

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD AUGUST 10, 2021, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

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 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

BLESSING

Pastor Mike Ferry from Cornerstone Christian Fellowship led the blessing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Clark-Endicott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

A. Colleen Shearer's Written Comments

B. Shaun Larson's Written Comments

Redmond resident Lena Berry addressed the Council regarding Council meeting accessibility and requested allowing virtual options as well as Latino and American Sign Language interpreters.

Redmond resident Steve Cross stated he is available to assist on any committee regarding homelessness.

Redmond resident John Pavlicek addressed the Council regarding the Confederate flag being flown during the Fourth of July parade. He opined the intention of the float may have been misunderstood noting the float was promoting "becoming united as one country." Mr. Pavlicek does not believe the people who had the float should be banned from future parades.

Redmond resident Judy Fessler addressed the Council regarding the South Highway 97 Corridor, voicing support for Councilor Fitch's suggestion to create a beltway to address the congestion of that corridor. She urged the Council to take action on this urgent issue as soon as possible.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Future Agenda Topics

Councilor Fitch presented his proposal for a resolution banning symbols of hate such as the Confederate flag and Nazi symbols in city parades. He opined the Confederate flag is to be remembered, not honored and when they are included in parades, they are deemed to be honored. Councilor Fitch requested the Council put this topic on a future agenda and take a stand against symbols of hate.

In response, Mayor Endicott read a prepared statement supporting the rights of the First Amendment and while not condoning symbols of hate, he spoke in favor of freedom of speech for all Americans. He said that he does not think this is a topic that the Council needs to get involved in.

Councilor Clark-Endicott stated that the Council is not in charge of the parade and therefore, does not need to get involved in telling the Chamber how to conduct their parades.

Councilors Evelyn, Fitch, and Bullock were supportive of the proposal. Mayor Endicott and Councilors Clark-Endicott, Patrick, and Wedding were opposed.

B. Construction Update

City Engineer Mike Caccavano provided the Council with an update on City projects. Those projects include the South Redmond Water Facility, the NE Hemlock Avenue Improvements, the Maple Avenue Staircase, and the SW 6th Street Extension.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of May 11, 2021 Council Meeting**
- B. Minutes of May 25, 2021, Council Meeting**
- C. Minutes of June 1, 2021, Council Workshop**
- D. Minutes of June 8, 2021, Council Meeting**
- E. Minutes of June 15, 2021, Council Meeting**
- F. Authorization to Purchase a 2021 Schwarze A7 Tornado Sweeper Unit for Public Works
Transportation Division: \$266,577**
- G. Authorization to Purchase a 2022 Vactor HXX Hydro Excavator Truck on Kenworth Chassis.
Public Works Water Division: \$525,319.47**
- H. Resolution #2021-20 - A resolution of the City of Redmond declaring certain City property to be surplus. (Public Works vehicles: 1992 Chevy ½-ton truck and 1994 Chevy 1-ton truck with crane)**
- I. Authorization to purchase a 2021 CAT 259D3 Compact Track Loader (Airport); \$61,505**

Councilor Bullock requested that items F and G be removed from the Consent Agenda for further information and explanation.

Street Operations Manager Brad Haynes addressed item F, stating that the 2000 Sweeper has outlived its life expectancy and needs to be replaced. Several bids were obtained for cost comparison.

Water Utilities Manager Joshua Wedding addressed item G, stating that purchasing the 2022 Vactor through a government contract will achieve the best price for the City. The new Vactor is needed to replace the current vehicle that is nearly 30 years old. In addition, Mr. Wedding noted repair costs are high because many of the parts are no longer available. The City has been budgeting for this purchase for the past 5 to 6 years. He explained that vactors are needed to deal with main breaks and service line breaks and are also used by the Parks and Streets Divisions.

Councilor Fitch moved, seconded by Councilor Clark-Endicott, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of items F & G, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes)

Councilor Bullock moved, seconded by Councilor Clark-Endicott, to authorize the City Manager to purchase the 2021 Schwarze Industries A7 Tornado Sweeper Unit from Enviro-Clean Equipment in the amount of \$266,577, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes).

Councilor Bullock moved, seconded by Councilor Clark-Endicott, to authorize the City Manager to purchase the 2022 Vactor HXX Hydro Excavator from Owen Equipment in the amount of \$525,319.47, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes).

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Presentation by GS Strategy Group on July 2021 Public Opinion Polling for the Public Safety Facility**

City Manager Keith Witcosky set the context for this presentation by referring to several presentations and conversations with City Council that were held in the spring about the need for a new Public Safety Facility. The current facility was constructed approximately 20 years ago; however, the size is inadequate for current needs. Mr. Witcosky explained that GS Strategy Group, who was hired to perform a survey on

public opinion regarding funding options, will share the results to the Council, so a decision can be made about moving forward with the project. The two funding options for consideration are a General Obligation Bond, which would come before voters in May 2022, or the City's General Fund.

GS Strategy Group Partner Robert Jones explained that the methodology used for determining the number of registered voters to survey equates to a margin of error of approximately six percent. Mr. Jones presented the survey's results and addressed questions regarding timing and wording of the ballot measure. Mr. Witcosky addressed Councilor Patrick's written questions. Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff addressed questions regarding what a low confidence cost estimate means, the estimated cost to the General Fund to pay for the project and impacted services, possible contribution without using American Rescue Plan funds, staff's preferred recommendation of a General Obligation (GO) bond, how to achieve a high enough confidence level on construction costs for a May ballot measure, and whether City staff prefer a November 2021 or May 2022 election. Mr. Witcosky explained City funds cannot be spent on a campaign so Council and staff would need to take a role in fundraising outside of working hours.

Councilor Fitch moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, to move forward with getting this project down to a General Obligation Bond election for May 2022 and proceed with the design of the facility so they can get another one, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes)

B. Amendment No. 3 to Morrison-Maierle Contract #2020-59: Redmond Airport - General Aviation Infrastructure and Development Study project in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Airport Director Zachary Bass requested approval of Amendment #3 to City contract #2020-59 with Morrison-Maierle. Amendment #3, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, is for a study on General Aviation Infrastructure and Development.

Councilor Bullock moved, seconded by Councilor Evelyn, to authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 3 to City Contract 2020-59 with Morrison Maierle, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes)

C. Discussion of Deployment of \$2.93M of the City's American Rescue Plan Resources

Mr. Neff explained that the City is slated to receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in a total amount of \$5.86 million and is looking for the Council's direction on how to spend the first half (\$2.93 million). Mr. Neff, Accounting and Financial Reporting Director Brooks Slyter and Councilors Clark-Endicott, Fitch, and Wedding met twice at the direction of the Council to develop investment recommendations. ARPA eligible expenses categories are 1) Response to COVID-19 and Negative Economic Impacts, 2) Premium Pay for Essential Workers, 3) Water/Sewer/Broadband, and 4) Public Sector Revenue Loss. Findings from the subcommittee showed unanimous support for allocating \$2 million towards the Public Safety Facility. Two of the three subcommittee members endorsed the full \$2.93 million to go towards the Public Safety Facility; one member of the subcommittee favored the use of \$930,000 to go towards homelessness initiatives.

Councilor Clark-Endicott spoke to the subcommittee process adding there was a great deal of agreement between subcommittee members on recommending the Public Safety Facility as the top priority for funding.

Councilor Wedding explained her support for full funding going to the Public Safety Facility, pointing out there is widespread citizen support for it as shown by the survey. She stated there is a critical need for this facility. Councilor Wedding opined that having all the funding go toward the facility will protect the General Fund in case the GO bond does not pass.

Councilor Fitch agreed with Councilors Clark-Endicott and Wedding that the Public Safety Facility is a priority but noted other funds such as proceeds from the sale of property can go toward the costs. Councilor Fitch indicated a new Public Safety Facility is not the only pressing need in Redmond and that homelessness is a critical concern as well. He referred to the presentation by Redmond Economic Development, Inc. Senior Director Jon Stark about the negative impact on economic development and spoke to two recent court cases that ruled a municipality cannot prevent camping in City parks unless it provides adequate shelter space for the homeless. Councilor Fitch opined there is a moral obligation to care for those less fortunate which the City can do by providing some of the ARPA funds to assist with several projects that will provide shelter for homeless citizens.

Councilor Bullock urged the Council to separate the issue of funding the Public Safety Facility and the allocation of resources to help unhoused neighbors. He pointed out that the \$2 million allocation for the Public Safety Facility does not need to be designated with this round of ARPA funds and suggested the Council considered allocating 17 percent of the \$2.93 million towards projects on to meet a continuum of needs for our unhoused population.

Councilor Patrick stated his preference would be to give citizens a \$100 credit on their water/sewer accounts as a good faith gesture, and give funds to Beulah's House, Ronald McDonald's House, and the three projects suggested by Councilor Fitch (Bethlehem Inn, Shepherd's House, and Jericho Road) with the remainder of the \$2.93 million going to the Public Safety Facility.

Councilor Clark-Endicott spoke to the non-profits mentioned by Councilor Patrick as well as many others who serve the citizens of Redmond. She shared that many of these agencies already received money through ARPA. She opined the root causes of homeless are mental health issues and drug addiction which are social issues Deschutes County is responsible for funding, not the City of Redmond. Councilor Clark-Endicott is opposed to spending any of the ARPA funds to assist Bethlehem Inn or address the homeless issue.

Ms. Berry spoke in favor of having ARPA funds go towards the needs of houseless residents in the City.

Rick Russell stated that over the past 7 years he has seen a growing collaboration between churches, businesses, and service providers to address the concerns of unhoused neighbors. He suggested that the City join in this collaborative effort. He spoke in favor of Safe Parking options and urged the Council to not put the issue of dealing with houselessness on law enforcement.

Oregon's Wild Harvest representative Elaine Mahan addressed the Council regarding the homeless encampment on NE 17th Street. As a business located near the camp, they have gotten to know the homeless over the past 7 years, have allowed them to use their water supply, and have donated food to them. Ms. Mahan stated that many of those who support these homeless people are volunteers who use their own funds to help. She encouraged the City to use some of the ARPA funds to support projects to assist the homeless in Redmond.

James Cook clarified that the cause of homelessness is not drug addiction or alcoholism but the lack of affordable housing. He described the various reasons people might be houseless, including leaving unsafe home situations. He urged the Council to use ARPA funds to help Redmond residents who need shelter.

Bethlehem Inn Executive Director Gwenn Wysling urged the Council to use ARPA funds to address the needs of homeless persons through Bethlehem Inn, Shepherd's House, and Jericho Road. Ms. Wysling stated that Bethlehem Inn has a proven track record and reminded the Council of their previous verbal pledges to support this effort. She requested that the Council allocate funds to assist Bethlehem Inn in creating this shelter to meet needs on the continuum of services for the homeless.

Fuel Safe Systems President and Owner William Hare explained his business is located on NE Kingwood near the homeless encampment and has been located there for 12 years. Fuel Safe is installing additional fencing and security cameras to monitor who is on their property. He has an employee whose

grandchildren live in that encampment, so he sees both sides of the issue. Mr. Ware voiced support for the Council allocating some of the ARPA funds to put permanent solutions in place to address the concerns of the homeless.

Richard Clough commented that homelessness is a complex issue. He addressed the question of how to meet the needs of the homeless and he pointed out the lack of affordable housing. Mr. Clough opined if Redmond builds homeless camps, there will be people moving to Redmond to live in those camps.

Councilor Evelyn moved, seconded by Councilor Fitch, to follow through on Councilor Fitch's recommendation for the \$2 million for the Police Department, and the \$950,000 to be allocated as laid out in the paper he submitted. [\$450,000 to Bethlehem Inn, \$300,000 to Shepherd's House and \$200,000 to Jericho Road/Oasis Village]

Councilor Fitch explained these funds will go to the basics such as commercial kitchens, fencing and porta-potties and are not for therapy or counseling. In response to Mr. Clough's concept of "if you build it, they will come", Councilor Fitch stated there are no statistics proving this. Councilor Fitch summarized the choice is livability versus non-livability in Redmond.

Councilor Clark-Endicott spoke to the subject of having compassion for others. She stated she is supportive of individuals taking care of others, but in her role as a Councilor spending taxpayer's money, she needs to consider the unintended consequences that could displace seniors.

Mayor Endicott commented that the City has been working on affordable housing for several years with one project nearly completed and another set to begin. He expressed support for the Bethlehem Inn project but stated he does not feel as strongly about the other homeless initiatives.

Councilor Patrick opined these projects by non-profits are going to happen whether the City allocates ARPA funds or not. He disagreed with Councilor Fitch and believes more people will show up in Redmond if a formal encampment is created. Councilor Patrick reiterated his previous recommendation to designate funds for \$100 per water/sewer account for citizens, the Ronald McDonald House, the three non-profits (listed in Councilor Fitch's written comments), and the Public Safety Facility.

Councilor Evelyn spoke to the complex issues that create homelessness and shared that he speaks with young people on a regular basis who tell him they are very close to being homeless. He suggested there are only two options regarding the issue of homelessness...do something about it or let it get worse. Councilor Evelyn urged the Council to use some of the available funds to address homelessness.

Councilor Wedding praised the work of Bethlehem Inn and the other non-profits but raised the question of how these agencies will sustain their work. She expressed concern about what would happen if the City provided ARPA funds for projects that could eventually be dropped because of unsustainability. She questioned if the money would be better spent on the Public Safety Facility or sidewalks or infrastructure.

Motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-no, Endicott-no, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-no)

Since the motion passed, Mr. Witcosky clarify the next step which will be to bring a budget adjustment to the Council for action on August 31.

D. Amendment No. 4 to Morrison-Maierle Contract #2020-59: Redmond Airport - Pavement Rehabilitation, Storm Drainage Improvements, Electrical Conduit Installation, and loop road widening project in an amount not to exceed \$167,000.

Mr. Bass requested approval of Amendment #4 to City contract #2020-59 with Morrison-Maierle. Amendment #4, in an amount not to exceed \$167,000, would group four smaller projects together so the project can be bid as a larger project. The infrastructure projects are the World War II hangar apron

rehabilitation, the terminal building redundant electric feed, storm drain improvements, and the terminal loop road widening.

Councilor Fitch moved, seconded by Councilor Wedding, to authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 4 to City Contract #2020-59 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$167,000, motion passed. (Bullock-yes, Clark-Endicott-yes, Endicott-yes, Evelyn-yes, Fitch-yes, Patrick-yes, Wedding-yes)

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Endicott attended the 100th birthday party for Art Horsell at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall last weekend. He also recently attended the Oregon Mayor's Association conference where homelessness was one of the topics. He said that homelessness is a problem with no solution, only ways to address the symptoms. The conference also discussed the changing landscape of public engagement. He alluded to the contention that is apparent in many public exchanges but stated that Redmond has a reputation for respecting others despite disagreement on issues.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Bullock asked for clarification regarding action the Council might need to take regarding the Safe Parking initiative. Mr. Witcosky responded that staff will bring information to discuss regarding this initiative at the August 31 meeting. Councilor Bullock thanked the citizens for their presence and participation at meeting. He announced that school will start soon and urged people to be aware of an increase of students on the streets. He also asked for grace for the educators as they work to meet the needs of all students.

Councilor Fitch expressed appreciation for the Council's discussion during the meeting. He said he had intended to bring up the Safe Parking initiative which was just clarified.

Councilor Evelyn thanked everyone for participating and announced he is in the lobby of the Redmond Hotel every morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and is available to talk with citizens.

Councilor Clark-Endicott reported on the Urban Area Planning Commission and the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee meetings noting DURAC received a report that indicated the City of Redmond has fully recovered from the COVID-19 downturn due, in part, to Redmond's focus on light industrial development. She mentioned several new stores and eateries that have recently opened or soon will.

Councilor Patrick stated that government will never be able to solve the homeless issue, because it is about the individual and family structure in society. He spoke about meeting a man who lives in a tiny house in Salem and suggested that tiny houses might be a viable option for housing in Redmond.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Keith Witcosky addressed Governor Kate Brown's upcoming announcement regarding the surging COVID-19 numbers, noting it appears she may require masks indoors again. This may mean a return to virtual Council meetings again. Mr. Witcosky provided an update on an Airport grant that will allow flights to Dallas-Fort Worth starting in spring 2022. Recruitment for a new Police Chief is in progress through the end of August with forthcoming updates in August and/or September; an open house for the finalists will take place in mid-September. Mr. Witcosky reported that a discussion will take place on September 14 regarding the 8-year-old special event policy for the closure of 5th and 6th Streets.

Mayor Endicott stated that the decision to return to virtual meetings will be based on how the COVID-19 Delta variant manifests and whether it would be necessary for the safety of Council, staff, and citizens.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AT THE MEETING

Pastor Ferry clarified that Beulah's Place is currently open with six females in the program.

Mr. Clough asked why the Council cannot have in-person meetings while wearing masks, if it is safe to do so in Wal-Mart and other places.

Margaret Maffai stated she is involved with the pop-up kitchens that serve the houseless population on Sundays and given the high temperatures predicted for this week, requested donations of water or Gatorade. Those interested can contact Ms. Maffai or Ms. Berry.

Ms. Berry spoke to the issue of having the ability for everyone to participate and interact whether Council meetings are in-person or virtual. She reported that Redmond Collective Action, Mountain View Fellowship, and other service providers are planning a supply drop for the homeless this week. Ms. Berry stated they will be paying for these supplies out of their own pockets, so donations are welcome to assist in meeting the needs.

There were no additional comments from citizens at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 31st day of August 2021.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder