



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR MARCH 25, 2024

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

Work Session

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

1. Regional Tolling Survey Results.

John Horvick from DHM Research presented the findings of a regional tolling survey conducted for several cities and organizations, including Tualatin. He stated the survey aimed to gauge public opinion on congestion, road quality, and awareness of tolling. It involved 600 Portland metro region voters and utilized a hybrid method combining phone and text-to-online surveys. Mr. Horvick shared that respondents were from a pool with diverse demographics. He stated findings indicated that a significant portion of voters live near proposed toll roads and frequently use I-5 or I-205. The main users of these roads are work commuters. Concerns about road quality and congestion were high among voters, with the majority opposing tolling in the region. Reasons for opposition included high taxes, perceived unfairness to low-income drivers, and concerns about fund mismanagement.

Mr. Horvick stated a majority of voters opposed the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) and the I-205 and Abernathy Bridge Project. Polling results showed that statements opposing tolling were more convincing to voters than those in support. He stated alternatives to tolling including increasing registration fees for electric vehicles garnered the highest support among the presented options.

Council President Pratt inquired about sharing the survey results with ODOT. Mr. Horvick suggested it would be up to the cities or organizations involved to share that information with them.

Mayor Bubenik found the survey results unsurprising and emphasized the importance of presenting feasible solutions to the legislature by collaborating with other cities.

2. Council Chambers Technology Upgrade Completion.

Information Services Director Bates Russell presented the AV improvements to the technology in the Council Chambers, which were made possible through collaboration with Tualatin Valley Community Television (TVCTV) and the Metro Area Communication Commission (MACC). Director Russell highlighted the enhancements, such as the ability to produce council meetings virtually and facilitate public participation, as mandated by HB 2160. He outlined various platforms through which the council meetings can be viewed, including online, streaming apps, television, YouTube, the City's website, and Zoom. Director Russell expressed gratitude to TVCTV and MACC for their partnership and funding support for this project.

Councilor Reyes raised concerns about cybersecurity in relation to streaming the council meetings. Director Russell assured her that the feed is secure, minimizing potential risks to data security.

Councilor Brooks inquired about the funding source for the AV improvements. Director Russell explained that the Metro Area Communication Commission (MACC) is funded through fees applied to television providers in the area, which support MACC's operational expenses and grant funds for jurisdictions to enhance televising services.

Councilor Hillier asked about accessibility features such as sign language interpretation and closed captioning. Director Russell stated closed captioning is provided by TVCTV to address accessibility needs.

3. 2024 City Council Advance Summary Report.

Deputy City Manager Megan George provided the 2024 City Council Advance summary report. She stated Sara Singer Wilson, SSW Consulting, facilitated the advance. Manager George stated Consultant Singer met with the council and staff to determine outcomes for the advance which included highlighting accomplishments, developing a shared understand of the community and organization, facilitate a process where diverse perspectives are welcomed and heard, and conduct intentional team building that help advance the city's vision and priorities. She stated the advance took part on two days. Manager George shared the 2023 list of accomplishments compiled during the environmental scan portion of the advance. She stated the environmental scan set the stage for the priorities and outcomes. She stated seven priorities were identified: neighborhood engagement, housing, economic development, transportation, environment, parks, and culture and identity. Manager George highlighted each of the priorities outcomes and actions as identified. She stated team agreements were established during the advance and include: We are One Team, We are Prepared, We are Strategic, We are Innovative. Manager George stated next steps include incorporating any potential changes, create the 2024 placemats, and a periodic progress report.

Deputy City Manager Megan George presented the summary report for the 2024 City Council Advance. She stated Sara Singer Wilson from SSW Consulting facilitated the advance, working with the council and staff to establish outcomes. Established outcomes included highlighting achievements, fostering a shared understanding of the community and organization, ensuring diverse perspectives were valued, and conducting team-building exercises to advance the city's vision and priorities.

Manager George shared the outcomes of the environmental scan conducted during the advance, which helped identify priorities for the coming year. Seven key areas were identified: neighborhood engagement, housing, economic development, transportation, environment, parks, and culture and identity. She stated each priority was accompanied by specific outcomes and actions. Manager George stated team agreements were established during the advance, emphasizing unity, preparedness, strategic thinking, and innovation among the city staff and council members. She stated next steps include incorporating any potential changes, creating placemats for 2024, and providing periodic progress reports on the identified priorities.

Councilor Brooks inquired about discussions concerning capacity building, including considerations such as hiring a lobbyist, grant writing, and addressing growing staffing needs,

and how they align with the overall plan. Manager George stated these topics were referenced in the team agreements portion related to capacity building and mentioned that she could ensure they are included on the project list.

Councilor Sacco emphasized the importance of addressing city identity specifically under the category of culture and identity. Councilor Reyes agreed with this sentiment.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed gratitude for the council advance, noting that it helped reset some processes for him. He thanked the staff for their efforts in facilitating the advance.

4. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the equitable engagement grant acceptance on the council agenda. He wants to make sure that when city contracts are awarded they are awarded on merit and not race and gender.

Councilor Sacco stated she attended the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilor Hillier stated she attended the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (911) meeting.

Councilor Reyes stated she attended the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting, the Transportation System Planning group meeting, and the Core Area Parking District Board meeting.

Councilor Gonzalez stated he attended the Transportation System Planning group meeting and the Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Chamber.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Arts Advisory Committee meeting, the Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Chamber, and the LEADS presentation.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the Council Committee on Advisory Appointments meeting, the Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Chamber, and the National League of Cities Conference.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the National League of Cities Conference, Capital Hill Day, the Washington County Coordinating Committee meeting, and met with County Chair Harrington.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor

