SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD JUNE 1, 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.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

A. Councilor Evelyn

Councilor Evelyn presented his request for a future Council discussion on the guidelines for time, place, and manner of marijuana dispensaries. Councilor Evelyn opined the Council seems to be moving toward setting restrictions on the dispensary industry that are not in place for any other retail businesses. He said that the concern about children being nearby and potentially being exposed should not be a factor because he has seen children accompanying adults into liquor stores. Councilor Evelyn addressed the potential income that dispensaries could generate for the City noting the revenue could be used to create recreational options for citizens such as a bowling alley, athletic center, aquatic park, etc. He stated citizens want dispensaries in Redmond and urged Council to reconsider the proposed limits to dispensary locations.

City Manager explained that staff are working to enlist one of the experts from the Association of Oregon Counties for an upcoming discussion. The expectation is that this presentation and further Council discussion will be scheduled for later in June.

B. Councilor Fitch

Councilor Fitch presented his request for a future Council discussion on an amendment to the Transportation System Plan (TSP) for Phase 2 of the US 97 Reroute. He expressed concerned that South 97 will fail to meet traffic needs, for future population growth projections, unless an alternate route for through traffic is established. Councilor Fitch pointed out that Phase 2 was a part of the TSP until a year ago when it was deleted adding he does not think the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) engages sufficiently in planning for the future.

City Engineer Mike Caccavano addressed the topic of O'Neil Junction and discussion that took place with ODOT. The current plan is for an overpass rather than an interchange.

Mr. Witcosky stated the Council will meet with ODOT on June 22 to discuss the reroute and alternative mobility standards. Amending and updating a TSP is an enormous endeavor, and that after the discussion on June 22, the Council can determine next steps.

Councilor Bullock stated it would be helpful if the discussion with ODOT addressed Councilor Fitch's recommendations and ODOT's plans so the Council and citizens can more fully understand the issues and potential solutions.

Councilor Patrick stated that ODOT is a large organization that moves slowly. He pointed out the traffic issues he experiences weekly driving through. He expressed support with having Phase 2 on the TSP so it is not forgotten and the City can move forward with an adequate traffic plan for the future.

Mr. Caccavano explained approximately 80 percent of Phase 2 is in the TSP and having discussions regarding the last 20 percent is a good idea.

Councilor Fitch's second proposed discussion was on hiring a consultant to assess the 200 plus acre site of the old Juniper Golf Course and help develop a Request for Proposal for a qualified developer to work with the City on a Master Plan for this area.

Mayor Endicott stated there was a developer who had planned a Business Park with a golf course for that area but walked away from the plan in 2008 during the economic downturn. Mayor Endicott would like to hear more from Mr. Stark about options for the site.

Councilor Patrick requested to hear about options for that area.

Councilor Clark-Endicott stated that she would like to see the property developed but does not think it is the City's responsibility to pay for a consultant. Councilor Clark-Endicott said opined the Port of Portland Airport faced similar development issues, and she would like to hear how they approached those issues. In response to Councilor Clark-Endicott, Mr. Witcosky stated the City of Portland agreed to contribute $35 million to put in light rail transportation and the developer was given a long-term lease.

Councilor Fitch stated he was not suggesting that the City pay to develop the property but rather the City hire a consultant to lay the groundwork to attract a suitable developer.

Mr. Witcosky cautioned this project could require a major time commitment from staff. He said there may be a need for some parts of this land for future airport expansion, and if Council chooses to proceed, he thinks an experienced consultant, such as Eco Northwest, should be brought in to determine the feasibility of developing this property. Mr. Neff stated that there is $50,000 in the proposed budget for this, but he is not sure how much it would actually cost to engage Eco Northwest.

Councilor Patrick spoke in favor of proceeding with the plan to study what to do with the property.

Councilor Clark-Endicott stated the Council needs to know how much Eco Northwest would charge to do a feasibility study before making a decision.

Councilor Evelyn deferred to Mr. Witcosky's experience and expertise on this issue.

Councilor Wedding concurred with proceeding but cautioned there is no need to hurry.

The consensus of the Council was to obtain a rough estimate on the cost of a study and invite Mr. Stark to a future workshop.

Councilor Fitch's third proposed discussion topic is a City Hall interior presentation to the public with the goal of incorporating community history, present and future. He acknowledged the history of the City Hall building as previously housing schools, but suggested the focus now needs to shift to present City Hall as the center of government for Redmond.

Mayor Endicott recalled that the original agreement for the use of the building for City Hall included the School District's desire to maintain the historical character of the building. He recommended that, if Council decides to proceed with this proposal, Communications Director Heather Cassaro reach out to the School District to clarify. He suggested the next step would be to work with the appropriate committees to determine future steps.

Councilor Bullock made a motion that this be put on a future agenda for further discussion.

Councilor Clark-Endicott stated she does not see this as a high priority at this time because there are many other items that need more urgent attention.

Councilor Evelyn supported following up more on the issue.

Councilor Patrick opposed proceeding with this topic.

Councilor Wedding commented that while this is not a priority at this time, she is open to discussion in the future.

The consensus of the Council was to set this issue aside until a more appropriate time.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 10th day of August 2021.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder