



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Work Session

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: November 29, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Alex Johnson II called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Mayor Alex Johnson II and Councilors Matilda Novak (arrived at 4:08), Steph Newton, Ray Kopczynski (virtual), Jackie Montague, Marilyn Smith, and Ramycia McGhee

Councilors absent: None

Business from the Public

None.

Risk Management and Investment Policies

4:02 pm

Finance Director Jeanna Yeager introduced Darrin Godfrey of HUB international, who appeared virtually. He gave an overview of the City's insurance coverage. Claims were low in 2022, but the loss of a street sweeper will increase the claims amount in 2023.

Xander Darcy, also of HUB International, gave an overview of the City's workers' compensation insurance. He said the City of Albany is doing well at managing claims frequency, and rates are stable. As with the property insurance, the street sweeper accident-related injuries will raise the City's costs for 2023.

Yeager said updating the workers' compensation limits is the only change in the City's policy for the coming year.

Garrett Cudahey, of Government Portfolio Advisors (GPA), said he recommends one change to the investment policy: increasing the weighted average maturity of securities investments from 18 months to two years.

Councilor Jackie Montague asked if investments are made from a certain fund, do earnings have to go back to that fund? Yeager said not necessarily. It's a management decision.

Councilor Matilda Novak asked who is "management"? Yeager said it's usually the finance director, but she consults with the city manager about these kinds of decisions.

Cudahey described the national economy's current status and made some predictions. He said inflation has come down more than expected, and wages are also coming down.

Councilor Steph Newton asked why savings have increased since the COVID-era stimulus. Prices are going up, and \$4,000 doesn't seem like enough to make such a change. Cudahey said during COVID people weren't able to spend money on travel. They are still not spending as much as before COVID.

Cudahey said the City's portfolio complies with statute and policy, and investment balances are increasing.

Pedestrian Crossing, Expo Parkway at Knox Butte

4:56 p.m.

Transportation Systems Analyst Ron Irish reminded the council that they received a request earlier this year to consider a pedestrian crossing with a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon on Expo Parkway at Knox Butte Road. Staff has looked at the area and considers this a reasonable location for this type of crossing.

In 2017, staff made a list of 18 potential locations. Knox Butte/Expo Parkway isn't on the list. Staff suggests referring the request to the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) and directing them to review and update the list.

Novak asked how long it would take for the TAC to do that. Irish said it would take about a month.

The council agreed to Irish's suggestion.

Recess

The council recessed for a break at 5:02 p.m.

Reconvene

The council reconvened at 5:12 p.m.

Street Preservation and Improvement Funding

5:12 p.m.

Civil Engineer III Chris Cerklewski reviewed previous presentations to the council on the subject. He said the City has focused maintenance and reconstruction efforts mainly on collector and arterial streets. Many local streets are in good condition, and a roughly equal number are in poor condition.

Mayor Alex Johnson II asked if the City has a regular street maintenance schedule. Cerklewski said yes, our pavement management system.

Councilor Marilyn Smith asked if there has been a change in the rate of deterioration of local streets with more delivery trucks in the neighborhoods since COVID hit. Cerklewski said staff hasn't done an inspection since the pandemic.

Public Works Director Chris Bailey explained the sources of funding for street maintenance. The street maintenance fund receives no revenue from property taxes, private utilities, or the general fund. SDC funds received by street maintenance can only be used for growth-related projects.

Bailey said staff and council have been talking about street maintenance funding since at least 1982. Since then, the CPI is up 55%, but street maintenance funding is only up 21%. Currently, about \$3.1

million is available per year for street maintenance, which includes streetlights, signs, sweeping, and painting.

Cerklewski said the strategic plan goal is a pavement condition index of 60 for arterials and collector streets. Public Works is short \$1.5 million a year of being able to do this. Keeping local streets in good or fair condition would require \$3.5 million a year, in current dollars. Local streets in poor condition have to be reconstructed. Reconstructing all of our streets will cost \$12.8 million per year for 40 years. This is the problem we have to solve. Public Works will come before the council again to talk about funding strategies.

Bailey said Public Works will talk to the TAC at the end of November. The group had good suggestions for prioritizing this work the last time it was presented to them.

Business from the Council

6:00 p.m.

City Manager Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 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@cityofalbany.net.*