



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Octavio Gonzalez

Absent: Councilor Christen Sacco

---

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

### **1. *Climate Action Plan | Draft Adaptation Actions.***

Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf, Management Analyst Maddie Cheek, JLA Public Involvement Consultant Jessica Pickul, and Climate and ESG Good Company Consultant Joshua Proudfoot presented the Tualatin Climate Action Plan: Adaptation Actions. Consultant Proudfoot addressed the changing climate in Tualatin, emphasizing that without intervention, the climate could resemble the typical summer in Sacramento by 2080. He highlighted the implications of rising temperatures, including increased wildfires, smoke, and flooding. Consultant Proudfoot discussed the broader impacts on agriculture, mortality rates, energy expenditure, property and violent crimes, as well as health effects such as infectious diseases, air quality concerns, mental health conditions, and hazard-related acute conditions. Consultant Pickul then outlined community concerns gathered from public engagement, encompassing exposure to climate hazards, loss of work and income due to unsafe conditions, costs associated with storm damage repairs, transportation challenges, inequitable financial and safety impacts resulting from extreme weather, increased energy costs, and power outages.

Analyst Cheek detailed the nine focus areas in the plan, accompanied by strategies and actions. Consultant Pickul presented the first focus area: natural systems, resources & infrastructure. She shared the initial strategy aimed at enhancing the resilience of Tualatin's natural systems, resources, and infrastructure to extreme heat. Examples included promoting tree health, canopy cover, park design standards, river health, access improvements, and sheltered transit stops. Consultant Pickul discussed the second strategy focused on building resilience to an increased risk of fire and smoke events. Consultant Proudfoot emphasized the role of resources from Firewise USA and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue to enhance community access to wildfire preparedness resources. The third strategy aimed to improve resilience to heavy precipitation events, flooding, and winter storms, with associated action items such as encouraging property owners to enhance drainage, promoting sustainability of outdoor spaces, and amending city code to foster flood-resilient development.

Analyst Cheek stated focus area two is related to health and safety. Consultant Pickul explained the first strategy, which sought to increase preparedness and provide resources for Tualatin residents, workers, and learners to cope with extreme heat events. Actions included updating and enforcing the tree code, promoting assistance programs, ensuring public shelter availability, and updating standards and codes. Consultant Proudfoot discussed associated actions, including updates to Rental Housing Maintenance Standards and information dissemination about available shelters during extreme weather events. The second strategy aimed to prepare the community for more frequent wildfire and smoke events, involving promotion programs for

low or no-cost masks, HVAC filters, and air filtration systems for residents in need. Consultant Pickul highlighted actions, such as promoting higher standards of air filtration in new builds and renovations and disseminating educational materials about effective measures against harmful chemicals in wildfire smoke. The third strategy targeted preparedness for impacts from heavy precipitation events and winter storms, including clothing drives, improved communication, and support for utilities in restoring power. Consultant Proudfoot detailed action items like enhancing river level monitoring, facilitating sandbag program access, and organizing clothing drives.

Analyst Cheek stated focus area three addresses economic shifts. Consultant Pickul outlined the first strategy, which aimed to enhance the resilience of Tualatin's businesses and workers to extreme heat. Consultant Proudfoot detailed actions related to advocating for OSHA toolkits, providing education on new rules for working in extreme conditions, and updating municipal codes for cooling requirements in heat-intensive buildings. The second strategy focused on building resilience to increased fire risk and smoke events, incorporating financial assistance for businesses and preparedness for supply chain disruptions. Actions included developing a financial assistance program and working with the business community to enhance preparedness for supply chain disruptions. The third strategy aimed to improve resilience to heavy precipitation events, flooding, and winter storms. Action items included coordinating flood response workshops, improving business access to the sandbag program, and providing Minority/Women Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) businesses and small enterprises access to alternative power sources during outages.

Analyst Cheek outlined the next steps in the process, including a review of mitigation actions at the upcoming council meeting, finalizing the plan based on feedback, and seeking council adoption of the final plan.

Mayor Bubenik sought clarification on the nature of the document. Analyst Cheek explained the plan is not a regulatory document but rather a set of policy markers for the city to navigate.

Councilor Brooks inquired about what "Parametric" is. Consultant Proudfoot clarified it is a civil engineering and environmental firm.

Councilor Brooks asked about the flexibility in obtaining financial assistance for programming. Consultant Proudfoot explained the Inflation Reduction Act offers several subprograms, and the city needs to review them to see which align with their objectives.

Councilor Brooks asked if there are best practices to go with a plan like this. Director Westendorf highlighted the plan's implementation of various programs and increased awareness in different areas.

Councilor Brooks raised concerns about balancing water diversion and potential drought impacts. Consultant Proudfoot discussed ecological function and the consequences of water diversion.

Councilor Brooks inquired about the plan's consideration of past success drivers and strategies for navigating future challenges. Analyst Cheek stated the city participates in the Urban Sustainability Network, where they can learn from other members' successes and failures.

Council President Pratt sought clarification on how each policy would be presented to the council post-adoption and the ongoing engagement process. Analyst Cheek explained that

engagement would continue, and input would be gathered for policy decisions. She mentioned staff would present a prioritization list for council review after adoption.

Council President Pratt raised the topic of balancing fire safety and density. Analyst Cheek noted that in Tualatin, smoke poses a more significant concern than fire.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed interest in the plan's details, emphasizing the need to protect property rights and stating that it is not the city's responsibility to cater to everyone's comforts. While excited about the plan, he expressed caution moving forward.

Councilor Reyes asked about the environmental impact of using air conditioning. Consultant Proudfoot explained that it depends on the energy source used to power it and its associated effects.

**2. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.**

None.

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor