



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR AUGUST 08, 2022

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

1. Tualatin Moving Forward Bus Tour.

The Council went on a bus tour of the Tualatin Moving Forward projects.

2. Update on Council Meeting Technology.

Information Technology Director Bates Russell briefed the Council on the new meeting set-up at the Tualatin City Services building.

3. American Rescue Plan Act Update.

Mayor Bubenik started the in person meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Finance Director Don Hudson presented information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He recapped the guiding principles for the distribution of ARPA funds including alignment with the council vision, one-time programs and projects, leveraging of multiple funding sources, provide innovative and strategic ideas, seek partnerships and find collaborative solutions, and coordination with local partners. Investment areas for the funds include infrastructure, support of community-based organizations, assistance to households, small business industries, and revenue replacement. Director Hudson spoke to investment areas for infrastructure including water infrastructure to support affordable housing and making improvements to outdoor spaces such as the Stoneridge Park renovation. He stated other investment areas being considered include economic development proposals, countywide community engagement on equity, premium pay, affordable housing, and utility assistance programs.

Director Hudson spoke to the utility billing assistance programs available including the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program that has benefited 21 Tualatin accounts and the Washington County Program that has benefited 49 accounts. He spoke to potential proposals to help fill the gaps in local funding to renters in Tualatin via direct communication. Director Hudson stated in April of 2020 the City suspended late fees and shut-offs for non-payment and is looking for Council direction on when to resume. He stated planned outreach for past due accounts includes information on the website, in monthly bills, and direct communication with delinquent customers. Director Hudson proposed resuming shut-offs at the end of September.

Councilor Brooks asked if reasons have been identified for those who have not received funds. Director Hudson stated the application process and income levels have been a deterrent for some of the county programs.

Councilor Brooks asked what changed that the additional census tract was added in Tualatin. Director Hudson stated he would have to look into it further and follow-up.

Councilor Reyes asked how many delinquent accounts the city has. Director Hudson stated there are currently 146 delinquent accounts totaling around \$83,000.

Councilor Pratt asked if projects can be designed with ARPA funds as she believes the Nyberg Creek Pathway Project would be a great project for funding. She wants to make sure a utility program application for the city is simple and doesn't prohibit people from applying.

Councilor Reyes asked how renters get assistance when the landlord is just passing the utility fees through in rent. Director Hudson stated he would propose a plan to communicate directly with the renters.

Councilor Sacco stated she is in support of researching the gaps and how those can be funded. She expressed concerns with starting shut-offs the end of September and there being enough time to communicate with delinquent accounts properly.

Councilor Brooks would like the city to work with CEPA to have case managers locally to identify the barriers as to why people are struggling to pay these bills. She would also like to see if the city can explore having an air conditioning assistance program.

Council consensus was reached to connect with landlords about reaching out to tenants who need assistance and begin working with delinquent accounts.

4. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

None.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor