

**Redmond City Council
Workshop Minutes**

November 18, 2024

Executive Conference Room & Remote Video Conferencing

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Present: Tobias Colvin, Ed Fitch, John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne, Shannon Wedding, Cat Zwicker

Excused: Clifford Evelyn

Staff Present: City Manager Keith Witcosky, City Attorney Keith Leitz, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff, City Recorder Kelly Morse, Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan, Communications Director Heather Cassaro, Finance Director James Wood, Planning Manager Kyle Roberts, Police Chief Devin Lewis, Economic Development/Urban Renewal Program Project Manager Chuck Arnold, Urban Renewal Program Analyst Meghan Gassner

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

A. General Fund Surplus Discussion

Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff sought Council's direction on \$780,000 of unallocated reserve and outlined the following options: the managed camp set-up; the 35th Street and Highway 126 traffic signal; the ice rink; Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) surplus land between the new Public Safety facility and Highway 97; Northpoint; Cinder Hollow; capital needs at Juniper Golf Course; and internal needs within the General Fund, like administrative vehicles in the Police Department and street preservation.

Council and Staff discussed the options for the unallocated reserve.

Mayor Fitch recommended allocating \$250,000 of the \$780,000 surplus to the managed camp to match/supplement the County's \$800,000. He suggested the rest should be kept in reserve for the ice rink or affordable housing infrastructure. Over the next few weeks, the Council will talk with ODOT about the traffic signal, thus getting more definition on the reimbursement of the \$460,000.

Councilor Nielsen shared that he is working on private funding sources for flags for Flag City USA, and Staff noted the City provides some in-kind work.

The Council concurred to use \$250,000 of the \$780,000 for the managed camp and keeping the rest in reserves. The traffic signal at 35th Street and getting the surplus land are the next priorities.

B. Ice Rink Update

Economic Development/Urban Renewal Program Project Manager Chuck Arnold and Urban Renewal Program Analyst Meghan Gassner presented an overview of two options for a downtown ice rink project, an ice ribbon "Cadillac" project and a medium-sized ice rink, highlighting associated operating and capital costs and known resources. An Urban Renewal investment of \$7 million would limit the Agency's flexibility for partnering with private developers. Annual operations and maintenance of a ribbon or rink would come from the General Fund, as it is not an Urban Renewal qualifying expense. Potential locations include the Centennial parking lot or current police station facility.

Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC) Chair Monica Huey, reported DURAC is enthusiastic about the ice rink idea and noted a year-round family fun activity is a high priority and what

the community wants. A more nuanced conversation is needed about Urban Renewal's investment in an ice rink limiting the Agency's resources.

The Council discussed the possibilities for an ice rink project, addressing amenities, a revenue component to offset operations and maintenance, both tangible and intangible return on investment possibly funding the operation from marijuana revenues, alternate uses in off-seasons, alternate family fun activities, public input, and parking concerns if the rink is sited at Centennial parking lot.

The Council directed Staff to pursue an ice rink that would not use all Urban Renewal resources for the foreseeable future and look at something scaled more in the \$5 million and under area. The police station site was preferred for the project, as eliminating the Centennial parking lot would be a disservice.

Mayor Fitch stated that after the public testimony at the November 12, 2024, Council meeting, enforcement against illegal fireworks should be considered instead of banning legal fireworks. Making illegal fireworks a nuisance, the owner of the property would be liable. Fines could increase for multiple events.

The Council's discussion included allowing fireworks only from July 3-5 and possibly a window for New Year; how Code Enforcement would work regarding fireworks; disincentivizing bad behavior, current fines and the citation process; the importance of educating the community on proper disposal of legal fireworks; and continuing the ban in the Dry Canyon and possibly banning fireworks on school property. Councilors Wedding, Colvin, and Osborne supported a focus on enforcement against illegal fireworks. Mayor Fitch asked staff to develop a system to enforce the fireworks ordinance for the Council to review at the December meeting.

Communications Director Heather Cassaro suggested that the City could do a much more robust communication plan in conjunction with the Fire Department, in the spring, about proper disposal and what is legal versus illegal. Staff could get more information for the Council on the reporting system and if any areas are having repeated complaints. She reminded Council of the emergency ban option based on fire risk.

City Recorder Kelly Morse noted that since the November 12, 2024, Council meeting, 76 additional public comments have been received with 51 opposing the ban and 27 in favor of banning fireworks, basically making the total public comments received so far weighted evenly.

Mayor Fitch reported he and Councilors Zwicker and Evelyn met with the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board last week. The Board pleaded for the City to help the Chamber with Christmas this year. The Board send additional details; however, it was not easy to understand. The Council's options are to say no or sponsor a parade for \$2,000. Councilors Nielsen and Wedding expressed concerns whether the money would be spent as agreed upon based on past activities and audits. Council declined to sponsor the Chamber's Christmas parade. Mayor Fitch agreed to inform the Chamber of the decision.

Mayor Fitch did not support Rick Russell's request to fund Michelle Cross' trip to look at different places for transitional housing. Council declined Rick Russell's request.

Mayor Fitch reported the hospital's license for the Cancer Center was being denied by the State, adding more information is to come.

City Manager Keith Witcosky reviewed future discussion items of Council goals, annexations, and marijuana dispensaries.

Councilor Wedding reported that the Parks Committee was pushing back on components in the Parks Master Plan regarding the old mechanical wastewater treatment plant, Pershall Park, and e-bikes in the Dry Canyon. She understood that the Committee would request a continuance of the Urban Area Planning Commission hearing.

Council discussed enforcing e-bike laws when kids ride them on sidewalks and that it would be helpful to get data from the motion sensor camera in Dry Canyon about e-bike usage. It would also be helpful to have Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager Maria Ramirez present to Council on the public comment from the Parks Committee meeting.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan reported that Staff is excited to receive the first Guaranteed Maximum Price for the phase of the Eastside Arterial Project extending through the old golf course. It is anticipated to come to Council in early February with the price anticipated to be in the \$10 million range. The 4th Street ADA and Reservoir Drive projects are on track and near completion.

Councilor Nielsen reported that after reconfiguring, the number of residences in Northpoint rose from 435 to 460.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 28th day of January 2025.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder