



July 16, 2020  
City Council Meeting (Via Zoom)  
Willamette Activity Center Room 8  
47674 School Street  
6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

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### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

**Council Present:** Mayor Kathy Holston, Councilors: Trisha Maxfield, Christina Hollett, John McClelland, Bobbie Whitney, Paul Forcum and Dawn Kinyon

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Bryan Cutchen, Finance Director Bill Jones, and Police Chief Kevin Martin

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.0 Roll Call**

**4.0 Additions, Corrections or Adjustments to the Agenda**

Bryan added 10.1.2 Travel Oregon Presentation

**5.0 Public Comment**

Dennis Patterson 47871 W 1st- In 2015 Mayor Jerry Shorey made a speech to welcome the newly elected City Councilors and the new Mayor Jim Coey, virtually every politician running for government promises that if elected they will listen to their constituents and be their voice.

Audi Spliethof 47587 Teller Road- at the last Planning Commission meeting one Commissioner was sent away because they wouldn't wear a mask. Inside the meeting three other people were not wearing masks and they were allowed inside.

Wayne Hall 48227 Y Drive- he expected to see the Mayor and Council here in person, there are other people that took the risk to be here, and he doesn't see why they can't be here.

Robert Garr 47889 Elgin Ave- the speeding through Oakridge (inaudible) we need to have cameras to take pictures of people speeding through town. There are people that are crossing the highway all over town, we need to stop the speeders.

Don Hadley Beaver Street- he has been here for 25 years and when he drives down Hwy 58 and he wants to know why the lights on the crosswalk are yellow and not red.

#### **6.0 Mayor Comments / Announcements / Proclamations**

Mayor Holston- wanted to address the comments about the Mayor and Council not being at the WAC, they chose to do it this way to comply with our regulations that are in existence now, they decided that it would be safer for them not to be there. They have gone to great lengths to make sure that everyone who wants to have a voice can be heard, we have been meeting by zoom since mid-March This is going to be a busy meeting, we are all in this together. She is asking for your patience and politeness.

#### **7.0 Council Comments / Announcements**

Councilor McClelland- earlier this week he sent Councilor Hollett an email regarding a rumor she was perpetuating that apparently came from the Facebook group regarding his residency. He would ask in the future that if someone has a question regarding him that they come to him, not his neighbors. He feels this was handled the wrong way.

Councilor Hollett- a constituent did contact her regarding Councilor McClelland, her responsibility is to the citizens of Oakridge, not to Councilor McClelland, she is personal friend of his neighbor and she asked a simple question, if he has lived there for over a year and a half and that was the end of it.

Mayor Holston- said it sounds like Councilor McClelland and Councilor Hollett needs to pick up the phone and/or sit down and discuss with each other what has occurred. She appreciates bringing stuff up so we can keep the air clear.

#### **8.0 Consent Agenda**

8.1 Approve minutes from May 21, June 4 and June 18

8.2 Letter of Support for LCOG Transportation Growth Management Grant Application

**Motion:** Councilor Maxfield moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor McClelland seconded the motion.

Forcum (aye), Maxfield (aye), Hollett (aye), Kinyon (aye), Whitney (aye), McClelland (aye), Mayor Holston (aye).  
Motion carried 7-0

#### **9.0 Business from the City Council-none**

#### **10.0 Business from the City Administration**

10.1 City Administrator Update

10.1.1 Motion from Executive Session of 7/14/2020

Bryan read the issue.

**Motion:** Councilor McClelland moved that we direct the City Administrator to sign the agreement accepting the settlement in the amount of \$50,000 between the City of Oakridge and Curran McLeod Incorporated. Councilor Forcum seconded the motion.

Councilor Kinyon- we asked to have information brought to us about this and they didn't get the information and she is disappointed in that.

Mayor Holston- thanked Councilor Kinyon, but doesn't think they had consensus on that.

Councilor Hollett- agrees with Councilor Kinyon, we should have had a third opinion on this as well and we did discuss that.

Mayor Holston- yes we did discuss that and we also discussed that this offer could be withdrawn if we don't act upon this.

Councilor McClelland- he thinks the city has lost enough money through this process and throwing more down the hole would be a bad fiscal idea for a city that is struggling. He doesn't know why any of us thought we should pay another engineer to take a look at all of this.

Kinyon (nay), Hollett (nay), Maxfield (aye), Forum (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), McClelland (aye), Whitney (aye).  
Motion carried 5-2

#### 10.2 Finance Director Update

Bill- gave a quick finance update.

Councilor Maxfield- asked if we have hired someone to fill the Finance Director's position.

Bryan- we do have a candidate who has accepted an offer, he is reporting right around the end of the month to observe the payroll operations with Bill. Bill has agreed to stay on full time until the end of July and then come back on an hourly basis to provide needed training.

10.3 Police Department Update- none

10.4 Fire Department Update- none

10.5 Public Works Update- none

10.6 Community Services Update

#### 10.6.1 Transportation System Plan Presentation – Kittleson and Associates, Inc

Ashely Ludwig from Kittleson and Associates, Inc. gave the Transportation Systems Plan presentation. They have been working with us for the last year and a half. They are looking for guidance from the city council tonight on First Street and Highway 58.

This is meant to be a comprehensive look at the future of transportation system and the city. This is the city's plan and it should reflect the city's vision, so we have been working with the city and ODOT leading the technical work to support this plan. We have had an advisory committee guiding us along the way and held several public meetings and now we are holding the public hearing. It is really important that projects that you anticipate the city will want to do in the future get documented in this plan.

### 11.0 Public Hearings

11.1 Oakridge Transportation System Plan Approval to include amendments to Zoning and / or Comprehensive Plan

11.1.1 Declared Conflicts of Interest/Exparte Contacts

Councilor Kinyon- divulged one Exparte contact

11.1.2 Open Public Hearing 7:23 PM

11.1.3 Staff Report- Rick read the staff report

Councilor Kinyon- option # 2 that was just presented, this is the first time she has heard about this, she feels like it was very short and without detail.

Mayor Holston asked Ashley if she could go over option #2 again in more detail.

Ashley Ludwig- reviewed option #2 with the council.

Councilor Kinyon-what she heard is that we would be looking at enforcement and not reconfiguration.

Ashley- that is correct.

David Helton- the City could have a policy with OSP to seek increased enforcement, but that would be between the City and OSP.

Councilor Forcum- if we try to get more OSP enforcement that will cost the city more money that we don't have.

Mayor Holston- for option #2 is there additional flexibility if we don't want to do the full blown changes, but we want to do the reductions? For example more speed limit signs or other things that might help us, maybe more cross walks, is that something we could negotiate?

Ashley- that would be something to ask David, she is not sure of the ODOT policies for speed limit signs. In terms of if we can add additional pedestrian crossings without a road configuration plan, yes that is something that can be done.

Mayor Holston- if we don't do the full plan and we decide to do option #2 is that something that will still come out of ODOT's funding?

David Helton- it would be mix, you could apply to ODOT for grants for installation of additional marked crossings, you can seek grants through ODOT for sidewalk infill. We do have grant programs specifically for sidewalk infill in the Safe Routes to School program. For additional speed limit signs we can work with our district staff.

Councilor Maxfield- on page 57 under P-3 Oregon 58 sidewalks it's listed there that ODOT would have the cost estimate, and the city's portion would be \$850,000. In option #2 we would be footing the \$8.5 million figure versus the smaller portion of \$850,000 if she is understanding correctly?

Ashley Ludwig- the cost estimate for project P-3 that you are seeing that is the cost estimate just for implementing sidewalks and the City contribution would be about 10%, if you were to decide not to do the road reconfiguration and just look at sidewalk that is the estimates we are looking at for sidewalks throughout the entire city.

Councilor Maxfield- so in option #2, if we don't do the entire road reconfiguration ODOT will not help us, but in the road reconfiguration they will help us?

Mayor Holston- in option #2 we would have to pay for our sidewalks and ODOT would help us get grants, but in option #1 if we reconfigure sidewalks would be ODOT's. Would we have a portion of the sidewalks to pay even if we do the road reconfiguration?

David Helton- explained how the road reconfiguration would be funded.

Councilor Kinyon- on option #1 what she understands on the newest version of the TSP is that the road reconfiguration projects have been combined into one project called R-6 Lane Reduction and it specifically says on the documentation that the city's contribution will be zero. There is also a P-3 with sidewalks and a B-6 with bike lanes that both do have city contributions listed.

Ashley- if they hear tonight that the city would like to proceed with option #1 she does think we need to remove the contribution of the sidewalk and bike lane because ODOT is planning to pursue funding for the whole project.

David Helton- they understand that the city doesn't have the resources to contribute to much of the funding for Hwy 58, so we are looking for funding to cover the entire cost of the project. He can't promise that they can find funding for the entire project, there may be a need for the city to contribute funding.

Councilor McClelland- when putting this together did Ms. Ludwig put together any increases in crashes after the project was done in other cities?

Ashley Ludwig- she did not see any crash increases.

Councilor Hollett- what type of demographics do you collect on fatalities in Oakridge?

Ashley Ludwig- the crash data they report is what is reported in ODOT's crash database.

#### 11.1.4 Statements in Favor

There were eight statements in favor.

#### 11.1.5 Statements in Opposition

There were 39 statements in opposition.

#### 11.1.6 Statements in General

There were three comments in general.

#### 11.1.7 Close Public Hearing- 10:01 pm

#### 11.1.8 Council Discussion

Councilor McClelland- it seems like option #1 comes with more benefits with less cost to the city. His personal experience is he lives on the end of town where it is one lane and not much of center median and he has no problem getting out. He lived in LaPine after the change and he never experienced a problem aside from the traffic from the total eclipse event. With option #2 where are we thinking we are going to get officers to do more after just taking a staffing reduction? If we do the one year trial plan and at the end of it we say no this isn't working for us, is there not a possibility of saying ok, we want to go to option #2. The repeating theme is that people are concerned about the safety of the highway and the pedestrians trying to cross and the one we are wanting to throw out is the one that was recommended throughout the process of meetings and public input. There are some startling figures to support as a safer, more effective way to deal with the problem. If you stay with option #2, Oakridge is still going to stay a passing lane. He understands that people think it's going to be congested, but that is not his experience with LaPine and that is not his experience where he lives right now. The people who are in favor have some very valid points, the town looks like it is dying when you drive down Hwy 58.

Mayor Holston- she supports the lane reduction because that is the best plan that has been offered. Option #2 sounds like a good compromise, but it comes with a price tag that we can't afford. If we could we would have already done the items in option #2. For her, she looks at the road and the highway over the past thirty years and Oakridge choosing to not change anything and of course, nothing has changed. Maybe now it is time to try something new. She doesn't want to say go ahead ODOT, do whatever you want. She thinks the trial is well worth it, with parameters. We can't afford #2, we might as well just out the whole reconfiguration and leave it out rather than adopt something we won't be able to afford. She is looking 20 years out and she is hoping we will have a highway that is safer and slower. As a council we need to decide where we want to go from here.

Councilor Hollett- moving forward with the pilot program to her feels like we didn't listen to the community. People put out a lot to be here tonight. Both options have a price tag, why would we ask the citizens to pay for something they don't want? Having speed signs and saying they don't work, the same could be said for having three lanes, and the argument can go both ways. If people are really opposed with option #1 why would we push something on our citizens that they don't want? Option #2 is a good option to look at.

Councilor Maxfield- before the meeting she was in favor of the pilot program, but now she is convinced the people aren't ready. She feels like we should pull highway 58 out of the plan all together, maybe our community would be ready in the future.

Mayor Holston – Trisha said something that she thinks is very well stated. Our community just isn't ready for option #1 yet. This is a matter of her relying on data and experts around the nation and being given an opportunity to try something that has been proven in other areas to work. What would be your preference considering First Street reconfiguration or refinement. That was approved by the Planning Commission with the understanding that as we move and have funding to do that it will be reviewed and morphed and adjusted because is it our city streets.

Councilor Kinyon- ODOT made it very clear that there are no guarantees any of this is free. Something which may have been missed by some of our councilors is the bike lanes that are listed to cost \$950,000 and sidewalks listed for \$750,000 are both optional, ODOT could get that covered. She has heard from one of our current law enforcement officers that they believe the city council is against them bumping up their enforcement on highway 58 because of the bad reputation the city earned several years back when they ticketed a lot of people. There is one thing in the TSP plan that she believes needs to come out and that is B-9. She is opposed because we still haven't finished spending the money received less than ten years ago. She sees no reason why we need to reinvest in a new one when we haven't done anything with the first one we already paid for.

Councilor Whitney- she lives on East 1<sup>st</sup> St. and works there and a lot of mountain bike people use East 1<sup>st</sup> St. so she thinks having bike lanes up there would be nice for them and the schoolchildren. The parking up there is horrible, it is hard to back out. There is a lot of overflow parking up town so parallel parking would be safer up there. With the schools being there, anything to make it safer for the kids she is all for. She is for option #1.

Councilor McClelland- is it an option just to pull the Highway 58 portion for now and bring it back later?

Mayor Holston- we can approve the TSP except for the Highway 58 with an end date saying the council will revisit the Hwy 58 and make an addendum to the TSP within a month, she wouldn't let it go too long. She looks at studies we have done since 1961 and one of the things that happens is that councils pass the TSP plans and they just sit there. If we approve #2 we need to aggressively stay on top of the policing of our highway, we need to stay proactive, and we don't want to step back from this.

**Motion:** Councilor Whitney moves we direct city staff to draft a TSP ordinance with the following three modifications 1) To remove Highway 58 from the TSP with the intent to explore option #2 for a future addendum 2) review the removal of Second Street for safety reasons 3) Select option #1 for E 1<sup>st</sup> street. Councilor Maxfield seconded the motion.

Councilor Kinyon asked to make a friendly amendment to remove B-9 with the trail connections study.

Councilor Whitney- it is a 20 year plan and she doesn't have an issue with that, we have a lot of plans to develop the trail system so she does not accept the friendly amendment.

Councilor McClelland-if we pass this does this mean we are taking out option #1 for the highway?

Mayor Holston- as it is written she would say yes, it is only directing the staff to look at option #2. This doesn't paint us into a corner that says we can't do it.

Bryan- with this motion you are taking a very visionary document, this is a long rang visionary document with very few details and you are going to narrow it down and reduce the number of decisions you have. It's a plan that was generated with engineering professionals and safety professionals and yet you are relying on 1.2% of the population to guide your choices when you can have a plan that gave you a pilot which would give the citizens more experience, more information about what the impact of the reconfiguration. Instead you are going to choose a very short-sighted option that makes it much harder to go back to the beginning. You can always alter the road diet; you can always change it; and you will have 2-3 decision points to say no. But here you automatically go to the worst case decision. He completely understands you are going to get blow back from your constituents at the least the 40 that were here to make comments. It's your job to be visionary and he doesn't see it in this motion.

Mayor Holston- thanked Bryan and she agrees with him.

Councilor McClelland- he agrees with Bryan as well.

Mayor Holston- we are in a position where we need to have community support and there is a vocal group of people who don't believe this is what we should do. She knows many people who do want this and have spoken to her directly. She doesn't think the community as a whole supports this. This is a visionary document that can be changed and added to and subtracted to, we have limited our scope of vision by doing this.

Forcum (aye), Maxfield (aye), Hollett (aye), Kinyon (aye), Whitney (aye), McClelland (nay), Mayor Holston (nay).  
Motion carried 5-2

11.1.9 Findings of Fact- Rick read this

11.1.10 Council Directed Action

**12.0 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda-none**

**13.0 Ordinances and Resolutions –none**

**14.0 Appointments-none**

**15.0 Other Business**

**16.0 Public Comment**

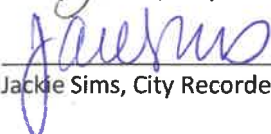
**17.0 Adjourn – 11:20 pm**

Signed:



Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed:



Jackie Sims, City Recorder