



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Commission

Dan Holladay, Mayor

Brian Shaw, Commission President

Nancy Ide, Frank O'Donnell, Renate Mengelberg

Friday, January 6, 2017

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers

EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING

1. Convene Emergency Special Meeting

Mayor Holladay called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Commissioner Brian Shaw, Mayor Dan Holladay, Commissioner Nancy Ide, Commissioner Renate Mengelberg and Commissioner Frank O'Donnell

Staffers: 5 - Tony Konkol, Assistant City Attorney Carrie Richter, City Recorder Kattie Riggs, Community Development Director Laura Terway and Assistant City Recorder Jaime Reed

3. General Business

3a. Resolution No.17-01: Declaring an Emergency and Exempting the Oregon City Retirement Center from Planning Code Requirements on a Temporary Basis

Tony Konkol, City Manager, said the City received communication from Clackamas County health officials as well as existing homeless service providers about a need for additional shelter space in response to the extremely cold weather they were currently experiencing. The owner of the Oregon City Retirement Center was offering space and resources to assist with this need. The City's Building Official and Fire Department inspected the proposed shelter space and some improvements had to be made for safety. Through the Code, the Commission could declare an emergency for extreme weather events and temporarily exempt the facility from the planning requirements for expanding the use of the facility. The proposal was to allow an additional 16 residents into the facility. There would also be a 24 hour fire watch. The weather event was predicted to end Monday. Staff proposed to extend the emergency through Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 8 AM.

Vahid Brown, resident of Portland, was the Housing Policy Coordinator for Clackamas County. The two warming centers in the area were Father's Heart and Clackamas Service Center which were experiencing over-capacity due to the weather. To handle the overflow, they were using Clackamas County vehicles to transport people to the Molalla warming shelter. That still had not been enough and they had to send people to the Multnomah County warming shelters. Multnomah County was also at maximum capacity and now was no longer an option. Additional shelter space would be a huge help and 16 beds would be enough to cover the need.

Father's Heart would identify the people coming in over capacity, sign them in, and would escort them to the Retirement Center. There would be staff at the Retirement Center who would be on site through the night as fire watch and medical emergency response.

There was discussion regarding extending the date of the emergency if needed and where the users of the warming shelter would come from.

Commissioner O'Donnell confirmed this would not increase the resident homeless population in Oregon City.

Rita Mills, resident of Oregon City, said her church hosted a weekly dinner for the homeless and residents of the Oregon City Retirement Center. She thought the Center was disgraceful and should either be closed or upgraded. It was important that this be a temporary shelter.

Denyse McGriff, resident of Oregon City, lived adjacent to this facility. She appreciated that the owner of the Retirement Center was making this available. However she asked if there were other temporary shelter spaces being made available in the area. She also asked what was being done to notify adjacent property owners. There already was a problem with homeless in this area, and she questioned putting them in a facility that had code violations. She also wanted to know who would be doing the 24 hour fire watch that was required. They had to care for people, but also had to take care of the residents in the City.

Mayor Holladay said this just came up yesterday and he did not know what was available in surrounding cities. A fire watch was typically done by a security person or staff person in these facilities. He was not as concerned with any violations happening at the facility as the City was not the regulators of the facility. This was temporary, but could extend a few more days if needed. Homelessness was an issue and they were working on a way to resolve it.

Commissioner O'Donnell said the condition of the facility needed to be explored through a different avenue. He had the same concerns about balancing the needs and responsibilities to the community.

Commissioner Ide hoped other cities were responding to the need as well. Improvements could be made to the facility, but these people needed a warm place out of the cold. They were trying to address a public health and safety issue.

Commissioner Shaw said there was a group working on homelessness in Oregon City and trying to take care of the issues in this neighborhood. He was comfortable using this facility. The faith based groups would be helping to provide food.

Arthur Johnson, resident of Oregon City, owned the Retirement Center. This was a short wing that had not been used in many years other than for storage. He explained how he prepared the wing for use including putting in fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, and partitions. There were fire sprinklers and smoke detectors in the wing. The Fire Marshall had approved its use. Clackamas County had provided 16 cots and the bathrooms had been made functional. The plan was to have 16 women in the shelter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ide, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, to approve Resolution No.17-01: declaring an emergency and exempting the Oregon City Retirement Center from planning code requirements on a temporary basis. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Brian Shaw, Mayor Dan Holladay, Commissioner Nancy Ide, Commissioner Renate Mengelberg and Commissioner Frank O'Donnell

4. Communications

Mr. Konkol read the winter weather watch issued from the National Weather Service. He encouraged people to check the weather reports and be prepared. The main roads would be kept clear, but the side streets would not.

5. Adjournment

Mayor Holladay adjourned the meeting at 4:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kattie Riggs, City Recorder