Presentation about NeighborImpact Food Facility

NeighborImpact Development Program Manager Jeff Rola requested financial support from for the regional food program which provides food security for 60,000 people each month. He is approaching all Central Oregon cities and counties for an investment to help meet the ongoing need, noting the program faces a \$663,000 shortfall in the anticipated need for food this year. Mayor Fitch stated the Council will consider his request, discuss it with Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff, and contact Mr. Rola.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Adoption of the City of Redmond Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget: \$191,651,238.

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Due to a conflict of interest, Councilor Wedding left the meeting thus recusing herself from the hearing because her husband is employed by the City.

Mr. Neff provided an overview of the budget process and addressed two resolutions for Council's approval: Resolution #2023-09 certifies the City's eligibility to receive state funds and Resolution #2023-10 formally adopts the budget.

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

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Nielsen, to adopt Resolution #2023-09 regarding receiving state revenues and declaring Redmond's election to receive state revenues, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-recused, Zwicker-yes)

Councilor Colvin moved, seconded by Councilor Nielsen, to adopt Resolution #2023-10, adopting the budget for the City of Redmond for Fiscal Year 2023/24, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-recused, Zwicker-yes)

ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution No. 2023-11 - A resolution setting fees and charges imposed by the City of Redmond. Public comment will be taken per ORS 294.160

Mayor Fitch opened the public hearing.

Mr. Neff presented the Fiscal Year 2023/24 fee schedule update, noting after working with Staff and Councilor Nielsen, Republic Services reduced their proposed increase from 24 percent to 12.5 percent.

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Nielsen, to amend Resolution #2023-11 to remove Item 6, the Republic Services fee increase, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-absent, Zwicker-yes)

Mayor Fitch noted the Republic Services fee increase will be moved to June 27, 2023, for further discussion and consideration.

Smith Brothers Pushrods President Scott Mills stated he opposed the proposed increases in fees related to industrial wastewater discharge permitting and sampling, explaining why and requesting the Council consider not making it so expensive.

Interim Public Works Director Jon Skidmore stated he would like an opportunity to speak with Mr. Mills to obtain more information, clarifying that generally industrial pre-treatment programs seek to be cost recovery in terms of the Staff time it takes to implement the programs.

Councilor Evelyn moved, seconded by Councilor Colvin, to amend Resolution #2023-11 to remove Item 8, the wastewater fee increase, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-absent, Zwicker-yes)

The wastewater fee increase item will also be readdressed on June 27, 2023.

Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, to adopt Resolution #2023-11, the fee schedule, as amended, removing Line Items 6 and 8, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-absent, Zwicker-yes)

B. Special Event Street Closure of SW 5th Street from Black Butte to Forest for the Cascade Car Show on Saturday, August 19, 2023

Deputy City Manager John Roberts requested the Council continue the discussion of this topic to June 27, 2023. This would allow staff time to address additional details that have surfaced so the Council can receive a more complete picture of the event. Council did not object to the request.

Local Paws owner Mark Tiersma was in attendance to give his perspective about the car show. Mayor Fitch recommended he work with Mr. Roberts and the organizers to deal with any issues in two weeks.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

There were no additional comments from citizens at the meeting.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Keith Witcosky reported that staff is aiming for July 11 to bring marijuana dispensary Time/Place/Manner regulations and a proposed ballot title to the Council for consideration, noting ballot documents must be filed by early August. Mr. Witcosky thanked the Council for their comments regarding the hate incident.

City Attorney Keith Leitz asked for clarification on the Council's intent regarding Republic Services fee items. Council discussed removing Line Items 8.03.18.1 and .2 from the fee schedule but the motion said "Item 8" which is all of Public Works' fee increases. Councilor Zwicker was certain what was discussed was the intent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Nielsen thanked the public for attending the last two public meetings to support Mayor Fitch and Councilor Evelyn and express the June 5, 2023, hate incident was not what people want to see in Redmond. He added that citizens reaching out to him to offer their assistance helped reduce his rage after learning more about the incident.

Councilor Zwicker commented how amazing it was to see how the community stand up. She reported on the Redmond Economic Development Inc. (REDI) Made in Redmond Tour and her continued work on the Coordinated Office for Homeless Response team.

Councilor Evelyn thanked everyone, adding he has received over 100 emails from people telling him how they feel about the incident and how sorry they were. He shared that when he puts his heart into something like being on Council, he is dedicated to what he does and that listening to the public say things takes a lot but does not bother him. Councilor Evelyn remarked that he and his fellow Councilors will move forward and will not be discouraged.

Councilor Osborne spoke about enjoying the REDI tour and participating in the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee field trip. She thanked everyone who stayed for the meeting. She reiterated Council will not condone bad behavior in the community, adding she is proud to be a part of this Council.

Councilor Colvin spoke about how great it was to hear from the tourism panel and the importance of Redmond having an identity as part of the tourism industry. Learning about and understanding people of different cultures is important. He urged everyone to see the diversity in the area and encourage more diversity.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch introduced two multi-year projects for the Council's future consideration: Redmond Caves and expanding/unifying Centennial Park. Mr. Witcosky stated Staff will bring the topics back in the fall to have a policy discussion about the components within them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 8th day of August 2023.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder