



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR OCTOBER 09, 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 5:00 p.m.

1. 5:00 p.m. (30 min) – Climate Action Plan: Review Primer.

Management Analyst Maddie Cheek and Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf presented the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). Analyst Cheek began by recapping Tualatin's climate goal, which is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. She introduced the four guiding principles that shaped the plan: science-based, equity, community benefits, and partnerships. Analyst Cheek explained the key elements that influenced the draft Climate Action Plan, including future climate predictions, Tualatin's emissions inventory, community feedback, and stakeholder input. She stated the plan is structured with four main sections: introduction, preparing for climate change, reducing emissions, and next steps. Within these sections, there are seven focus areas encompassing 27 strategies and 150 specific actions. Analyst Cheek outlined next steps in the process, which include community and stakeholder engagement, future council work sessions, and the finalization and adoption of the plan.

Councilor Brooks thanked the committee for their feedback and insight, as well as staff for being thoughtful in how they engaged the community.

Councilor Pratt thanked staff for their work and how they have incorporated community input.

Mayor Bubenik stated he likes how the plan is formatted with strategies and action items.

2. 5:30 p.m. (40 min) – City of Portland Wholesale Water Contract – Background & Overview.

Public Works Director Rachel Sykes presented an overview of the wholesale water contract with the City of Portland. She explained the contract was designed to provide water to Tualatin for the next 30 years. Director Sykes provided a historical perspective on water in Tualatin, noting the city has been purchasing water from Portland since 1979, with the water originating from Bull Run, approximately 60 miles away. She stated the budgeted water purchase costs for FY 23/24 amounted to \$3.3 million. Director Sykes stated the current water contract was initiated in 2006 as a 20-year agreement, and the development and negotiation of a new contract began in 2020. She stated in 2015, a consultant was hired to evaluate wholesale rates and provide guidance on the new contract. At that time, it was determined that it was in Tualatin's best interest to remain with the City of Portland, a decision approved by the council. She stated updates to the new contract have been carefully considered and discussed as part of efforts to modernize the agreement. Director Sykes outlined some of the guiding principles used in the negotiation process, including flexibility, fairness, mutual trust, cost-of-service-based pricing, sustainability,

and alignment of risks. She stated Tualatin has actively participated in the negotiation process, adhered to the city's values, and sought technical expertise when needed.

Director Sykes stated desired outcomes of the contract include the elimination of guaranteed minimum purchase quantities, the removal of interruptible water provisions, predictable rate stability, and cost pool consolidations. She stated the exit of three large water wholesalers has created surplus costs that will initially be absorbed by the City of Portland and gradually passed along to customers over the next 20 years to avoid sudden cost increases. She stated key component in the new contract include the establishment of a balanced partnership, where diversification of water sources is not penalized, coordination during emergencies is ensured, resale of water is permitted, and a Working Water Manager's Group is established. Director Sykes outlined the next steps, which include legal review and negotiation, with a return to the Council for review and recommendation in 2024.

Councilor Sacco inquired about the shift from a 20-year to a 30-year contract and its associated benefits. Director Sykes explained that a longer contract provides greater stability in the water supply system.

Councilor Gonzalez asked whether the predicted growth rate had been taken into account during the negotiation. Director Sykes confirmed that growth had been considered, and the pipeline had been evaluated to ensure it could meet Tualatin's needs.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about how economic growth was factored in. Director Sykes explained that when businesses apply for permits in the city, infrastructure considerations are part of the approval process. She stated most commonly local infrastructure, rather than the wholesaler, would limit permit approval.

Council President Pratt asked about the stability in rates and how that stability will be maintained. Deputy Public Works Director Nic Westendorf discussed rate forecasting and how projects are integrated into those equations.

Councilor Brooks asked about water rights and how they will be managed upon the exit of the resellers. Director Westendorf state the new approach takes an inclusive "everyone is in it together" perspective. Councilor Brooks expressed satisfaction with this approach, as it is fair and collaborative.

Mayor Bubenik requested more details on how the contract addressed maintenance and resiliency of the supply line. He wanted to ensure that funds were available for Portland to maintain the line. Mayor Bubenik also inquired about cost-sharing for items such as treatment facilities. Director Sykes explained that costs are shared among customers, and rates would shift gradually over time to distribute the impacts.

3. 6:10 p.m. (20 min) – Allocation of Funds to Outside Agencies.

Deputy City Recorder Nicole Morris presented the outside agency grants for award. She began by sharing the program updates made this year, including changes to the purpose statement, guidance on funding, and the final spending questionnaire. Recorder Morris mentioned that this year's grant application period was open from August 1 to September 1. She noted that a total of 18 applications were received, with requested funding totaling \$95,070. Recorder Morris requested that the Council determine award amounts during this meeting, and a resolution would be presented at the next meeting to finalize the awards.

The Council deliberated and allocated funding for selected recipients.

Councilor Gonzalez requested consideration of increasing future funding for outside agencies in the next budget cycle.

4. 6:30 p.m. (30 min) – Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Sacco stated she attended the parks bond tour and the C4 meeting. She noted at the C4 meeting the committee is seeking interest from cities in participating and splitting the cost of a statistically valid survey regarding tolling.

Councilor Hillier stated she attended the Tigard-Tualatin School District safety meeting.

Councilor Reyes stated she attended the Latino Business Network gathering and toured the Oregon Community Warehouse.

Councilor Gonzalez stated he attended the parks bond tour.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Water Consortium meeting and the parks bond tour.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the R1ACT meeting, the Clackamas County Business Alliance forum, the parks bond tour, and the Tualatin Police Foundation event.

Mayor Bubenik stated the Washington County Commissioners will be discussing MSTIP funding tomorrow and encouraged Councilors to stay aware of those discussions. He also noted Washington County Sheriff Garrett will be going back to the commissioners requesting the commission reinstate funding to the jail after budget cuts to continue to maintain public safety.

Mayor Bubenik reminded residents that Vine2Wine is this weekend and tickets can be purchased online.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor