

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, IN CIVIC ROOMS 207/208.**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Keith Witcosky – Parks Planner and Project Manager Maria Ramirez – Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff – City Attorney Keith Leitz – Police Chief Devin Lewis – Communications Director Heather Cassaro – Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan – City Recorder Kelly Morse

**JUNIPER GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pam Garney – Maarty Leunen – Tom Majchrowski – Jim McDonald – Matt McGowan – Don Noldge – Jake Van Cleave

**MEDIA PRESENT:** None

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Introductions of those in attendance took place.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**A. 22nd Anniversary of September 11, 2001**

**Councilor Zwicker moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, to approve the proclamation designating September 11, 2023, as a citywide period of honor and support for the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2001, motion passed. (Colvin-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Nielsen-yes, Osborne-yes, Wedding-yes, Zwicker-yes)**

Councilor Nielsen read the proclamation aloud. Mayor Fitch recalled his memories of September 11, 2001, and was grateful the proclamation was brought to the Council.

**PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS**

**A. Joint Workshop with the Juniper Golf Committee**

Parks Planner and Project Manager Maria Ramirez presented the history and background of the Juniper Golf Course, the current operating agreement with CourseCo, future capital projects in comparison with available resources, and potential opportunities to expand services. The Council's direction was being sought on resources and the future of the golf course and restaurant.

Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff addressed the course's historical operating cash flow, golf revenue, and expenditures.

Juniper Golf Committee (Committee) Chair Matt McGowan shared two of the Committee's ideas for expansion: expanding the driving range to two stories with covered stalls and Toptracer technology and constructing an events pavilion. Chair McGowan added that a driving range using the technology does not currently exist in Central Oregon. After doing a feasibility study on an events pavilion, the Committee believes it would cost more than the driving range expansion. The Council and the Committee discussed both ideas.

The Council requested additional information and more concrete costs for the two ideas brought forward, noting the importance of the return on investment and a marketing strategy. Councilor Colvin noted with the formation next month of the Tourism Committee, any tourism tax dollar requests would be made to the new committee.

Mr. McGowan described the next step for the driving range idea, which include a feasibility study, then asked if doing so would be worth the cost. Mayor Fitch stated there is some skepticism about investing

additional monies from the General Fund over what has already been allotted for the course. He spoke about opportunities to maximize revenue by converting the clubhouse to a banquet facility and having food trucks outside near the driving range. With CourseCo's contract expiring in 2025, a strong discussion is needed about the future of the course and how it will be managed. Mayor Fitch stated he was not in favor of doing a feasibility study right now due to the cost.

Councilor Zwicker suggested the Committee talk to large executive groups about whether they would be interested if the golf course operated something where they could host trainings, etc. Committee member Don Noldge urged building the course into a facility that attracts more families and particularly youth where people can practice all year long. Ms. Ramirez clarified the Committee was projecting \$20,000 for a Toptracer/driving range feasibility study. Mayor Fitch recommended putting together a list of items that can be addressed and improved at Juniper Golf Course.

Councilor Nielsen commented that any improvement which increases the number of vehicles will require addressing the current parking issues. The Council was in agreement with Councilor Colvin's recommendation of a phased approach with parking being the first consideration. In addition, Councilor Colvin suggested finding the necessary funding for the feasibility study. The Council concurred with Councilor Colvin's phased approach with a feasibility study.

Committee member Tom Majchrowski spoke about stakeholder communication and how the Committee can best work together. He recommended the Council attend the Committee meetings periodically to see what they are doing and to offer input.

Mayor Fitch recommended Ms. Ramirez put together a memo regarding the consensus from the meeting adding that the Council and Committee can then work out any clarity issues and move forward on phasing.

CourseCo Chief Operating Officer Tom Bugbee added they are proud of their partnership with the City and the work they have done at Juniper Golf Course. He added the worksession was helpful and will allow them to put together additional data for a firmer ask.

#### **B. Support for Redmond Fire Levy**

Mayor Fitch stated a letter of support was already signed by the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

/s/ Ed Fitch  
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kayla Duddy  
Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder