

A REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, VIA GOTOMEETING.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Bullock – Krisanna Clark-Endicott – George Endicott – Camden King – Ginny McPherson – Jay Patrick

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED: Albert Calderon

MEDIA PRESENT: None

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

BLESSING

There was no blessing given.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor McPherson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

Mayor Endicott shared that he received letter from the USS Oregon Commissioning Committee requesting financial contributions. No action was taken.

Redmond resident Gloria Olson addressed the Council regarding the need for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. She cannot determine whether any action is being or has been taken regarding a Task Force. Mayor Endicott stated that this subject is on the agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Deschutes County Commission candidate Phil Chang addressed the Council regarding his support for the South US Highway 97 Urban Renewal District.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of September 24, 2019 Joint Meeting with Urban Area Planning Commission**
- B. Minutes of November 26, 2019 Council Meeting**
- C. Minutes of January 7, 2020, Council Workshop**
- D. Minutes of January 14, 2020, Council Meeting**
- E. Central Oregon Health Council Naloxone Grant Acceptances**
- F. Convention Visitors Bureau Tourism Annual Contract: \$303,624**
- G. Redmond Economic Development, Inc. Contract: \$128,000**

Councilor Patrick requested that the Convention Visitors Bureau Tourism Contract be removed from the Consent Agenda. The item will be discussed later in the meeting under Action Items.

Councilor Clark-Endicott moved, seconded by Councilor Patrick, to accept the Consent Agenda as amended, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

PRESENTATIONS

A. Current Events

Deschutes County Clerk Nancy Blankenship presented the Council with information regarding the November 3, 2020, General Election, ballot security, displaced voter ballots, and voter fraud.

Redmond Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Ken Kehmna provided an update on the current status of wildfires in Oregon.

Redmond Police Captain Devin Lewis reported on the peaceful rallies that took place this past weekend in Centennial Park.

B. Employee Spotlight

Accounting and Financial Reporting Director Brooks Slyter provided an employee spotlight on the Finance Department which consists of Tom Ferrell, Wendy England, Linda Richardson, and Nadine Waters.

PROCLAMATIONS

A. Welcoming City

Councilor Clark-Endicott moved, seconded by Councilor Patrick, to approve the proclamation, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

Mayor Endicott read the proclamation.

B. National Manufacturing Day

Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) Manager Jon Stark briefly shared details of the 2020 Made in Redmond Tour.

Councilor Patrick moved, seconded by Councilor Clark-Endicott, to approve the proclamation, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

Mayor Endicott read the proclamation.

ORDINANCES

A. Ord. #2020-14 – An ordinance granting a nonexclusive telecommunication franchise to United States Cellular Operating Company of Medford.

Ms. Slyter requested approval of Ord. #2020-14 which grants a 10-year nonexclusive franchise agreement with US Cellular for 5G technology.

Councilor Clark-Endicott moved, seconded by Councilor McPherson, to have a first and second reading of Ord. #2020-14 by title only, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

City Attorney Keith Leitz read the first and second reading of Ord. #2020-14 by title only.

Councilor Clark-Endicott moved, seconded by Councilor McPherson, to approve Ord. #2020-14, motion passed. (ROLL CALL: Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

ACTION ITEMS

A. Res. #2020-18 – A resolution amending certain policies for the Desert Rise Industrial Park.

Councilor Bullock declared a conflict of interest then recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Deputy City Manager John Roberts requested approval of Res. #2020-18 which will amend certain policies associated with the Desert Rise Industrial Park. He provided a brief background on the land and described the proposed amendments which include:

- Reduces the minimum 5-acre requirement to 2-acres;
- Modifies the "Enterprise Zone" reference and nomenclature from "qualifies" to "eligible to use";
- Clarifies the source to use in determining average waters; and
- Revises job densities per acre from 5 to 2 to account for automation occurring in heavy industry.

Mr. Stark spoke to the very limited availability of 1- and 2-acre lots and the change in job densities due to automation then answered questions from the Council.

Councilor King moved, seconded by Councilor Patrick, to adopt Res. #2020-18 amending policies associated with the City-owned Desert Rise Industrial Park, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-yes)

At this point in the meeting, the Convention Visitors Bureau Tourism Annual Contract was discussed.

Councilor Patrick asked the Council to reconsider the contract explaining that the 3 percent increase per year is inadequate given the Chamber is receiving 33 percent of Transient Room Tax (TRT) funds. He opined this is not a true partnership and hurts the City in terms of incentive. He proposed allocating 20 percent of TRT funds per year.

Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff explained the City's has a 9 percent TRT. One-third of the first 7.5 percent is required to be used for tourism promotion. This equates to 28 percent of total TRT revenue.

City Manager Keith Witcosky explained that the Chamber's contract last year was also \$303,000. The Budget Committee and Council agreed to not drop below this base amount despite a current TRT forecast of \$226,000 due to economic hits in the tourism industry caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. On January 8, 2020, (prior to the pandemic) the estimated revenue for TRT was \$1.1 million. Mr. Witcosky added that during the past couple of years, there have been discussions about how any excess TRT funds could be strategically spent rather than simply passing them automatically to the Chamber. This gives the Chamber the opportunity to present Council with a strategic plan on how they would invest the growth over \$303,000 and the Council the opportunity to consider all options. The REDI and CVB contracts state they will receive the same Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) received by the City's Non-Represented Employees. Mr. Witcosky noted the City's Non-Represented employees are not getting a COLA for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, thus, the zero percent listed for COLA in the Chamber contract.

Councilor Bullock moved, seconded by Councilor Clark-Endicott, to approve the FY 2020/21 service contract between the City of Redmond and the Redmond Convention Visitors Bureau for statutorily allowable tourism related activities and expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$303,624.00, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Calderon-absent, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, King-yes, McPherson-yes, Patrick-no)

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

A. Comments from Mayor Endicott

Mayor Endicott updated the Council on the meeting he and Mr. Witcosky had with the Redmond School District Superintendent and Board Present regarding the equity task force. Based on the outcome of that meeting, Mayor Endicott stated there would need to be a separate task force for the City. Questions that still need to be discussed include what the task force would do, and how it would intersect with the District's task force. Mayor Endicott said that training would be needed and if Council concurs, he and Mr. Witcosky will proceed by meeting with the District's Superintendent and Professor Erika McCalpine, head of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Lab at OSU-Cascades to make further plans. He and

Mr. Witcosky answered questions and proposed bringing a recommendation to the Council in October for consideration.

Mayor Endicott was invited by Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel to join the Dignity Project whose purpose is to find ways to promote respect for differences among citizens.

The State of the City Address will take place on September 29 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.

The Oregon Mayor's Association sent two certificates for Redmond's local If I Were Mayor contest winners.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor King stated he is interested in learning more about the Dignity Project and glad the Mayor is participating. In addressing the Welcoming City proclamation, Councilor King said he believes actions speak louder than words and he hopes steps can be taken to actively engage others. Councilor King also stated that he is heartened by the potential formation of a DEI Task Force.

Councilor McPherson concurred with Councilor King adding that she is also interested in the Dignity Project.

Councilor Bullock recognized the pain and suffering occurring in the Central Oregon community because of the wildfires and voiced appreciation for those from Redmond who have stepped up to assist. Councilor Bullock thanked Ms. Olson and other citizens for their interest and involvement in the workings of City government. He noted appreciation for the formation of a DEI Task Force. Councilor Bullock spoke to the number of deaths across the country due to COVID-19 and the desire of parents to have their children back in school.

Councilor Clark-Endicott also expressed appreciation for the fire fighters and first responders from Redmond who have responded to the wildfires in Oregon, as well as all in Redmond who have embraced those fleeing the fires and destruction by providing clothing and food. She received a letter regarding dog feces and off leash dogs in the Dry Canyon and noted that the writer expressed concern for her and her dog's safety. Mr. Witcosky shared that planning is underway for campaigns and public service announcements to remind people about dog policies in the Dry Canyon. Councilor Clark-Endicott reported on Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation, Economic Development for Central Oregon, and National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meetings she recently attended.

Councilor Patrick suggested as a show of appreciation, that Police department staff receive a one-time performance bonus in the event the City has a revenue surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Keith Witcosky shared information on the SCP Redmond Hotel which is currently reporting a 50-80 percent occupancy. They are in the process of obtaining new eateries in vacant spaces on the ground floor. Mr. Witcosky reported that the parking lot at the old City Hall site is under development and should be completed by November. He referred to a previous announcement about about a 7 percent rate increase with Republic Services for garbage collection. The increase was postponed and staggered with the first 4 percent increase being announced in November. The police department continues to work on improving policing, the use of body cams and the expanded use of the videos for training purposes, and the promotion of Officer Hix to sergeant and who will focus on training in the department.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

There were no additional comments from citizens at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 8th day of June 2021.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder