



CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING

Saturday, February 01, 2025 at 9:00 AM
Sandy City Hall and via Zoom

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Kathleen Walker
Council President Don Hokanson
Councilor Chris Mayton
Councilor Laurie Smallwood
Councilor Rich Sheldon
Councilor Kristina Ramseyer
Councilor Lindy Hanley

COUNCIL POLICIES

The Council began the meeting by discussing the Council Policies. The Mayor specifically addressed the policy on growth, which was last amended by the Council in 2019. She advocated for returning to a policy that encourages quality residential growth with development paying for itself. Other Council Members stated that having a discussion on this issue was difficult without being provided with the previous language of the policy prior to 2019, and that further context was needed as to the reason for the 2019 change. After discussion, the topic was tabled to a future meeting.

COUNCIL GOAL SETTING: 2025-27

All departments provided the Council with an update on the implementation status of the Council's 2023-25 goals, along with summaries of department accomplishments and work plans for the coming biennium, along with other relevant information. Development Services provided supplementary work plan items with Planning Commission input. These materials are attached to these minutes for reference.

Important Note: the following points were expressed by the Council during their discussion of each department. **These bullet points are intended to summarize the Council's conversation; they do not constitute the Council's actual list of goals for the biennium.** A separate goals document will be consolidated by staff and presented to the Council for consideration and adoption at a future meeting.

Police

- No official Council Policy exists related to public safety
- Recognition of the recent increase in Police staffing
- A committee should be formed to focus on public safety, community livability, and code enforcement issues (not oversight of policing)

- Such a committee could increase visibility of code enforcement actions are being addressed and the value being realized by increased code enforcement staffing; increased visibility would also make residents feel that their complaints are being heard
- The committee should be focused on outcomes and metrics, rather than delving into specific cases
- Deference should be given to the department with regard to traffic staffing; perhaps a dedicated traffic officer is not needed, and traffic enforcement can be made a priority for all personnel instead
 - Flexibility for staffing is desirable, along with a focus on outcomes rather than specific assignments
- Traffic enforcement should be made a higher echelon goal; filled traffic officer position language is not needed
- Discussion on homelessness response, including the need to work closely with impacted businesses

Library

- Overview on progress developing the bookmobile and challenges with federal funding
- Discussion on the prospects for making the libraries self-supporting (i.e. not dependent on General Funds)
- Overview of efforts to increase County funding for Hoodland
- Overview of efforts to advocate for more equity regarding County library funding generally
- Clarification on the utilization of library services: in person versus online; Sandy versus Hoodland
- Discussion on the importance of the Hoodland Library, and the City's obligations thereto

SandyNet

- The master plan should be completed and adopted in the interest of resiliency and sustainability of the utility
 - The plan should a clear establishment of where expansion will occur next and under what criteria
- The City will need to work with the County on CBX's expansion plans and policies and advocate for plans that are in Sandy's interest
- Further clarity is needed regarding which areas are designated 'served' and 'underserved'
- Areas with significant potential for future growth should be identified and prioritized for expansion
- Future staffing levels and space needs should be identified and planned for with respect to rates

Transit

- Deisel backup vehicles need to be maintained, though the fleet can be electric during peak service hours; the term 'alternate vehicles' is preferable

- Discussion on the responsibility to develop and maintain bus stops for long-distance routes in rural areas
- Discussion on SAM's approach and policies regarding homelessness, which differ from those of TriMet

Parks & Recreation

- The County needs to provide adequate financial support for programs serving residents outside city limits
- The changing federal context may affect fundings available for grants
- Staffing needs for facility and park maintenance should be studied so that required funding levels can be understood; they should be studied separately
- Parks developed by the City need to be properly maintained; the operations and maintenance component of the master plan needs to be implemented
- The City should facilitate the establishment of a park and recreation special district
 - Discussion of concerns regarding whether the community would support a district; concerns about compression
 - Resolve to attempt the effort; empower a community group to take the lead and own the process, but assist them with funding for surveys, consultants, etc
 - Suggestion that a district could be structured to provide a funding mechanism but leave operations to the City, similar to the library district
- The City should prioritize environmental stewardship that aligns with our priorities
- All parks assets and spaces in the community should be identified so it can be determined whether there are adequate facilities to serve the community's current and future needs
- Meinig Park updates need to be completed
- Winterfest should continue to be improved and made sustainable in terms of funding and staffing
- Options should be pursued for reducing the utility charges associated with the Bornstedt Park Splash pad

Planning and Economic Development

- The Pleasant Street Master Plan may no longer reflect the City's priorities and would need a major restart; it should be revisited and redeveloped by staff rather than with funding for a new consultant
 - New land use regulations have been established since the plan was first developed
 - Urban renewal funding priorities exist on the west end of town that may be higher priorities
 - Needs on Pleasant Street do exist, particularly sidewalk development; infrastructure enhancement should be prioritized generally
- Safe Routes to School funding should be pursued, with the participation of the school district
- Economic Development staffing is needed, whether as city staff or through a consultant
 - The Economic Development Strategic Plan needs to be implemented

- An opportunity was lost to develop the former hospice property
- Expertise and focused attention is needed to navigate the constraints of the development moratorium while maintaining some measure of economic development
- Alternative wastewater treatment options need to be explored with Public Works
- The Economic Development Strategic Plan should be incorporated as a Comprehensive Plan background document
- Clear and strategic policies should be adopted for ERU allocation
- Filling vacant buildings should be prioritized
- The City should implement policies consistent with Firewise principles
 - Pursue grants to this end
 - Explore regulations regarding defensible space, roofing materials, emergency evacuation routes, etc
- The City must stay compliant with state land use requirements
- Short term rental regulations should be pursued; flexibility should be sought with regard to usage of funds
- Outdoor burning regulations should be updated
- The City's zoning map should be updated

Public Works

Streets

- The Pavement Management Plan needs to be updated, and it should be made visible and accessible to the public
- Speeding needs to be addressed in particular areas of concern around town
 - Statutory speed limit changes might be a viable options, though more information is needed about this; proactive enforcement could also potentially address the problem
 - Alternative speed detection technology could be implemented to measure true speeds on roadways
- An initial study of the intersection at Highway 211 and Dubarko Road needs to be completed to determine required budget for safety improvements.
- ADA ramps along Highway 211 need to be designed and completed as required by the jurisdictional transfer agreement.
- Traffic problems at the intersection of Ten Eyck and Hwy 26 need to be improved

Water

- The goals proposed by staff should be adopted; they should be consolidated for concision and clarity
- Wholesale rates need to be reviewed and updated in an equitable manner
- Tiered rates need to be explored
- SDCs for water need to be updated; opportunities should be pursued to mitigate future utility rate increases through SDC collections

Wastewater

- The goals proposed by staff should be adopted; they should be consolidated for concision and clarity
- SDCs for wastewater need to be updated; opportunities should be pursued to mitigate future utility rate increases through SDC collections
- Discussion ensued on upcoming task orders that will be brought to the Council for consideration

Stormwater

- The goals proposed by staff should be adopted; they should be consolidated for concision and clarity
- Stormwater master plan development needs to begin, along with a rate study; part of the plan needs to address riparian restoration
- Center medians needs to be addressed

Good Governance and City Operations

- Improved audio and visual technology is needed in the Council Chambers
- The City's immediate space needs should be addressed, and future needs should be planned for and budgeted
- Asset management principles should be implemented across the organization
- Vehicles and other major equipment should be identified through the budget process and plans should be made in advance to pay to replace them
- A code enforcement abatement fund is needed
- Proactive and effective communication with residents is needed, particularly regarding major projects and fee impacts
 - Comprehensive and accessible information on the City's water and wastewater infrastructure challenges should be developed, including past decisions, legal restrictions, evaluated options, proposed solutions, funding strategies, and implementation plans
- The Student Resource Officer program needs to remain financially sustainable
- The City should continue to improve the customer experience for residents

General / Miscellaneous

- Staff should increase collaboration across departments generally, and specifically on grant writing opportunities.
- Explore the possibility of hiring a grant writer
- Explore the idea of installing new banners on utility poles downtown
- The City Charter is in need of updates
- Pursue options to monetize the new parking lot
- Options should be evaluated to improve congestion at the intersection of Hwy 26 and Ten Eyck
- Interim improvements should be explored at the former Cedar Ridge site, including potential paving and necessary stormwater management

- Composition of the Urban Renewal Board should be updated
- A Heritage Advisory Board should be established to preserve and celebrate Sandy through historical preservation, public art, and heritage tourism
- A Community Awards program should be established to honor significant contributions and achievements

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