

WORK 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, February 16, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Councilor Sandy McArthur, Councilor April Dyche and Mayor Rachel King.

Councilors Absent

Councilor Cody Goings

Staff Present

City Administrator Michael Thomas

BUSINESS FROM THE STAFF:

City Administrator gave updates on any on-going City business and updated on status of projects.

OPEN FORUM & DISCUSSION FROM MAYOR & CITY COUNCILORS:

- a. **Infrastructure** – No report given by Councilor Goings.
- b. **Community Engagement** – No report given by Councilor Dyche
- c. **Parks** – No report given.
- d. **City Services** – No report given by Councilor McArthur.
- e. **Public Safety** – No report given by Councilor Dyche.
- f. **Finance** –

Topic 1: Councilor Dyche signed paperwork in the finance folder.

g. **Mayor Report:**

Topic #1 Fence Code Enforcement: City Administrator Mike Thomas brought forth a letter he had written to a resident who is in violation of City codes regarding fence heights and placement on their property. This letter was drafted in direct response to a citizen complaint of the issue. The question posed by Mike, and the reason for its presentation at the work session, was in relation to enforcement avenues as outlined in Amity's codes; in particular that failure to remedy the issue may result in the shut off of water services to the property. Response from Council was that this seemed like a harsh punishment for a property issue and that while it has its place as a last resort, Council was not comfortable with this being the first line of action for the City to take.

Mike asked if Council would like him to redraft the ordinance in question, so that in future instances utility shut off would not be presented as the first threat of noncompliance. Council agreed that yes, it could be rewritten to better outline our code enforcement intentions. For the non-compliance issue at hand, Council directed Mike to proceed with issuing the letter. It was asked that Staff more clearly state the timelines necessary for compliance, and at what point the City intends to take action (and how). Council also expressed that it should be known that there is potential for an extension of timeline if needed, but that property owners will need to make a good faith effort toward remedying the issue, and we encourage them to engage with staff and Council if difficulty in meeting Code expectations arise.

Topic #2 Citizen Comments: A citizen in attendance brought to Council 3 areas of concern:

1. The need to have adequate signage to enforce new and reapproved weight limited roads within the City. He also stated that Amity's weight restricted roads are not present in Yamhill County's registry available to permitted drivers of over 80,000lbs.
2. Expressed disappointment in Council's decision of adding Woodland way to the list of Amity's 10,000lb weight restricted streets without having expert testimony and without having done a complete street study to provide data and evaluate need. Shared wishes that Council had took more time gather additional information before making a decision.
3. He also shared with Council dissatisfaction with contracted law enforcement services. The main concern is the amount of services Amity is being provided in relation to the price and taxes that are being spent on contract services. Citizen detailed two separate interactions with deputies by himself or family members where he felt inadequate service was provided: siting too long of response times and inadequate follow through.

Mayor King let the citizen know that plans are to install weight limit signs at each needed intersection and in both directions of traffic, as needed, for enforcement of Code. She thanked the citizen for the additional information regarding the weight limit road registry, as she and Council had no prior knowledge of the existence of such. Council acknowledged other expressed weight restriction related concerns and stated that they made the best decision they were able given the street conditions and need for preservation, based on the information they had available at the time. Council discussed briefly discussed law enforcement issues, past and present complaints of similar nature. City Admin will follow up with Sheriff's office to gather additional information pertaining to response times, customer service, and details related to concerns brought forth.

Topic #3 Graffiti Update: Continued discussion of ongoing graffiti issues in Amity, in particular businesses being repeated targeted and the City's role in supporting victims. Mike gave an overview of his conversations with Northwest Self Storage which has been a repeat target of graffiti over the past year. NWSS has been working with law enforcement to identify persons responsible and remedy this ongoing issue at their place of business. Recently, subject was identified, contact was made, and individual was arrested. In an effort to "think outside the box" NWSS, with agreement from corporate headquarters, came to the City with a proposal of possible options to create parameters to engage with this individual an agreement which would allow for his urban art to be displayed on their building on a permanent basis, opposed to criminal graffiti, as this person claims they have no intention for stopping their behavior that is defacing this business and that no laws, codes, arrest, or threat of additional consequences with persuade him to stop his actions of painting NWSS property.

Mayor King asked of Mike and Council where they felt the City's role was in relation to the art or sign instillation of a private business. Council discussed where lines would be drawn between graffiti/blight and an authorized mural. Questions were asked about procedure of City in authorization of sign and mural instillation. Conversation about the slippery slope of the Council officially approving such an idea was had. The intricacies of this specific situation, and Council's goal of wanting to support our community business partner's needs, was weighed against the potential downfalls of making an exception to policy based on an issue of one business in particular. Consensus was made to continue to enforce codes as written, and for Mike to ask NWSS present to Council, in much more detail, a written proposal outlining their ideas, intended parameters; addressing liability, size, placement, and what they see as their own and the City's role in this endeavor. If such a proposal was voted into approval in the future a legal contract between parties would be drawn up at that time. Other options for the City to provide a "canvas" area open to the public to display art was talked about as well.

Council also discussed the more general plan moving forward in regard to helping with the cost of graffiti cleanup. Council is in agreement that funds should be allocated within the budget of the coming fiscal year to address this issue, but a plan of how to best use those funds for the utmost betterment and upkeep of the City is still needed.

Topic #4 Audit Update: City Administrator let Council know that our auditors have completed the draft audit and the City has sent back signed acceptance of it. This means that the audit is complete and ready to be presented to Council at the upcoming Council meeting. It also means that it will be delivered on time, within granted extension, to the State as required.

Topic #5 Speed Feedback Sign: Mike and Mayor King gave an overview and update of work that has been done thus far in procurement and instillation of a speed radar feedback sign in Amity. First Federal community grant has awarded \$2,500 to help us complete this project. After an initial site walk and meeting with ODOT, multiple options for acceptable equipment were outlined. The possibility of a mobile trailer type sign has been explored but will be deferred for the time being based on inconclusive written agreement that it would be allowable for use along ODOT rights-of-way, which is Council's goal. The plan ahead is to meet again with ODOT to seeks permits and approval of 3-4 specific locations in town for placement, and for Mike to reach out again to vendors for pricing of poles and smaller 12-14" sign units which are allowable for 25mph zones.

Topic #6 RDI: Mayor King asked for confirmation that representatives from Rural Development Initiatives plan to attend and present survey results at upcoming meeting. Council discussed 3-year proposal from RDI and the option of engaging with them for ongoing services for assistance in working towards priorities highlighted by survey. After discussion about benefits of moving forward with contracting services, Council spoke of budget constraints in upcoming year that could prohibit Amity's ability to move forward with this project. City Administrator went into some detail about budget outlook and other general fund expenses that are to be expected in the next fiscal year. Consensus was to reevaluate our financial ability to commit after hearing from RDI in March, recognizing that this may be a first cut during budgeting based on necessity of other priorities. Looking further into Ford Family Foundation grant options to offset cost and/or the ability to used ARPA funds was also discussed. Council asked Mike to inquire about the possibility of a 1-year stand-alone contract option for services as well.

Topic #7 Points of Contact for 2022: Council discussed need to update points of contact for year moving forward to include assignments for new Councilors. Mayor King gave overview of intended assignments to be officially announced at the March Council meeting and asked for any discussion or objections from current or newly appointed Councilors. None being heard, made plans to assign new Points of Contact at March Council meeting.

Approved by City Council March 2, 2022

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder