



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JANUARY 24, 2022

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Nancy Grimes, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Valerie Pratt, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco

Work Session

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. *Ridwell – Informational Presentation & Discussion.*

Management Analyst Lindsay Marshall introduced Ridwell Staff Scott Bauer and Caleb Weaver to present services provided by Ridwell. Mr. Weaver stated Ridwell is a service that picks up “hard to recycle” items from residents. He explained their business model which includes bi-weekly pickup of items that are not part of a curbside program.

Councilor Pratt asked the cost of transportation, the carbon emissions from the vehicles, and how it is balanced by the recycling that is done. Mr. Weaver stated any bit of recycling has positive impacts on the environment. He stated their business model is not based on earning money from the recycling of products but from the service and the relationship with the recycling vendors.

Councilor Pratt asked how they can serve people in apartment style living. Mr. Weaver stated they serve individuals in multi-family units and work with apartment complexes to provide services.

Councilor Pratt expressed concerns with the city having an exclusive franchise agreement with our trash haulers and how a partnership with Ridwell would affect that. Mr. Weaver stated the garbage hauler is not providing the same service and would not be competing with land fill and recycling items that they provide service for.

Councilor Reyes asked for clarification about how their service works. Mr. Weaver stated they are a subscription based service that offers a pickup bi-weekly when opted into.

Councilor Brooks asked how their additional donations work. Mr. Weaver stated they identify an organization and make them a featured category in their app for donation pickup.

Councilor Brooks stated she is liking the convenience of the home pickup in helping with sustainability efforts. She stated her biggest concern is around regulation and making sure the items they are told are being recycled are done so responsibly. Mr. Weaver stated they work with Metro and DEQ to make sure they are meeting all state and local requirements.

Councilor Sacco stated she is in favor of ideas like this that offer new ways to reuse and recycle. She wants to make sure everything is up to code and regulated. Councilor Sacco asked about any potential costs to the city and how many employees they have. Mr. Weaver stated they are happy to look at permit fees and franchise fees as part of their service. He stated they have 50 employees in the Metro area.

Council President Grimes watch to ensure there is proper licensing and oversight in place. She would like to see a franchise agreement put in place.

Mayor Bubenik stated we will need to wait to have a new City Attorney in place to proceed. He would also like to see if Metro and DEQ approve Ridwell's permit before making any decisions. He stated he is supportive of their business.

City Manager Lombos stated she would concurred the city needs to wait until the city is fully staffed and watch what happens in the region.

2. Parks Funding.

Parks and Recreation Director Ross Hoover and Parks Planning Manager Rich Mueller introduced Consultants Clark Worth and John Horvick. Consultant Worth presented the Tualatin Parks funding opinion research results. He stated the research goes back to January 2020 and they have since held stakeholder interviews and focus groups in November 2021. Consultant Worth presented community survey results from January 2020 and noted 80% of respondents stated they would like to see some kind of funding source for parks on the ballot. Highlights from the stakeholder interviews included notes about deficiencies in parks, funding priorities, and the utility fee not being enough. Consultant Worth stated the general consensus was to put together an affordable bond measure and a grassroots campaign that offers something for everyone. Consultant Horvick spoke to focus group research stating traffic was the leading issue mentioned and noted parks was not mentioned at all. He stated most participants are satisfied with City services, including parks being well maintained and adequate. Consultant Horvick stated participants were not initially supportive of a bond measure and pointed to other higher priorities. He stated support improved when voters were assured the funding measure includes their priorities and stated an acceptable price point for homeowners appears between \$75 to \$200 per year. Consultant Worth stated money allocated to parks goals would include interconnected trails, parks maintenance, and expanded access. He stated the importance of park investments would be connect trails, upgrades to existing parks, natural areas, river access, playground equipment, and large lawns for multiple use. Consultant Worth stated least popular projects included dog parks, buying land, improved/expanded playfields, and implementation of the Parks Master Plan. He spoke to what the success formula would have to be to receive enough "yes" votes including it being community-driven, something for everyone, inclusion of voter priority projects, and the right funding ask. Consultant Worth spoke to potential community outreach. He shared the 2022 election calendar and a potential timeline for preparing the measure. Director Hoover stated this discussion has been held at the Tualatin Parks Advisory Board and they are supportive.

Councilor Pratt asked how many people they estimate use the parks in Tualatin. Consultant Worth stated 25-40% of the population uses the parks.

Councilor Pratt asked if the ballot measure did not have enough funding to fund all the priorities in the master plan how would that be prioritized. Consultant Worth stated those are decisions that would be have to be made by the Council.

Councilor Hillier asked if there was evidence about what trails would need to be expanded to make them valuable. Consultant Horvick stated the research shows if there are better connections existed they would be in favor of funding.

Councilor Brooks stated parks are a place for the community to connect. She asked how many years the bond potentially could be. Consultant Worth stated the time frame is still to be determined.

Councilor Brooks asked if there was anything that particular stuck out during this research. Consultant Horvick stated the City has a relatively high level of satisfaction and confidence in leadership which works in their favor.

Councilor Sacco stated 2.5% of the resident were surveyed and asked if that is enough representation to see what the majority of voters would say. She asked about statistics of ballot measures passing in the spring instead of the fall. Consultant Horvick stated the right mix of representation was in the focus groups so it represents the population well. He stated there is not much difference about when an item is on a ballot but more about what is on the ballot with it.

Councilor Reyes asked how people are picked for the telephone survey. Consultant Horvick stated they start with a list of registered voters and then match it against the city's utility list. They then look at the sample of voters against their demographics to make sure they fit a well representative sample of the community.

Mayor Bubenik asked if they separated the parks fee from the additional bond measure. Consultant Horvick stated the conversations assumed both.

Council consensus was reached to continue to researching the measure and potentially crafting a ballot measure.

3. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

City Manager Lombos introduced Interim City Attorney Chad Jacobs.

Councilor Pratt stated she attended the C4 committee and I-5 Tolling subcommittee meeting.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended an executive board meeting for the Regional Water Consortium and the Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee meeting.

Council President Grimes thanked fellow Councilors who are working diligently on the tolling project.

Mayor Bubenik attended the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting and Congresswoman Bonamici's Townhall.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor