



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Commission

Monday, April 27, 2020

5:00 PM

Commission Chambers

Special Meeting

1. Convene Special Meeting

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Mayor Dan Holladay, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Rocky Smith Jr. and Commissioner Denyse McGriff

Staffers: 4 - City Manager Tony Konkol, City Attorney William Kabeiseman, Police Chief and Public Safety Director James Band and City Recorder Kattie Riggs

3. General Business

3a. Coronavirus Economic Relief Response: Oregon City Business Debt Relief Program

Tony Konkol, City Manager, outlined the \$200,000 grant program which was earlier discussed at the April 15, 2020 City Commission meeting. Reviewing the Commissioners changes to the program; namely expanding the program to include sole proprietors who reside in Oregon City and businesses that are situated in Oregon City; the number of employees up to fifteen include the owners, and the eligible uses to include contract work performed by a subcontractor under an IRS 1099 form. These changes were incorporated into the grant program proposal.

Mayor Holladay suggested the total per-business grant amount of \$3000 be adjusted to \$1500 and asked for Commission input.

Commissioner Lyles Smith asked when the program would be effective, provided significant changes were not made at this meeting.

Mr. Konkol then asked Economic Development Manager James Graham, to run through the implementation aspects of the program. Mr. Graham indicated the application announcements and attachments would be posted on the City's website beginning April 28, 2020 through May 4, 2020, and applicants could formally apply beginning at 9:00 AM May 4th. The application announcement and materials would also be provided in Spanish. Hard copies of the application would be available outside City Hall between April 28 - May 4, 2020.

Commissioner O'Donnell congratulated Mr. Graham and other staff for putting together the program proposal and felt it was more thought-out than similar programs offered by other municipalities. Mr. Graham had added the residency requirement for discussion purposes. Commissioner O'Donnell felt the provision for paying off business credit card debt should be limited to a specific date, so a business doesn't incur new expenditures.

Ben James, resident of West Linn, owner of Elevate Wealth Advisors and the current chair of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, expressed he had tenants request lease concessions and had seen a reduction in Chamber of Commerce memberships. He felt the \$3000 dollar grant amount would be more impactful for businesses.

LaDonna Cox, resident of Oregon City and owner of Geeks-and-Games, expressed the business hardships she was experiencing and appreciated the benefits the program could potentially bring by being able to pay the rent, which also helps her building owner during these hard times.

Sheldon Penner, with Chris Cakes Northwest, a catering company in the area and past chairman of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, expressed the reduction of business his company experienced and the cancellation of future bookings. He endorsed any effort by the City to sustain businesses in Oregon City during this current crisis.

Victoria Meinig, a member of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, expressed her appreciation to the Commission for the quick response in putting together the program. She indicated that she is okay with the grant dollar amount and feels the impact will be significant for local businesses.

Betty Mumm, resident of Oregon City, asked how the grant program would affect the General Fund, since the program funding will come from the City's General Fund. She also feels sole proprietor business owners should be given priority. Ms. Mumm asked how the local businesses would be made aware of the grant program if business owners are closed and don't access social media.

Mr. Graham announced that all Oregon City businesses currently holding a business license would receive a phone call notifying them of the grant program.

Mr. Konkol addressed the question of the program funding by explaining that by not filling some general funded positions and property tax and marijuana sale tax revenues higher than projected have created the additional funds available that can be applied to this program. He also indicated the funds are inclusive within the first year of the current two-year budget cycle.

Commissioner Lyle Smith asked about the application process and Mr. Graham explained that hard copy and on-line applications were the two methods and that the application must be signed and have the necessary attachments.

Commissioner O'Donnell expressed concerns about a cut-off date for business debt incurred due to the shutdown. Mr. Graham expressed that recurring credit card debt prior to March 23, 2020 should be the date considered for the program.

Commissioner O'Donnell asked for discussion on the residency requirement. Mayor Holladay indicated he was not in agreement with the residency requirement and suggested qualifying businesses as needing an active City-issued business license.

The Commission then agreed to dispense with the residency requirement and an award amount up to \$3000.

Mayor Holladay then asked for a motion.

Motion made by Commissioner McGriff, seconded by Commissioner Lyle Smith, to adopt the Oregon City Business Debt Relief program as amended, striking the residency requirement and implementing the \$3000 award amount. The motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Dan Holladay, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Rocky Smith Jr. and Commissioner Denyse McGriff

3b. Temporary Shower Trailer at Father's Heart in Oregon City

Mr. Konkol outlined the need for additional temporary shower facility for the homeless community due to the COVID-19 event. The Father's Heart facility has been identified as a potential location two days a week in addition to other resources provided by the facility. With social distancing requirements, the existing shower facilities at Father's Heart are not in operation. Mr. Konkol explained that water supply and sewer outlet are necessary to operate the temporary shower facility and described the guidelines that Father's Heart would follow to minimize virus exposure to the homeless community. City staff would work to identify methods to reduce impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Konkol asked Nancy Bush, the Director for the Clackamas County Emergency Operations Center to participate in this meeting to answer any questions.

Commissioner McGriff expressed her concerns as there had been a previous neighborhood issue with a temporary toilet unit at Father's Heart and feels it may not be a viable location.

Mayor Holladay asked Mr. Konkol if there was not a plan to allow the homeless community to use the shower facilities at the City Pool. Mr. Konkol said that before the COVID-19 event, there had been a plan in which the homeless used the Pool facilities in the morning. This was still in discussion with Clackamas County Health as an option during this time.

Commissioner O'Donnell felt that Oregon City and the McLoughlin neighborhood had done more than their fair share of providing relief services.

Nancy Bush commented that the Clackamas County Service Center and the City of Molalla are providing services one day a week. Clackamas County is working with Father's Heart to assist them in preparing to provide these services, as the homeless community is used to that facility as a place to go to receive needed services.

Commissioner O'Donnell asked Ms. Bush if there were demands for these services in Milwaukie, Gladstone or West Linn. Ms. Bush responded that they would like to find a location in Gladstone, but there were not specific calls for services in those cities.

Commissioner Lyle Smith expressed concerns about no specific end date listed as to the length of time the temporary shower facility would be allowed to be placed at Father's Heart.

Ms. Bush responded that the temporary use would end when the Father's Heart facility

was able to formally reopen.

Commissioner McGriff relayed concerns expressed to her from neighborhood residents regarding the homeless loitering around the Father's Heart facility, lack of adequate over-site by Father's Heart staff and overall fears that the temporary shower unit will exasperate current livability issues in the area.

Chief Band also relayed concerns expressed by residents regarding the small percentage of the homeless community that cause considerable criminal issues in Oregon City and that with the current COVID-19 crisis, the ability of City police to deal with homelessness issues is greatly diminished due to over capacity at the County jail and the shut-down of the Hooper detox facility.

Commissioner Lyle Smith feels the shower unit would temporarily augment the existing shower facilities at Father's Heart that are not currently operational. She asked Ms. Bush if it were possible to locate the shower facility somewhere on the County Red Soils Campus. Ms. Bush indicated that due to drainage issues, locating the unit there was not possible. Additionally, the homeless community is not situated at the hilltop and it is not desirable to relocate them to another area, due to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Mayor Holladay suggested locating the unit at Clackamette Park and to ask the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County to staff it. Mr. Konkol indicated he could evaluate that option. Mayor Holladay expressed he was not in support of placing the shower unit at Father's Heart at this time.

Commissioner McGriff was concerned that there was not an operational plan. Ms Bush responded that there is a plan for two days a week at Father's Heart and there is a full process outline. Ms. Bush also indicated the shower unit is only at the Clackamas Service Center on 82nd Ave. one day a week because there is more homeless population in Oregon City.

Commissioner Smith agreed with many of the prior comments by the other Commissioners and suggested having the shower unit at Father's Heart one day a week on a trial basis.

Commissioner O'Donnell asked Ms. Bush about whether laundry services are being offered at the same time as the shower facility and whether it was a portable laundry unit. She responded that it would be the on-site laundry at Father's Heart staffed by volunteers and supplies provided by the County Emergency Center and kept there between uses. Commissioner O'Donnell commented that although the bulk of the homeless community may be in Oregon City, he would like to see a more dispersed approach to services in other cities, as he feels the more services that are provided in Oregon City, the more that will attract additional homeless.

Mr. Konkol reminded everyone that the last time a formal homeless count was done, Oregon City had more homeless than any other city combined in Clackamas County. Although he understands the comments about dispersing services, the current homeless population does not have the ability to quarantine in a shelter facility. The only available service to the homeless is personal hygiene, as previously identified by the Governor as a goal to provide clean bodies and clothing. Mr. Konkol stated that the homeless population will continue to be present in Oregon City regardless if the shower facility is provided or not and asked if providing the shower facility one day a week could be a starting point. He also stated the homeless population is a targeted high

community that may continue the spread of the virus amongst residents. Proper hygiene has been identified as a method to reduce the spread of the virus.

Commissioner McGriff stated that she does not feel comfortable approving the shower facility until there is an operation plan and also gaining feedback from area residents regarding a one day a week plan.

Mayor Holladay asked why the current shower facility at Father's Heart could not be used using the current social distancing protocols. Mr. Konkol responded that at the City pool facility and other City facilities, limiting the number of people has been the continuing issue.

Ms. Bush commented that the configuration of the Father's Heart building does not lend itself to social distancing and that the homeless would still continue to congregate outside waiting to use the shower facility inside.

Mayor Holladay asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner McGriff, seconded by Commissioner Lyle Smith, to table item 3b. Temporary Shower Trailers at Father's Heart in Oregon City until there is further outreach to residents on a possible solution or compromise. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Dan Holladay, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Rocky Smith Jr. and Commissioner Denyse McGriff

Mr. Konkol followed up by stating that it was possible to attain the operation report for the plan before the next Commission meeting on May 6, 2020, but he did not feel that he would be able to complete the neighborhood outreach beforehand.

Mayor Holladay asked Commissioner McGriff if she would be willing to coordinate the collection of neighborhood resident input before the May 6th meeting and she indicated she would.

4. Communications

There were no communications.

5. Adjournment

Mayor Holladay adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kattie Riggs, City Recorder