

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD JANUARY 5, 2021, VIA GOTOMEETING.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Bullock – Krisanna Clark-Endicott – George Endicott – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – Jay Patrick – Shannon Wedding

MEDIA PRESENT: None

Mayor Endicott called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Endicott announced two additional discussion items were being added to the agenda. The first being whether to consider a resolution to support local businesses impacted by the pandemic and the second being Council goal setting.

Council goal setting will take place on January 26 and February 2. Mayor Endicott requested the Council submit any goals and/or priorities to City Manager Keith Witcosky, by the end of the day on Friday, January 15. Ideas will then be distributed to the Council via the meeting packet.

Mayor Endicott read Section 17 of the City Charter regarding the role of the Mayor in Council meetings, including being designated as the chair of the meeting, voting on all items, preserving order, and determining order of the agenda.

Mayor Endicott asked if the Council should pass a resolution encouraging the Governor to put measures in place allowing more small businesses to open up and engage in commerce. He provided some background noting that small businesses have been on a “roller coaster” due to COVID-19 restrictions. Opening and closing multiple times due to changing protocols has been expensive for them. Mayor Endicott and Councilors Clark-Endicott and Patrick contacted the Governor’s office asking for relief but have not received any response. Mayor Endicott alluded to various sets of data about how COVID-19 is transmitted and pointed out the conflicting reports. He has requested industry data from Deschutes County Commissioner Patti Adair in an effort to gain clarity.

Questions for the Council's consideration are:

1. Should the Council pass a resolution?
2. If so, what kind?
3. What are we trying to accomplish with the resolution?
4. Does it advance our goals?
5. Should we encourage the governor to follow the school model or pass a resolution, out right?
6. What kind of “whereas” items should be included in the resolution?
7. Is there other factual information that we should gather, or do we have what we need?

Councilor Fitch stated the government’s use of power to restrict business operation is not based on quantifiable evidence and the business owners and employees involved have not had a voice in the matter. Councilor Fitch opined a public hearing is needed to give business owners the opportunity to voice how the restrictions have impacted them.

Councilor Evelyn attended a Chamber event noting that business owners are very frustrated and feeling ignored. They would like to see solid leadership and a fair and balanced compromise. Councilor Evelyn recommended that in the future, the Council hold an emergency meeting to get ahead of situations rather than letting the situation get out of control.

Councilor Patrick opined the Governor has approached the pandemic with a sledgehammer rather than looking at each type of business and what rules should apply to them.

Councilor Wedding concurred with the Council's comments adding the idea of a public hearing will allow people to be heard and voice their frustrations and concerns. She cautioned against people taking matters into their own hands and stirring up anger and dissention.

Mayor Endicott spoke with the Governor's Central Oregon representative Annette Liebe and addressed the Governor's recent statement on schools re-opening and allowing schools to make their own decisions. Mayor Endicott asked why the same approach could not be taken by cities and counties and individual businesses. Ms. Liebe said she would relay his concerns to the Governor.

Councilor Clark-Endicott stated the Council has been dealing with this issue for many months but urged them to remember their roles and responsibilities. She explained the power to make changes does not lie with the Council, but rather with the Governor who instituted the shutdown. Councilor Clark-Endicott urged caution with wording and making sure that citizens are not left with the impression the Council is giving them permission to re-open. It will be the State that comes down on them for violating the order. She said it is within the domain of the Council to advocate on behalf of the citizens and request similar treatment for small businesses as has been afforded to school districts.

Councilor Fitch commented there are many ways to think about the situation. One such "outside the box" idea is the possibility of declaring Redmond a "Sanctuary City" and stating, that by doing so, the city will not enforce any orders other than those in place last summer.

Councilor Bullock asked for clarification on the letters sent to the Governor by the Mayor and Councilors Clark-Endicott and Patrick such as if they were sent on City letterhead, sent on behalf of the Council, etc. Mayor Endicott has spoken twice with Ms. Liebe about business closures that are occurring. He indicated his letter was sent an email from his personal account; however, Ms. Liebe knows he is the Mayor of Redmond. Councilor Patrick sent his comments from his personal email account. Councilor Clark-Endicott used her city email account but stated that she sent it on her own behalf.

Councilor Bullock reminded the Council this is a global pandemic and that one of the unfortunate realities is that people are suffering. He discussed the opening of schools, the number of deaths, the need to get infection rates down, and the realization that people are frustrated. He asked the Council to consider the goal and what they can do about it given their roles adding he understands the need for a balance between lives and livelihoods.

Mayor Endicott opined the issue is that rules appear to be arbitrarily applied and that "big box" stores are open but small businesses are not.

Councilor Evelyn suggested that a letter be written from the entire Council opining it would have more effect than individual letters.

Mayor Endicott shared that he asked the League of Oregon Cities to take action; however, the Board decided to not engage on this issue. He suggested the Council be mindful that Redmond is the only city that is taking a stand, whether by resolution or letter, and that care be given to its wording.

Councilor Evelyn suggested involving Deschutes County Public Health Department's Dr. George Conway so medical statistics and advice can be included. Mayor Endicott stated that Dr. Conway's role is to protect the public, not to consider the fallout for businesses. Councilor Fitch reiterated that a public hearing should be scheduled and that the Council should have input on the resolution. Councilor Patrick spoke in support of a public hearing so business owners to have a venue for expressing their frustration. Councilor Clark-Endicott agreed that engaging Dr. Conway would not be helpful in terms of specific needs in Redmond but stated that she thinks joint action by the Council is appropriate.

Councilor Bullock stated that public hearings are typically for items that will be voted on and that require such hearings; however there is nothing the Council has the authority to change. Rather he suggested that the Council advocate to the Governor's office for more flexibility for businesses and to encourage

United States Representative Cliff Bentz to act on the passage of the Heroes Act that includes money for cities and small businesses.

Mayor Endicott read from a statement issued by the Governor on December 30 which stated local authorities cannot supersede her orders; he reiterated that big businesses, schools and churches can open but small businesses are shut down.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Councilor Clark-Endicott and Mr. Witcosky work together to draft a letter asking the Governor to relax the regulations that are keeping small businesses closed. They plan to have this done by Thursday so that it can be included in the packet for the next meeting. Councilors can send comments about the letter to Mr. Witcosky for discussion at the next meeting. No public hearing will be held.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Review of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Calendar

Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 budget process and reviewed the timeline.

Councilor Patrick requested there be 2 to 3 budget meetings scheduled a week apart to allow for ample time to read the budget document.

Mr. Neff explained how each department is funded.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wastewater Division Manager Ryan Kirchner gave a presentation on the future wastewater treatment plant expansion. Estimates indicate that by 2045 the population of Redmond will reach 54,000. Current facilities are aging and reaching capacity limits so the City needs to be proactive in providing for wastewater treatment. There are two options for an expansion:

- Option 1: Mechanical Treatment Plan calls for expansion of current treatment facility located at north end of Dry Canyon.
 - Capital Cost: \$47.7 million
 - 20-year lifecycle - \$72.0 million (estimated cost to operate)
 - 10 to 20-year life expectancy
 - No grant funding available
- Option 2: Lagoon and Wetlands Development will require more land but will also include environmental and recreational benefits.
 - Capital Cost: \$41.6 million
 - 20-year lifecycle - \$53.9 million (estimated cost to operate)
 - 50-year life expectancy
 - Requires abandonment of existing facilities (disadvantage) which will open that area up for other possibilities (potential advantage)
 - Will result in a decrease in operation costs and potential for reduced fees for this service
 - Grant funding available
 - Risks include unknowns about soil work (rock or lava caves), public opinion and possible opposition of the idea (odor concerns), and ensuring that it meets regulatory requirements per DEQ now and into the future

Mr. Kirchner addressed questions throughout his presentation. Consensus of the Council was to proceed with Option 2, which currently involves preliminary engineering design and public outreach.

C. Capital Improvement Projects for 2021

City Engineer Mike Caccavano provided a presentation on the capital improvement projects approved for the FY 2020/2021. Projects which focus on maintaining and improving infrastructure include:

- NW 10th Street sidewalks, Canyon to Quince
- NW Maple Avenue-Dry Canyon Staircase
- NW Maple Avenue/NW 9th Street Traffic Signal
- NE Hemlock Avenue improvements
- 4th and Evergreen parking lot
- Highway 126 sidewalks, 27th to 35th Streets
- Quartz Park
- South Redmond Water Facility

Mr. Caccavano answered questions on whether sidewalks were funded with System Development Charges and if property owners were expected to pay for sidewalks through their property.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 22nd day of June 2021.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder