



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR AUGUST 12, 2024

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

Absent: Councilor Cyndy Hillier

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Ride Connection Tualatin Shuttle Update.

Lead Service Planner Tangerine Behere, along with Debbie Waalkes, presented Ride Connection's Shuttle Update. They covered Ride Connection's role as a non-profit providing free transportation for seniors and underserved communities in Tualatin, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Forest Grove, and outlined the services offered, including volunteer driver programs and RideWise.

Ms. Behere highlighted the benefits of Ride Connection, such as increased senior mobility, expanded transit, reduced emissions, and stronger community ties. The 2023 Rider Survey results were discussed, followed by details on Tualatin's Green, Blue, and Red Line routes, with a note on rising Green Line ridership.

Ms. Behere then discussed the proposed expansion of TriMet Line 76, which would replace the Green Line, and addressed concerns about rider safety and service coverage.

Councilor Brooks asked about the new Oregon City stop's location and trip times to Trader Joe's. Ms. Behere noted the need to confirm these details.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if TriMet Line 76 would bypass a church stop. Ms. Behere responded that they are working on getting permission for buses to enter the parking lot. Both expressed concern about the change, noting the church's importance to the community.

Councilor Reyes inquired about survey participation and route intersections on the map. Ride Connection staff clarified that the routes converge at Hedges Green and WES Station. They also confirmed that Ride Connection's services are open to all, with door-to-door services limited to seniors and those with disabilities.

Council President Pratt asked for confirmation that Line 76 would replace the Green Line route and noted residents' concerns about the loop route. She also asked if door-to-door service included non-medical trips. Ms. Waalkes confirmed.

Mayor Bubenik inquired about the start date for TriMet's changes. Ms. Behere stated August 25th, and discussed fare assistance for low-income riders, which is available through a collaboration with TriMet.

2. Proclamation Requests.

Two proclamation requests were discussed: one for Affordable Housing and Quality Child Day Care, and another for Dystonia Awareness Month.

Councilor Brooks expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the IDEA Committee in proposing these proclamations.

Councilor Octavio Gonzalez voiced uncertainty about supporting disease-specific proclamations, suggesting that a more general health proclamation might be preferable. He acknowledged the committee's hard work but raised questions about the necessity of specifics.

Council President Pratt spoke in support of both proclamations.

Councilor Sacco and Councilor Brooks opposed imposing strict limitations and emphasized the importance of promoting inclusiveness and community engagement. They agreed that it is essential to allow the community to bring various issues to the council's attention through proclamations.

Councilor Reyes contributed by highlighting the need to balance inclusiveness and policy structure. She would like to see preventive measures in place to manage the growing number of proclamations thoughtfully rather than reacting to an overflow. Councilor Reyes would like to have at least basic guidelines to create manageable processes and ensure that proclamations genuinely benefit the community of Tualatin.

City Manager Lombos explained the current policy and suggested revisiting and accommodating current practices while still maintaining control.

Council consensus was reached to move forward with placing both proclamation requests on the appropriate agendas.

City Manager Lombos stated staff will work on updates to the policy and return to Council to formalize the process.

3. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Sacco praised applicants who interviewed for open advisory committee seats at the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting. She urged those who didn't get selected to continue seeking volunteer opportunities with the city.

Councilor Reyes stated she attended the Core Area Parking Board meeting and the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Bull Run Watershed and the Tualatin River Greenway Trail ribbon cutting. She stated the Community Development Block Grant's 50th anniversary is coming up and invited fellow Councilors to join the tour.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the Transportation Citizens Advisory Committee, the QPO Energy plant tour, the Tualatin River Greenway Trail ribbon cutting, the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting, and the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the Greater Portland Inc. meeting, the Tualatin River Greenway Trail ribbon cutting, Senator Merkley and Congresswoman's Salinas Town Hall meeting, and the Tualatin Aging Task Force meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor