

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL CITY OF AMITY, OR**

Minutes

Work Session of the City of Amity City Council was held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present:

Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor Acie Dunlap, Councilor McArthur, and Mayor Rachel King

Councilors Present via Zoom

None

Councilors Absent

Councilor Denis Saucier, Councilor Cody Goings, Council President April Dyche

Staff Present

City Administrator Michael Thomas

CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

A. Citizen Comments: There were no citizens present at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Schedule Changes in October: Administrator Thomas and Mayor King stated that due to a conflict with the League of Oregon Cities Conference, there is a need to reschedule the October 5th City Council Meeting. After some discussion, the Councilors present agreed that the meeting should be rescheduled to October 12th.

Councilor Bojorquez then asked if the Council Work Session would be rescheduled, too. This prompted a discussion regarding the upcoming Work Session and Mayor King's interest in hosting another Citywide Town Hall. Mayor King discussed that the Town Hall would be the last opportunity of the year and that Council had previously talked about hosting one before the November elections. Mayor King then explained her intent to host this Town Hall to discuss the psilocybin ballot measure and to introduce any City Council candidate (declared or "write-in") who would like to do so.

Mayor King stated that with the event on a Monday then the City Staff could advertise the event during the Halloween/Harvest Festival on Saturday the 22nd. This would also lighten the Councilors' schedule some the week of October 17th. Councilors Bojorquez and McArthur expressed no concerns about the Town Hall and supported the idea. Mayor King polled the Councilors and they agreed to host the Town Hall on October 24th. With that, the Council agreed to cancel the City Council Work Session on the 19th and host the Town Hall on the 24th at 6PM.

B. City Administrator Comments: The City Administrator then quickly covered some topics to include the removal of blackberries across from the Post Office. The Administrator highlighted a letter written by the property owner as to why some plants were allowed to remain and not be poisoned. Administrator Thomas mentioned this in response to a question by Councilor Dunlap regarding the status of that cleanup. Councilor Dunlap was okay with the report but reiterated his dislike for blackberries as they are an invasive, weed like

plant. City Administrator Thomas then highlighted a potential grant opportunity of up to \$5,000 to accomplish small projects around the community. Mayor King highlighted that these grants did not require a match by the City.

City Administrator Thomas then discussed the research he conducted regarding the junk removal agenda item from the September City Council Meeting. He stated that based on Public Works' insight, it was better to host a second "Citywide Cleanup Day" event each year than to follow Sheridan's lead. Council agreed and requested staff add a second event. Mayor King also expressed her interest in highlighting the pickup service that the City can do as a part of the cleanup.

City Administrator Thomas then discussed the junked car removal process, describing his conversation with the local towing company. The towing company recommended that instead of following Sheridan's lead, the City advertise a car donation program that would provide funding to our local fire district. City Administrator Thomas provided a draft advert for the program to Council. Councilor Dunlap mentioned a homeowner in town who could junk cars, which the City Administrator stated was an option. Council agreed with the proposal and recommended that City Staff advertise it to the community.

Councilor Dunlap then asked if the City could assist with the removal of junked lawnmowers. City Administrator Thomas was stumped, suggesting a commercial firm, but Councilor Bojorquez stated that and local there were local companies in McMinnville that would accept junked lawnmowers. Councilor Dunlap asked if City Staff would investigate how to provide a junk lawnmower option similar to the junk car program previously discussed. Mayor King suggested that Councilor Dunlap could research the options and provide an update to the Council at a future meeting.

City Administrator Thomas updated the Council on our publication of a "no shoes, no shirt, no service" standard. He explained the rationale for the policy, stating that a few recent incidents prompted staff to request it. He then mentioned the social media posts about who is responsible for pulling weeds along some rights of way. Mayor King asked if we had posted it as an educational post, which Administrator Thomas replied, that the City had and that he was responding to as many posts as possible. Administrator Thomas then discussed the progress of our audit and that the auditor had complimented City Staff for their preparation and fiduciary responsibilities.

Councilor Bojorquez then asked the City Administrator if Public Works could somehow highlight the uneven sidewalks in the downtown area, to mitigate the tripping hazard. She recommended painting them in bright colors. Councilor McArthur recommended that we seek a legal review, to ensure that by highlighting the uneven sidewalk, we're not inadvertently holding ourselves legally accountable. Mayor King then asked Administrator Thomas how things were going with our new Municipal Court Judge. Administrator Thomas stated that things were going well. He elaborated that our City Clerk had received training from the Judge's Clerk in Newberg and returned with many ideas for improving our Municipal Court process.

C. Halloween/Harvest Party: Mayor King turned to a discussion about the City event on October 22nd. This is the return of our Halloween/Harvest Party. Mayor King and Councilors Bojorquez discussed the event's requirements, as neither had attended one before. Administrator Thomas quickly described the event's arrangement and the events. Councilor Bojorquez asked how many volunteers were needed and if that request was in addition to, or included, City Staff. Administrator Thomas did not know. Councilor Bojorquez asked Councilor McArthur if she would volunteer, Councilor McArthur was non-committal. Council discussed the need for pumpkins and hay bales, which led to a discussion regarding the pumpkin decorating contest.

Mayor King proposed that we hold the citywide pumpkin decorating contest again this year. Councilors Bojorquez and McArthur agreed. Mayor King stated that she was still trying to determine who would grade which categories or areas of the city. City Administrator Thomas asked about the prizes, to which Mayor King replied that they would be the same as last year – Blue Raeven gift cards.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS:

- A. Councilor Dunlap: Councilor Dunlap had no comments and there were no comments or questions for him.
- B. Councilor Bojorquez: She asked Mayor King about her progress with the high school principal in organizing volunteers. Mayor King replied she’s still working on it, and suggested Councilor Bojorquez reach out directly.
- C. Councilor Dyche: was not present at the meeting and there were no comments or questions for her.
- D. Councilor Goings: was not present at the meeting and there were no comments or questions for him.
- E. Councilor McArthur: She let Council know that she is still working with a contact about getting signs put out about the leash law.
- F. Councilor Saucier: was not present at the meeting and there were no comments or questions for him.
- G. Mayor King: Asked if there was any progress on the City Park signs. Administrator Thomas said that there was no progress and recommended using the microgrant program to purchase the sign.

Councilor King adjourned the meeting at 5:40.

Approved by City Council October 12, 2022

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder