



MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Regular Session

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: **November 20, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Konopa led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Rich Kellum, Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, Alex Johnson II, Dick Olsen, and Mike Sykes

Councilors absent: None

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Jim Hogan, chair of the library foundation, spoke about many reasons to keep the Carnegie Library open. It adds great value to the downtown and the foundation has paid for several upgrades. The bylaws of the foundation describe its primary and secondary purposes.

Councilor Rich Kellum spoke about using portions of the building for other purposes. He asked if having a shared purpose would help to defray maintenance costs of the building.

Fire Chief Shane Wooton thanked City Manager Peter Troedsson for the opportunity to be fire chief. He described his 27-year career in Albany and his 25 years in the community. The fire department's mission under Wooton will be the same. The values he intends to lead by are a service-minded approach, integrity, and professionalism.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Approving a loan to Stack HIP, LLC.

7:29 p.m.

Economic Development Manager Seth Sherry introduced Doug Puerta, CEO of Stack HIP, LLC, and Brice Winey, general manager.

Puerta thanked City staff and others in the community. They are excited about this project. He showed a picture of the site taken in February (see agenda file). The project is on schedule. The reception for the product has been outstanding across the United States. It supports the metal industry and excitement is rapidly building. The Hostacit I Pressure (HIP) unit is being manufactured in Sweden and is expected to arrive on November 18, 2019.

Winey said the city has been great to work with. He described the travel route the HIP unit will take.

Puerta said an announcement will be made in the next few months about support businesses. There is a lot of interest in the Albany area being spurred by the arrival of the HIP unit.

MOTION: Councilor Bessie Johnson moved to adopt the resolution and Kellum seconded. The motion passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 6833.

AWARD OF CONTRACT

7:42 p.m.

Awarding a contract to Dick Welker Construction for sewer point repairs (SS-19-03).

City Engineer Staci Belcastro said there were four bids to improve short segments of sewer pipe in 13 locations. The successful bidder was Dick Welker Construction, Inc., of Albany, for \$239,636. The city has

worked with Welker before. They have experience doing sewer laterals so are used to working in back yards and with the public. They will use a variety of construction methods depending on needed repairs.

MOTION: Councilor Alex Johnson II moved to award the contract to Dick Welker Construction, Inc., for \$239,636. Kellum seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Appointing Ralph Menweg to the Planning Commission.
- b. Accepting Tim McCloud's resignation from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission.
- c. Approval of minutes
 - 1) August 26, 2019, city council work session.
 - 2) September 11, 2019, city council meeting.
- d. Recommendations to OLCC
 - 1) Approving full on-premises sales commercial liquor license application for Lucky Vivian LLC, DBA Frankie's, 641 Hickory Street NW #160.
 - 2) Approving limited on-premises, off-premises sales application for La Aguila Mexican Store, LLC, 1776 Geary Street SE.
- e. Adoption of resolution
 - 1) Appointing city managers pro tem. RES NO. 6834

MOTION: Councilor Mike Sykes moved to adopt the consent calendar as presented. Johnson II seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS

7:48 p.m.

- 1) Revenue enhancement and cost containment.

City Manager Peter Troedsson discussed the revenue enhancement and cost containment ideas council had asked staff to research.

Troedsson said that franchise fees are not on this list; they have talked about making all consistent at seven percent, and staff is moving forward.

Troedsson reviewed the list as outlined in the agenda packet.

- 1- Public safety levy: staff will need direction from the council about the rates by early February. Once it becomes a pending measure, staff can only answer factually. Each ten-cent increase is about \$350,000 in revenues. Compression is a concern.
- 2- Utility fee: this could be approved by the council or sent to voters. It would be 18 months out for either. There are pros and cons to both.
- 3- Sugary drink tax: this would compete with 1 and 2.
- 4- Indigent offenders: the city provides defense to those who can't afford attorneys, and the cost is borne by taxpayers. We pay public defenders \$50 an hour, which has not increased since 1990. As such, we have a hard time finding and keeping attorneys. Adding a fee to the court cost, such as \$25, would help to recover costs if we increased public defenders to \$60 an hour. This is way to recoup money that we have to spend on public defense anyway. Discussion followed. Staff will bring back data about what other cities charge.
- 5- Library district: taxpayers would pay the same, but the City would no longer be supporting the library service. Konopa pointed out that the board would include more than just representation from Albany, so others could choose to close the Carnegie Library. Discussion followed about the makeup of the board.

Library Director Ed Gallagher said much has changed since the city last explored a library district. He intends to reach out to other entities in the counties and see if they are open to a district. It would require financial and political work. There are a lot of infrastructure and relationships that exist now that weren't in place 12-15 years ago. This would get more value for the dollar than closing the Carnegie Library. It would take about 1-2 years. Discussion followed about ownership and representation, and other library special districts.

Kellum spoke about the process of prioritizing community needs within budget constraints. He prefers making larger cuts to having each department take a percentage cut. Konopa prefers to keep programs whole and find alternate sources of revenue; a utility fee is a good alternative.

Johnson asked about eliminating the public safety levy and imposing a public utility fee. Johnson II is concerned about imposing a utility fee when citizens already struggle financially.

Troedsson spoke about progressive versus regressive taxes. A utility fee is regressive. Public Works Engineering and Community Development Director Jeff Blaine gave an update on the research underway by staff. The utility fee will come to council in approximately January.

Sykes does not support imposing a utility fee; he would refer it to the voters. Konopa pointed out that public education about the issues is paramount. Deputy City Manager/CIO Jorge Salinas spoke about how the Balancing Act tool on the website could be used to learn what the public would be willing to support.

2) General obligation (GO) bond for street projects. **8:50 p.m.**

Belcastro said the council discussed six arterials and collectors at the August 26, 2019, meeting. The two additional options were eliminating Third Avenue or eliminating Third and Ninth Avenue. There are also significant water and sewer improvements to consider in conjunction with the streets in order to ensure they would not be recut during a later project. The staff report summarizes all three options.

Discussion followed about timing of a GO bond in relation to a public safety levy renewal. The council concurred to not move forward with the GO bond at this time.

3) Fire department position reclassification. **9:18 p.m.**

Wooton said positions have been restructured to create two deputy chief positions. This will allow for depth and training, and saves money for a few years.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

Johnson II noted that with the heavy fog, it is difficult to see vehicles without their lights on. Staff will issue a public safety notice.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION OR LITIGATION LIKELY TO BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORS 192.660(2)(h).

The regular session recessed to executive session at 9:22 p.m.

RECONVENE

The regular session reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Monday, October 21, 2019; 4:00 p.m. work session

Wednesday, October 23, 2019; 7:15 p.m. regular meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Mary Dibble
City Clerk

Peter Troedsson
City Manager

Note: Staff handouts referred to in the minutes as (see agenda file) are available on the website in the "Staff Handouts" column.