

Redmond City Council

October 28, 2024

Special Workshop Minutes

Executive Conference Room & Remote Video Conferencing

www.redmondoregon.gov/government/city-council

Present: Tobias Colvin, Clifford Evelyn (joined by phone at 4:20 pm), Ed Fitch, Kathryn Osborne, Cat Zwicker

Excused: John Nielsen, Shannon Wedding

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky, City Attorney Keith Leitz, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff, Deputy City Recorder Kayla Duddy, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Housing Program Analyst Linda Cline

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 3:57 pm.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

A. Financial Request for Tourism Dollars

The City Council discussed the Chamber of Commerce request for annual funding from the City in the amount of \$150,000 for events, such as parades.

Councilor Colvin explained that the Tourism Committee welcomes requests for one-time items that may need funding due to a gap. Many events proposed by the Chamber are fundraisers, which would make City involvement a conflict of interest.

Mayor Fitch confirmed the Chamber made the request due to financial difficulties and noted the Chamber membership had not been given much information regarding the audit, reasons for the audit, the Request for Proposal (RFP) and why the Chamber did not respond to the RFP.

Communications Director Heather Cassaro explained how as a result of the Chamber's letter threatening to not hold certain events if the City did not provide funds, she and Urban Renewal Manager Chuck Arnold had discussed figuring out bridge solutions to hold the tree lighting, Starlight Parade, fireworks, etc.

City Manager Keith Witcosky confirmed he would send a letter to the Mayor, who could send it to the Chamber or Chamber Board. He will also send emails regarding the audit and other official communications with the Chamber to Council, with a copy of the audit, so that as Councilors get emails from people, they can forward them.

Eastside Campus Lease with Deschutes County

Council discussed Deschutes County taking back approximately 9 acres the City was leasing in order to lease the 9 acres to Mountain View Community Development and the possibility of continuing to lease the 3 acres, noting some organizations like Oasis Village and Jericho Road prefer to interact with the City instead of Deschutes County. Continuing to lease the 3 acres gives the City a foothold in the community and keeps Oasis as a partner rather than just the City being a neighbor. Concerns were expressed about Deschutes County not acting like a partner with the City.

Mayor Fitch questioned whether the City should continue leasing the other 3 acres and confirmed negotiations on infrastructure would not be affected.

A majority of the Council consented to delaying the decision on whether to continue leasing the 3 acres until all infrastructure was completed.

Mayor Fitch confirmed that a letter had been drafted to the governor for funding to provide support services and security for the managed camp for two years. The amount of funding should be discussed with Deschutes County.

OTHER BUSINESS (if needed)

Council discussed the meeting with Juniper Golf Course Operator CourseCo, noting CourseCo had been the City's partner a long time and had offered an additional \$50,000 investment to renew the contract. Going to RFP for a new operator would be a challenge and risk and would consume Staff time. CourseCo must address on-site management. The new contract should include strict language about performance metrics to meet, and CourseCo should be audited annually. The goals need to be consistent between Council and the Juniper Golf Committee to present a unified message to CourseCo. Further key comments were as follows:

- CourseCo needs to find ways to increase revenue; suggestions included food trucks, leasing out spaces, and event revenue.
- Golf course revenues should be sufficient to meet all operational requirements plus provide some monies toward a capital reserve for which the Golf Committee should plan a budget.
- The Golf Committee needs members with acumen to help advise on operations, non-golf course members, and perhaps a person in the event planning/hospitality space who does not play golf.
- The golf course's annual plan should be a recommendation to Council from the Golf Committee. CourseCo should present the annual plan to Council before the Budget Committee. The plan should fit the budget.
- The course needs a better balance between attracting more paying customers and the membership. Members are not paying enough.

Questions from Council were addressed regarding the public comment period and expected start of construction for the Wetlands Complex and the capacity at the sewer plant.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.
Reviewed by Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 10th day of December 2024.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder