



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JUNE 13, 2022

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

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

1. *Climate Action Plan Update.*

Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf, Management Analyst Maddie Cheek, and Consultant Josh Proudfoot presented an update on the Climate Action Planning process. Analyst Cheek provided an updated on the Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory stating they have completed data gathering and are working on analyzing it to understand energy use. She spoke to the stakeholder interviews and public engagement that has occurred. Analyst Cheek stated the current engagement is being used as a time to build awareness and understanding of the conditions in Tualatin. She stated there will be two more phases of public engagement: feedback gathering and draft plan review. Consultant Proudfoot spoke to the basics of climate change. He stated greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and cause the greenhouse effect, he noted they can be naturally or synthetically produced. Consultant Proudfoot stated burning fossil fuels account for 85% of the human-caused carbon dioxide emissions. He stated the more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the more heat is prevented from escaping the Earth and the hotter things get. Consultant Proudfoot stated drivers of climate change are from the human population growing creating more people burning fossil fuels that are filling the atmosphere and causing climate change. He stated evidence of a changing climate can be shown by rising temperatures. He noted temperatures have not been this high since four million years ago. Consultant Proudfoot stated there are some natural process that remove the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, but people must reduce emissions first so that natural system can work. He stated if people take strong action now they can minimize changes to the climate. Consultant Proudfoot spoke to changes to the number of days over 90 degrees, noting if we do nothing they will increase dramatically from a historical average of 6 to nearly 60 by the end of the century. He stated if strong climate action is taken that number can be restrained to 30 days. Consultant Proudfoot spoke to noticeable changes in precipitation patterns that will increase “atmospheric rivers” that bring large storms with heavy precipitation. He noted the increase in heavy precipitation is likely to increase flooding in some areas of Tualatin. Consultant Proudfoot stated 2021 was the most active fire year on record for the West Coast. He stated strong climate action can decrease the number of extreme fire danger. Consultant Proudfoot stated climate changes possess a public health hazard by increased negative effects on human health from environmental hazards and existing stress factors. He stated as other parts of the country suffer through droughts, hurricanes, and intolerable heat waves, it is likely the increasing population trend in the Willamette Valley will continue. Analyst Cheek stated the City is perusing a Climate Action Plan to adapt to these changes and identifying and implement solutions. The project team will educate and engage with the community about what can be done local.

Councilor Brooks thanked staff for their work on this project as it is important for the future of Tualatin.

Councilor Sacco stated she is looking forward to the tangible action items that will come from this work. She encouraged the community to get behind this project as it will be important to take action.

Mayor Bubenik asked if there will be different outreach done for the business community then the residential community. Analyst Cheek stated they will use different strategies for both. Consultant Proudfoot stated there are two types of outreach that have to be done: baseline knowledge of climate change and then what actions can be taken.

Mayor Bubenik asked what the next steps are. Analyst Cheek stated they will be conducting public outreach and finalizing the plan this summer to bring back to Council.

2. Parks Funding Workgroup Presentation.

Parks and Recreation Director Ross Hoover and Parks Planning and Development Manager Rich Mueller presented information on a parks funding package. Director Hoover explained different funding sources including system development charges (SDC), utility fees, operating budgets, and park bonds. He stated the Parks Funding Measure Committee was formed to look at specific projects and at what funding levels would be necessary for a bond package. Committee Member Trever Owens, Tualatin Soccer Club, shared discussion topics from the committee including project prioritization, package finalization, and recommendations. Committee Member Emma Gray shared the committee's recommendation for projects with a package total of \$25 million. She stated the group considered different funding levels but stated this package best leverages tax payer resources, covers large scale investments, geographically impacts the entire city, and provides the most benefits to the community. Member Gray shared a chart showing how the focus areas in the package align with the council vision and priorities. Member Owens highlighted three projects from the package including new river access, trail connections, and the athletic fields and partnerships. Member Gray highlighted proposed upgrades in the package at Stoneridge Park and the Veteran's Plaza. Director Hoover stated bond cost projections for a \$25 million bond are estimated to be \$0.2930 per \$1,000 of assessed value which works out to \$88 annually for \$300,000 of assessed value. He shared the draft timeline and proposed two different paths for engaging community interest: quantitative (telephone survey) or qualitative (focus groups).

Councilor Pratt thanked the committee for all their work. She asked how the amounts that were selected for each focus area were decided. Director Hoover stated the dollar amounts were done by staff through a cost estimating process. Councilor Pratt asked for clarification on the assessed value that was used and the difference between the real market value. Director Hoover stated the assessed value is used when determining the costs to the citizens. She would like to see a phone survey done to see if there is wide support.

Councilor Sacco stated a parks bond is important as one of many funding sources for these types of projects. She stated she participated in this work and was happy to see the passion in the group and is confident there is support for a bond of this size. Councilor Sacco stated she does not want to wait any longer for a bond as the parks will start to deteriorate and costs will continue to rise.

Councilor Brooks thanked the committee for their work. She stated she is open to this conversation as the parks are important to the health and livability of the community.

Council President Grimes stated she would like to see a telephone survey conducted to get a sense of the community's thoughts on a bond. She asked how this would affect the IGA with their partnership with Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD) and when the Transportation Bond is set to expire. Director Hoover stated the TTSD partnership and IGA is underway and should be concluded by next school. Director Hudson stated the last fiscal year for the Transportation Bond is 2028. He stated there would be a five year overlap of the two bonds.

Council President Grimes asked what projects would be tested in the surveys. Director Hoover stated signature projects were selected by the committee including new river access, trail connections that run east to west, and improving and expanding sports fields. He stated those projects would be the ones tested in the survey.

Councilor Hillier asked why the \$300,000 average assessed value was selected. Director Hudson stated that is the average assessed value in Tualatin.

Councilor Hillier asked if other funding sources are being considered for some of the proposed upgrades and how that would effect this. Director Hoover stated the package would fund projects in a significant way and additional ARPA funds may be needed to supplement bond dollars.

Member Gray stated many members came to the committee not sure that a November bond was the right time but stated after meeting several times they came to the consensus the time is now for the support of this bond. She stated the work they did in the committee was based off the information from the initial polling.

Councilor Reyes stated she would like to see a telephone survey conducted as she feels there have been significant economic shifts over the last several months.

Councilor Brooks asked how bonds affect people who rent. Director Hudson stated the property owners pay the bonds as a cost of doing business and it is likely that cost would be passed along to the renter.

Councilor Reyes expressed concerns with the costs and how that effects residents. She would like to see the surveys and the feedback that comes now that the economy is different.

Mayor Bubenik asked what the length of the bond is. Director Hudson stated it is a 20 year bond.

Mayor Bubenik asked if both the telephone survey and focus groups could be done. Director Hoover stated both could be done and it is the purview of the Council. Mayor Bubenik stated he wants to be confident this will succeed with the state of the economy. He would like to see both done.

Council President Grimes stated she concurred both would be great as more information is better.

Councilor Pratt stated she feels the committee already did the qualitative work and doesn't want to duplicate the efforts. Director Hoover stated they could start with the phone survey and then if the Council wants more information after that they can add the focus groups.

Councilor Brooks stated she is in favor of the phone survey. She stated she wants to really understand the effects on renters.

Consensus was reached to move forward with the phone survey and evaluate the need for focus groups after the phone data is received.

Council President Grimes asked if the bond assessment could be changed based on the amount of renters at certain income levels. Director Hudson stated there could be several complications and the costs would have to be passed on to others. He stated he doesn't believe it would be possible.

3. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

None.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor