



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JANUARY 23, 2023

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

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

1. *Washington County Supportive Housing Services Annual Report and Program Update.*

Supportive Housing Services Program Manager Jess Larson and Program Coordinator Ali Alexander of Supportive Housing Service of Washington County presented the Supportive Housing Services Annual Report. Manager Larson stated the Supportive Housing Services Program was established by a voter-approved measure from May 2022 that resulted in two new taxes to address and end homelessness. She stated during their first year they were able to build a system of care that offered new housing, shelter, and coordinated access programs, a new network of community-based providers, and provide a new standardized and equitable contracting process. Manager Larson stated in year one they have increased community-based partners to 20 service provider organizations and 4 culturally specific partners, established cross-program coordination, and put universal program standards and training into place. Coordinator Alexander stated in their first year they launched their Housing Case Management Services (HCMS) and Regional Long Term Rent Assistance (RLRA) programs that placed 305 formerly homeless households into permanent and supportive housing. She stated year two expansions include housing 900 more households, work in the Rapid Rehousing program, Landlord Liaison Program, and the Aloha Inn will open providing permanent supportive housing. Coordinator Alexander stated they achieved their year one-shelter program goal by providing 100 new year-round shelter beds with their new bridge and congregate shelters. She stated their year two goals for their Access Programs include building 40 bridge shelter beds, 30 village pods, 150 winter shelter beds, a new outreach worker system, and distributing a \$10 million dollar capital shelter fund. Coordinator Alexander shared the breakdown of their shelter system capacity and their upcoming goals noting the system will move away from winter only shelters and focus more on bridge, congregate, and alternative year around shelters. Manager Larson shared the equity analysis for their program. She shared their program budget and how funds are allocated, noting this year's budget is estimated at \$50.5 million.

Councilor Brooks asked how many people in Washington County are homeless. Manager Larson stated the point in time count is currently happening, she stated last year there was a total of 808 people.

Councilor Brooks asked questions around demographics including gender. Manager Larson stated they are actively working on how to understand the needs of woman vs men in shelters. She stated it is currently a majority of men seeking shelter.

Councilor Brooks asked if Outreach Coordinators will be working with the city and if specific data will be coming to the city about what is happening in the community so leaders can have a better understanding on what is being done and how they can support ending homelessness. Manager

Larson stated the dedicated community partner for our area is Just Compassion and she can help make those connections with the city.

Councilor Brooks asked how Health Share and Supportive Housing Services collaborate to provide services. Coordinator Alexander said they are working with them to help bridge people from those temporary services into their long-term programs.

Councilor Brooks asked about resources around affordable housing and eviction prevention. Coordinator Alexander spoke to service providers for eviction prevention. Manager Larson stated there is only enough funding to serve 1 out of 5 individuals who need access to affordable housing. She stated waitlists now are being prioritized for those with the highest need based on risk.

Councilor Hillier asked what resources are available for kids and families in Tualatin and what the trajectory for those prevention services are. Manager Larson stated they work with family providers who are well versed in how to help with housing instability and support children in education settings. She stated there are \$6 million dollars annually available in housing loss prevention funds.

Councilor Reyes asked how these funds are specifically being applied in Tualatin and requested further breakdown on the equity analysis. Manager Larson explained the breakdown of served, unserved, below poverty, and percentage of county population in the equity analysis.

Councilor Reyes asked if these services will address chronic homelessness. Manager Larson stated this program is specifically designed to manage chronic homelessness.

Councilor Sacco asked if there is additional work being done to get people out and supported on their own. Coordinator Alexander stated that is being done through their Rapid Rehousing Program that focuses on helping them achieve self-sufficiency.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how past inequities are being addressed based on the demographic breakdown. Manager Larson stated they look at barriers to housing and how to manage those with caseworkers regardless of race. Councilor Gonzalez asked if it is only need based or if there is preferential access based on ethnicity. Manager Larson stated their programs are only based off need.

Council President Pratt asked if there are plans on reevaluating the services provider's plans as the program goes on. Manager Larson stated this year they will be working on program evaluation.

Mayor Bubenik asked if the service providers are evenly dispersed across the county. Manager Larson stated they have not mapped the organizations and where they serve.

Mayor Bubenik asked if there will be a new RFP seeking new providers for this year. Manager Larson stated the original RFP identified 116 qualified providers, she stated they will be opening that pool again.

Mayor Bubenik expressed concerns with how programs for eviction prevention are not meeting the time requirements to not be evicted. Manager Larson stated Community Action has scaled up their programs to be more responsive in eviction prevention services and they will continue to monitor that service.

Councilor Reyes asked if eviction prevention programs cover the full cost for tenants. Manager Larson stated the programs cover any back fees and up to three months rent so that tenants can stay in their homes.

2. Climate Action Plan Update: Engagement, Goal and Strategy Development.

Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf and Management Analyst Maddie Cheek presented an update on the Climate Action Plan. Analyst Cheek presented the project timeline stating they are working on the analysis of priority Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategies and writing the draft plan. She stated public engagement opportunities to date have included an online open house, in-person workshops, in-person tabling events, and attendance at Latino Business Network meetings. Analyst Cheek stated they have conducted print and digital media outreach, phone calls to Spanish-speaking community members, and attended in-person networking events. She stated key themes for public engagement included interest in reducing their GHG emissions, a desire for the City to do more to address climate change, a desire for the city to provide more information related to how residents and businesses can reduce their emissions, and interest in financial help or incentives to off-set the costs or reducing their GHG emissions. Analyst Cheek stated top mitigation actions were broken down by how actions can be taken when you are at home or work, when you buy things, and when you travel. She stated top adaptation concerns included how extreme weather events are impacting the need to stay home, the loss of potential income, feelings of isolation, and loss of electricity. Analyst Cheek stated they held four themed workshops that focused on four areas: building and energy use, urban form and land use, transportation, and consumption where 31 individuals were engaged across several organizations. She stated some key takeaways from the workshop included identifying information gaps and public education, relationship-building to enhance partnerships, reduction strategies and actions that are tailored to the appropriate audiences, and the need for policy changes for GHG emission goals.

Analyst Cheek stated Tualatin's emissions reduction goal is to be net zero by 2050. She stated this goal was selected by the steering committee because it is the target goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement that the city supports, it is most commonly adopted by other cities, and prevents us from going over a planetary "tipping point" of no return. Analyst Cheek shared emissions reduction strategies by category noting they were selected by impact and the ability to measure progress and are responsive to the city's GHG emissions report. She stated next steps include the analysis of strategies, plan writing, gathering feedback in the spring, and plan adoption in early summer.

Analyst Cheek presented three discussion questions:

- 1.) What are your reactions to the strategies needed to achieve the goal?
- 2.) What strategies catch your interest and why?
- 3.) Which strategies do you feel will be the most challenging to implement?

Mayor Bubenik asked for feedback from the Council on question one.

Councilor Sacco would like to see how the city could help with education around food consumption and reusable goods. Director Westendorf stated items like this will appear as actions but are hard to measure success with.

Councilor Brooks stated through her time on the committee they have learned how interested people are to learn about how to make impacts in this area. Analyst Cheek stated the city is part of the Urban Sustainability Network that offers great support and ideas about items that make impacts to the area.

Councilor Brooks stated she is most interested in the buildings and energy use category and the potential of items being site specific and collaborative. She stated we need to be mindful that we live in a valley and the environmental impacts that has on our area.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if the low sample of responses from residents and businesses in the survey are enough. He would like to know what efforts will be made to continue to gather feedback. Analyst Cheek stated they are meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss actions with the business community, noting that it was hard to get feedback without a more detailed conceptual plan. Councilor Gonzalez would like to see more feedback from the business community.

Council President Pratt stated she is happy with the strategies as presented.

Mayor Bubenik asked for feedback on question two. He stated he is interested in how the piece on renewable natural gas and clean hydrogen supply will evolve.

Councilor Brooks stated she is interested in the urban canopy measure and coordinating and developing in smart ways to protect the environment.

Councilor Reyes would like to see what the percentage of residents that answered the survey are from Tualatin.

Councilor Sacco stated he has concerns with dense future development and the challenges that will come along with it and the identity of Tualatin.

Councilor Hillier stated she would like to see movement of services into more populated areas.

Council President Pratt stated she would like to see a climate action fair.

Mayor Bubenik asked for feedback on question three. He stated he wants to make sure dense development is addressed and the impacts to those who already live in the community.

Council President Pratt stated transportation will be Tualatin's biggest challenge.

Councilor Brooks is most excited to address building in Tualatin and thinks densification will be the biggest challenge.

Council President Pratt asked about what type of financing would be available to residents. Director Westendorf stated it could be programs for solar panels or small loans, he stated mostly it will be connecting residents with programs already offering incentives.

Councilor Brooks would like to make sure environmental justice is covered in relation to air quality.

Council President Pratt stated challenges will be around waste products and how people can manage them.

Councilor Gonzalez wants to make sure we get enough feedback from residents of Tualatin. He wants to know what staff can do different to get more local feedback. He would like to see more conservation efforts incorporated into the plan. Director Westendorf stated staff will be out in the community gathering feedback and drawing out the timelines further on engagement. Councilor Reyes concurred she wants to hear from more residents in Tualatin.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor