



## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: March 13, 2024

#### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

#### Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Matilda Novak (arrived at 6:08 p.m.), Steph Newton, Ray Kopczynski (virtual), Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee

Councilors absent: None

#### Special Presentations

- a. Albany Police Department Public Service Award for Jason Dorsette  
Police Chief Marcia Harnden presented the award.
- b. Albany Police Department Public Service Award for Emma Deane  
Harnden presented the award.
- c. Albany Police Department retirement Steve Mills  
Harnden presented the award.

#### Business from the Public

**6:09 p.m.**

Charles Williams read a statement of concern\* about equity initiatives and programs in the Greater Albany Public Schools.

Scott Lepman expressed concerns about downtown safety and homelessness. He passed out a handout\* with examples of properties in Portland.

#### First Reading of Ordinances

**6:16 p.m.**

Amend Albany Municipal Code Chapter 5.08 Peddlers; Solicitors

Director of Community Development Matthew Ruetters said the proposed changes are housekeeping. Allowed zones for recreational marijuana manufacturing uses will be changed to match those for medical marijuana manufacturing uses. The amendments also correct outdated numbering of Oregon Revised Statute citations and remove unused references to fees.

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for the first time in title only.

MOTION: Councilor Jackie Montague moved to have the ordinance read a second time in title only. Councilor Marilyn Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Kidd read the ordinance a second time in title only.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilor Ramycia McGhee seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Ordinance No. 6036.

Adoption of Resolutions

**6:25 :p.m.**

Stabilization fund policy

Finance Director Jeanna Yeager said one objective in the City's strategic plan is to establish reserves. Use of the proposed stabilization fund would be based on a decline in revenues, rather than an increase in expenses. It would be funded with one-time monies remaining from the public safety buildings contingency funds, and capped at \$2 million.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked if some of the money could be used to fix the streets instead.

Councilor Ray Kopczynski said the council has talked about building reserves for years. It's essential to do it.

Councilor Steph Newton asked if the council could request uses for the fund. Yeager said requests would come from departments for review by the city manager and finance director before being brought to the council.

Montague and Smith expressed agreement with Kopczynski.

MOTION: Smith moved to adopt the resolution. Kopczynski seconded the motion, which passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 7300.

Award of Contract

**6:29 p.m.**

Purchase of 35 ft hybrid-electric transit bus

Novak said electric vehicles sometimes don't perform well in cold wet weather. She asked if this is also true of hybrids. Transit Manager Barry Hoffman said hybrid vehicles have a diesel motor to back up the electric one. Transit is confident that this bus will be able to operate year-round.

Newton asked how many other buses are coming up on retirement. Hoffman said there is one "sister" to the one this bus replaces. Transit will look for another grant to replace it. Newton asked if that bus will be all electric. Hoffman said no. The City needs to invest in charging infrastructure before adding all-electric vehicles.

Montague asked if the bus being replaced can be used for parts to keep its "sister" running longer. Hoffman said it can be kept as a spare. Replaced buses are usually auctioned and the money put back into the equipment fund.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the purchase of the new bus. McGhee seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

**6:40 p.m.**

a. Appointments

- 1) Accepting Ashley Almon's resignation from the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Commission
- 2) Accepting Steve Reynolds' resignation from the Tourism Advisory Committee
- 3) Appointing Hedio Schulte to the Human Relations Commission

b. Approval of minutes

- 1) February 14, 2024, city council meeting
- c. Certifying properties exempt from taxes
  - 1) Songbird Village RES NO. 7302
  - 2) Periwinkle Place RES NO. 7303
  - 3) ParkRose RES NO. 7304
  - 4) 1680-1682 Oak Street RES NO. 7305
  - 5) 515 Geary Street SE RES NO. 7306
- d. Approval of meeting date
  - 1) August and September 2024 City Council Meeting dates

MOTION: Montague moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Smith seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

Staff Report

**6:40 p.m.**

Approval of a commercial property lease agreement with Coastal Farm

Harnden said the proposed lease is for office space for a term of two years. That area of the city has a growing number of police calls, many of them to Walmart. Officers who respond to calls in the area have to drive back to the station to make their reports. Response times across the city are climbing.

Newton asked what percentage of police calls come from Walmart. Harnden said she doesn't know the percentage, but there were 57 calls from Walmart in December. She said retailers near I-5 are subject to organized retail theft.

MOTION: Montague moved to authorize the police chief to sign the agreement. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Business from the Council

6:48 pm

Smith requested an update on the airport museum project. She thanked staff for their work on the Strategic Plan update that came before the council Monday, February 26.

Newton expressed concern about automatic late notices for water bills being sent to accounts that were not past due.

McGhee said a constituent complained that Knox Butte Road at Goldfish Farm Road is not well lit. She also asked if the council could invite the Human Relations Commission to a joint meeting.

Novak praised the staff who post City responses to issues on NextDoor. It's an effective way to reach people.

City Manager Report

**7:00 p.m.**

City Manager Peter Troedsson said the council will be briefed on the airport museum.

He said Utility Billing's transition to new software has been difficult. Staff is working to solve problems and get information out to customers.

Troedsson asked for the council's approval to put the police department and City logos on a letter of support for HB 4002. Kidd said 4002 is a compromise between total repeal of Measure 110 and maintaining it as is.

Montague asked if community partners support the bill. Harnden said yes. The law enforcement piece won't go into effect until September, to allow time for training. The Albany police department now has 20 officers who have never arrested anyone for a drug offense.

MOTION: Smith moved to support using the logos on the letter. The motion was seconded and passed 6-0.

Recess to executive session

**7:13 p.m.**

The council recessed into executive session to discuss labor negotiations in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(d)

Reconvene

**7:36 p.m.**

The council reconvened into regular session.

2. Next meeting dates

Monday, March 11, 2024; 4:00 p.m. work session

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 6:00 p.m. meeting

3. Adjournment

**7:37 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Allison Liesse  
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson  
City Manager

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. Documents from staff are posted to the website after the meeting. Documents submitted by the public are available by emailing [cityclerk@albanyoregon.org](mailto:cityclerk@albanyoregon.org).*