



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES November 26, 2019

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Riley Hill, Dan Capron, Norm Crume, Michael Braden, Freddy Rodriguez, Ramon Palomo, and Marty Justus.

Members of staff present were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Larry Sullivan, Terry Leighton, Kari Ott, Dan Cummings, Steven Romero, Peter Hall, Cliff Leeper, Betsy Roberts, Dallas Brockett, Bil Carter, Chris Bolyard, Sam D'Addabbo, James Swank, Jon and Laurenson.

The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

Mayor Hill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on November 22, 2019. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

CAPRON moved, JUSTUS seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-yes; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dallas Brockett, Nyssa, stated: *Mayor and members of the Council, community members, thank you for allowing me the time to speak a little bit about the issue at hand that we have with one of our employees that is not a resident within Ontario. I just want to talk a couple bullet points really quick. I think that Mr. Bolyard is going to have a little bit more in depth detail about what we're talking about. As officers, we took an oath to uphold the Constitution, and I feel that the residency rule is unconstitutional. We have the right to live where we want and the Constitution, the 14th Amendment, reads that a state cannot deprive a person of life, liberty, or property. I know this officer to be one of the best that we have. I've seen it first-hand with our last hiring pool. We had two full-time officer openings, and we had three applicants. To have more attraction and a better pool of candidates and to have the best pool and best candidates to serve our community and our city, I think that rule that's in place, or that policy that's in place, is limiting us, big time. Not to mention the officer's safety concerns of living where you work. It's one of the things I took into account when I was buying a house three years ago. Not only that property taxes were double of what Nyssa was, the house was \$20K more than it was in Ontario, but community safety. If I want to move into a community, I want it to be safe. That's the first thing I look at. So, if we have the appropriate staffing, which we don't, if we have the appropriate staffing in our police department, and the right numbers to make this community safe, I think more people would want to live here.*

Bil Carter, Ontario, stated: *Thank you, Mayor and City Council, those in the community. I have to tell you right up front that I am solely in favor of executives, high-level management, people having the requirement they live in the city. I totally concur with that. However, line staff, I have some concerns with. Because of the cost of living in this city versus the salaries, there could be some severe challenges for the line staff to actually move to this community and have a suitable life. I know that this officer has some confusion about what the requirement was for him to live here, about whether or not he had to live here as addition to employment. So, my recommendation would be that the City Council consider being logical, reasonable, and sensible, and if this is going to be a requirement for line staff, give this individual, who is a young father, an opportunity, another year, to make the transition and to be able to find suitable housing in this community. One of the problems we're going to have in this community now is the cost of housing is skyrocketing, so it's going to be very difficult for the salaries to keep up with the cost of housing.*

I'm just asking that you really consider giving this individual an opportunity to continue to serve this community versus tossing all of these resources out the window. We've gone through the training, we paid for his training, we've paid for his equipment, and all of the other requirements necessary to be an officer. Why would you want to start all over again and lose those resources that have already been invested? Thank you.

Chris Bolyard, Ontario, stated: Good evening, my name is Chris Bolyard, and I work for the Ontario City Police Department. I am also the President of the Ontario Police Association, which is the bargaining unit for all the employees of the Ontario City Police Department. I'm here tonight with very serious concerns about Resolution #2018-112. The original idea by the citizen community was to create incentives and allow a choice for men and women who wanted to work as line officers for the Ontario City Police Department to have a choice in whether or not they lived here, but were incentives for them to live here. I believe that most of the Councilors were okay with a person having their own choice. We live in a country, and a community, where we value freedom. The freedom of speech, the freedom of association, which allows us to meet here tonight, and freedom of choice. I believe that the City Council is sending the wrong message with this resolution. What will people think when they find out that the officers were forced to move here and did not move here because they wanted to. It was not their choice. Does the city have so little faith in their community that they have to force people to live here? There was a discussion of a better community because of the resolution. There was anecdotal evidence provided to support that theory. I will tell you tonight that as President of the Association, I am in charge of our charitable contributions. When we built the fence around Project Dove, I was surrounded by men dedicated to their community that do not live within the 8C School District. The same goes for Shop with a Cop, Fish with a Cop, the Special Olympics Torch Run, I can go on and on, but I will tell you that these men and women are dedicated to you as a community no matter where they live. The charitable contributions are not just anecdotal evidence, but real tangible proof of that. It was said that people were only coming here for better pay. I came and I don't think that there would be an officer that would testify differently that we came here to be a part of the best police department in the valley. Not just in pay, but in equipment, in leadership, in co-workers, in training. Cops don't just care about pay. We don't put on bulletproof vests for a wage; we put it on for an ideal. If we are here just for the money, then why do we also have reserve officers who do not live in the 8C School District, that volunteer their time for this community? They put on the same bulletproof vest and they face the same dangers that the paid officers do, with no compensation. During testimony, the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief were against this resolution. You hired these men and pay them good wages for their expertise and their advice on matters like these. It was said by a community member that there would be police cars in neighborhoods. This is patently untrue. We are not physically able to have take home cars, nor will we ever. Further testimony from four out of the five people wanted what was originally discussed, which was to create incentives and convince new hires that this was the community where they would want to live. Some Councilors brought up the fact that officers would be moving from their established homes. You are not asking the officer, you are asking a family to take on a very stressful situation. You don't move for free. You are asking them to take on a potential financial burden, families that could be taking on a financial loss of real estate it could take years to make up even with a higher wage. You're asking children to change schools and neighborhoods. You're changing an entire family dynamic. Someone who lives outside of the valley has already made the decision to move if they are applying here. The same cannot be said when we are trying to attract a lateral from within our community at large. Our community doesn't stop at a river. We are, and always will be, intertwined with Idaho. There was a concern that this resolution would create a smaller pool to choose candidates from. I can testify that good people who want to work for OPD have not applied because of the residency requirement. After the resolution, we currently have a pool of three candidates for two positions. This is not the way that you get the best, which is what the City of Ontario deserves. This is a stark difference from before the resolution as passed. The original idea was to create incentives and create a community that not only police officers, but other middle-class professionals would want to move to. I will tell you that when I started at OPD, I lived outside of the 8C School District. I moved into the City of Ontario because I wanted to, not because I was forced to. It was not right away that I moved here, but when it was the right time financially, where my family was at in our lives, and when the right place was available, my family made the decision. I want the same thing for potential new hires. I do have faith in our community, and firmly believe that when it is the right time, other officers will make the same decision, given their freedom of choice.

Sam D'Addabbo, Weiser, stated: Thank you for letting me speak. The word dedication, dedication to the city, is what I've been hearing about. I have applied to the Ontario Police Department three times over a two-year period. Talk about dedication. I've shown up for work for the last eleven months, not once coming in late or calling in sick. You talk about dedication. I have come in on my days off when called by a Lieutenant or Sergeant to cover shifts.

You talk about dedication. Every day I show up to work, put on a uniform that says Police, Ontario, Oregon. I put on a belt with a gun, I put on a bulletproof vest full of gear. During my workday, I do my best to protect the citizens of this community, putting my life on the line for people I've never even met. You talk about dedication. Even though I am a resident of Idaho, I dedicate my time, my service, and my life to this community. Dallas went over the 14th Amendment. I quoted that as well, so I won't go through that as well. Other than touching on it that it does state that any state shall not deprive any person of life, liberty, or property. If you look throughout the Treasure Valley, which we are a part of the Treasure Valley, both throughout the State of Oregon and Idaho, no other law enforcement agency has any ruling telling someone where they can or cannot live. I looked up near 100 agencies not to find a single one. You can take a police officer from anywhere in this nation and place him anywhere in this nation. That officer will enforce the statutes of that jurisdiction and protect the citizens of that jurisdiction no matter where he chooses to live. I hope the members of the City Council will make the right decision and get rid of this resolution that restricts someone's right to choose where they want to live.

Councilor Capron asked Mr. D'Addabbo if he was told when he was hired that he had six months to move here? Was that made clear to him?

Mr. D'Addabbo stated it was brought up during his face-to-face interview with the Chief at the time.

Ben Peterson, Ontario, stated: *Thank you. I was going to ask if I could have a few more minutes. I just want to really quickly touch on a few of the comments that just came up, and I do appreciate your service, I appreciate all of our police officer's service to this community, but as a resident who lives here, how are we supposed to feel when we have 40% of our cops living here. At what point are we safe when there are zero living here? Is that going to make us safer? Is that going to make a better community? I'd also like to say, how would any one of you people feel, me going into your community and telling you how you should run it? I don't see myself at a Nyssa City Council meeting telling Nyssa what's best for their community. I'm offended by that. Instead of coming to me, or any of us, and seeing the point of what is going on here, we are in such a unique situation in this community. We might have a river in between two sets of communities, but there is a stark difference between them. We are abject poverty on this side of the line, and we have got to have middle-class people like you living here with us. It's not sustainable. It's not supportable. Where do we start? I moved here from Idaho. I didn't have to. I was a dentist in Ontario; I'm a dentist here. I can tell you that it added a tremendous amount of value to what I do, the fact that I live here, that my staff lives here, I'm a better dentist, my practice is better, because I am in this community. I have lots to show for my involvement in the community and the difference was I moved across the river. Anyone's free to take a job or not. No one is forcing anyone to move over here. You have a choice to accept the position or not accept the position. No one's forcing anybody. The safety concerns. What about the safety concerns for officers? What about the safety concerns for the residents of Ontario? I want police officers who want to live on my street. That makes me feel safe. That's what I want. Our officers are paid, from what I understand, significantly more than officers who live across the river. I have a hard time believing we have that hard of a time finding officers to live here when we pay, I would say, 30% more, is that fair, then a police officer in Payette? Anyway, I had prepared some comments, I don't know if I'll have time to get through them all. About 75% of Ontario's Snake River Correctional Institute lives in Idaho; 60% of the Ontario School District administrators, teachers, and staff live in Idaho; TVCC similar; Ontario risks going down the same path. It has become the exception rather than normal when a new hire, taxpayer funded employee working some of the better jobs in Ontario actually lives here. Ontario City Council recognized this problem and in March, 2019, passed a resolution requiring all future employees to live in Ontario and provided financial incentives to encourage and reward those who do. I feel like this is a reasonable request. We shouldn't have any shame to say we want, we value you, we are proud of our city, we want you to be our neighbor. The statistics for the city and those of our local school district, college, and prison are astonishing and unacceptable. If we look at 8C, in the city alone, 200 employees do not call Ontario home. This lack of community connectedness hinders the community's ability to thrive and is an insult to people like me who live here and handicaps our ability to promote a positive image and to successfully pass bonds. Most important, it results in a void in our professional middle class in the community, without which this community will continue to decline. I remind you that in a standing room only meeting, this Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution requiring all future employees to live here. The Council also passed a resolution creating a financial incentive in the form of a water/sewer credit for employees who currently live within the city limits. Thirty years ago, nearly every neighborhood in Ontario had a city employee or an 8C teacher or administrator living in it. They are recognizable figures in the community and stable resources for their neighborhoods. Over the past two decades, Ontario has witnessed a mass exodus of educated, middle class families moving across the river to Idaho. The reasons for this*

exodus are many: school performance, housing, public safety, changing demographics, however, somewhere that became commonplace. In contrast, surrounding cities and school districts neighboring ours, all seem to be outperforming Ontario and have a much different make up with a vast majority of their employees in leadership living and actively involved in those communities. I just ask any of these other people who don't currently live in Ontario but work here, how would they feel if 50% of their police officers, schoolteachers, administrators, vacated. Would they be worried about it? Of course they would. It would be devastating. It's a gutting. Police officers, school principals, city employees, and the like, have been the backbone of small communities. These professionals and their families are leaders in the community, routinely involved in the community civic clubs, churches, and other community-based endeavors such as coaching, Little League, 4-H groups, so this involvement, in addition to their valuable presence as neighbors, that these leaders come to truly know and be an integral part of the community they serve. Absent that, an otherwise qualified professional simply lacks a vital component of what makes a successful long-term employee truly invested in the community, and the community misses out individual social contributions leaving a tremendous void. Ontario now struggles to fill our civic organizations, our city communities, our churches, we can't find enough coaches for extra-curricular activities. Those who would likely serve are not part of the community except during work hours, in general, that's the truth. Importantly, public servants living where they work better understand the community and culture, making them more effective in their jobs. In addition to the social impact, there's a devastating dig in the financial impact from the local wage earnings not residing in the community. The per capita income in Ontario is \$27K a year. In Fruitland, it's \$54K a year. Arguments have been made in opposition and they often cite policies that these policies inhibit hiring practices by excluding qualified applicants. They also argue that these individuals can be just as involved regardless of their address. This does simply not bear truth as implied in practice. Couple that with the very clear message that non-residency sends. That this community is good enough for a paycheck but not good enough for me and my family. That is nearly impossible to overcome. Arguments have also been raised concerning housing availability. To those I say, where there's a will, there's a way. I managed to find suitable housing in Ontario, and so can they. And now it is becoming even more attractive with some of the housing incentive programs being rolled out by the Eastern Oregon Economic Board and the City of Ontario. Once those programs get rolled out by the Economic Border Board, people looking to move into Ontario and build a house, from my understanding, will be given upwards of \$30K for a new home. People are breaking their backs in this community to try to encourage these people to be our neighbors and live here. We want you to be our neighbors. We want you to live here. That's the bottom line. We want you here. It's not a punitive thing. No one's saying you're going to lose your job. No one's forcing you to come over here. No one's forcing you to take a job. We want to do whatever we can do to get you to live here. It has to start at the top, without a doubt. The City of Ontario must decide if you meant what you said when made residency a priority. Your decision should remain your decision today. We want our city employees to be invested in the community and to be our neighbors. I own a business here, and the fact that I live here along with my employees no doubt adds a tremendous amount of value to my practice. Why would we not want to add the same value to our city, schools, and community as well. What do we have to lose? I would also like to say that if anybody who disagrees with me wants to talk about this, some of our police officers who don't live here, I would be happy, happy, to sit down and talk to you. Thank you.

Christopher Plummer, Ontario, stated: Hello Board or City Council. I'm Christopher Plummer. I volunteer a lot here in town. I'm a board member of Project Dove and I work at DHS. I wanted to just come here tonight to voice my support for a homeless shelter, to use that money that's available for temporary housing to house some of our areas most in need. I've heard talk that one of the locations is near the Ani-Care Shelter. I think that's the perfect location. It's near other services that are similar in scope and I just want to really encourage you to say yes to that option and to support our areas most in need. Thank you.

Kathy Harrod, Ontario, stated: Good evening. I'm going to say this facetiously. I see that you are all bundled up, warm, hats, coats, comfortable. Good for you. Good for all of us. When the homeless situation was discussed a couple of weeks ago when the Airport was mentioned, I drove out there the next day and I just want to say it's totally unsuitable. That's pouring money into bad, not worth it at all. I had the privilege this afternoon of walking in the cold down to Origins Church and helping out with their program. My first day of volunteering. Served a little food and visited with people and listened, and during the process of this, just kind of kept hearing little parts of things that were going on with the family that was in there. Two children, two boys, pre-teen, I'm not sure, 10-12 somewhere in there, and they were needing a tarp because they had no place to go and it was cold and it was windy. They were "we need to find a tarp, and I'm going to call somebody". We have a homeless situation, dear people, that needs to be taken care of. I realize that, and I wish we would have had the information beforehand, what all you have to do to make this workable. I know you have to cross your t's and dot your i's; well I would

suggest you get a pencil in each hand because this needs to be done. My final statement, question is, who is your neighbor?

Doug Lamm, Ontario, stated: Mr. Mayor, members of the City Council, City Manager, and invited guests. You have copies of the materials I think we sent out earlier so that you would have them. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak to you on this important issue. The two of us, Bob Kemble and Doug Lamm, are here to represent our business, The Nichols Accounting Group, and our landlord, North Oregon Properties. We want to thank Pam Seiders and James Vogt of Origins Faith Community, the sponsor of New Hope Day Shelter for coming to us last week to inform us of their dream and efforts to create a temporary winter homeless shelter. We also appreciate that City Manager Adam Brown came with them to represent the city's concerns. They were all very up front with us, have given this project a lot of thought, and sought our feedback and suggestions. Their proposed site for the tiny house community concept would be located kitty corner to our NE corner of our parking lot, across NE 3rd Avenue, essentially the width of a city street from our parking lot. The five of us had a good conversation. We made suggestions, raised our concerns, and were heard. We left the discussion explaining that our support or opposition would have to be a decision from our full team of owners and employees. Pam and James had left us with some materials that we shared with our team on Friday and James followed that meeting with an email. We met as a team on Monday morning to seek feedback concerns, etc. from our staff. We had a very thoughtful and thorough discussion of possible solutions, concerns, etc. We have one employee who has worked in a homeless shelter in Seattle who provided ideas and thoughts on safety. We also have folks who expressed a willingness to assist in a volunteer capacity or by serving occasionally at the meal site, etc. This would not be our first encounter with homeless impacting our business. Unfortunately, those previous encounters have not been positive. They include loitering in our entry way and client lobby and not leaving when requested; repeat customers coming into request meetings, clearly suffering from some sort of delusion; stealing of fruit, candy, and coffee we provide for our clients; sleeping in our front and back entry ways; multiple requests to use restroom facilities, use of phones, requesting water, etc., and refusal to leave when requested to; wandering the building when finding a door unlocked requiring that we keep all doors, except the manned front door, locked during business hours; defecation in our flower beds, trash left in flower beds from sleeping in flower beds; use of our outside water faucet to the point we had to lock it; and shopping carts accumulating in our parking lot. These intrusions put our front desk personnel at risk and require involvement of others when issues become out of hand. It is not a good business environment for our staff or clients. As a team, we have concluded that, while we support the concept, we cannot support the location of this proposed shelter. During our conversation with Pam, James, and Adam, other possible locations were discussed. We believe more work can and should be done between the city and New Hop to explore these other alternative sites. We suggested that any grant request suggest more than one site so that there are alternatives in the mix. We do not know if that advice was heeded in the grant process. Our business, while busy all year, has a seasonality to the work year. Our busiest season is from early December through the middle of April. Including seasonal help, we will have in excess of 50 employees across our locations. Approximately 23 of those employees work in the Ontario office at some time during the week. Our first concern is for the safety of our staff. We allow our staff to be flexible in their work hours because many of them work in excess of 60 hours per week during this time of the year. Beginning in January, the use of our office, while not quite 24 hours per day, is generally in excess of 20 hours per day because some staff arrive very early so they can leave early in the evening while others arrive at a more normal start of the work day and then work late into the evening or next morning. Many of our employees that arrive early are females and they do not limit their early access and/or late departure to only tax season. We anticipate that, regardless of who is allowed to be in the shelter, the presence of homeless in the area who are not able to be in the shelter, will increase. We anticipate that the foot traffic to and from the shelter will include folks trespassing across our property further adding to the encounters noted above. Our second concern is for the safety of our clients. Our clients are the lifeblood of our business. The Ontario office is a high client traffic location, especially as compared to our other locations. The Ontario clients come and go at all times of the business day. Again, the foot traffic is a concern for the safety of our clients. Our third concern is for the financial impact the location of the shelter will have on the property of our staff and clients. Referring to two other documents provided, both indicating an increase in crime related to the presence of homeless shelters and the concentration of a population into a small geographical area. There is one from the University of Pennsylvania regarding the shelters in Vancouver, BC, and the article in the Spokesman Review regarding the shelters in downtown Spokane. We believe that the presence of a long-term shelter adjacent to our property diminishes our resale value of our building. Again, thank you for allowing us to represent our company on this matter. Sincerely, Doug Lamm and Bob Kemble.

Councilor Rodriguez stated the incidents Mr. Lamm was referring to, such as defecating in the flower beds, was that currently occurring or was it earlier occurrences?

Mr. Lamm stated that had been in the past. It increased in the winter.

Councilor Rodriguez stated it was an active drug corridor right there, crossing the tracks.

Mr. Lamm stated it was past history.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Transitional Housing

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

Staff had conducted a PDAC with the parties involved in the proposed tiny home village to address the homelessness issue in Ontario. The findings from that meeting concluded that city ordinances and state laws allowed the city to move forward with the proposal. The grant funds had been requested, and this was the only site up for consideration. If a better site was located at a later date, the tiny homes were mobile and could be relocated. Following the first year, it was anticipated that a review of the project would be conducted to discuss the good and bad of the project. A license agreement had been created for usage of the property. To move forward, the Council needed to approve the agreement.

Mayor Hill asked what the PDAC report concluded.

Mr. Brown stated the report said that it was within the state laws and local regulations to have those types of structures in that part of the city.

Mayor Hill verified they were seeking a five-month lease.

Mr. Brown stated yes, a five-month license agreement.

Mayor Hill asked about management, control, trash, garbage, those type of things.

Larry Sullivan, City Attorney, stated the way the agreement was written, it would be the responsibility of the license holder, which would be Origins, to handle all management, monitoring, etc. The city retained the right to inspect the property upon giving reasonable advance notice. The city would not be responsible for any maintenance, upkeep, or management of the property.

Mayor Hill asked about violations of the lease.

Mr. Sullivan stated there was a 30-day termination provision in the agreement.

Mayor Hill asked that the proposed agreement be read into the record.

Mr. Sullivan read:

Premises:

- A. Owner owns property described in Exhibit A (the Property);
- B. Licensee is a religious institution operating on a not-for-profit basis;
- C. Owner is willing to grant a license (the License) for the use of the property to licensee to provide emergency shelter housing for homeless transients; and
- D. The parties wish to reduce their agreement to writing.

Agreement:

Owner and Licensee covenant, contract, and agree as follows:

1. License: Owner grant to Licensee, and Licensee accepts from Owner a License for the use of the property. The consideration for this License is the provision of emergency shelter housing, which is a community service that might otherwise require the expenditure of taxpayer funds.

2. Term: The License shall be irrevocable for six months, unless terminated earlier by Owner by giving Licensee not less than thirty (30) days written notice. Renewal of the License shall be negotiated no more than ninety (90) days prior to termination.
3. Hold Harmless: To the extent of the limits of the Oregon Tort Claims Act, ORS 30.260 *et seq*, the Licensee will hold Owner harmless from any claims whatsoever, accruing after the date hereof and arising solely out of Licensee's use of the property.
 - a. Use of Property: The property may be used for emergency shelter housing for homeless transients and for no other purpose. Licensee shall have exclusive use of the property for that purpose. Owner shall have the right to inspect the property at any time, subject to reasonable advance notice to Licensee.
 - b. To maintain tax exempt status, Licensee shall operate the shelter on a not-for-profit basis, and shall not charge rents to any persons who are receiving temporary emergency shelter.
4. Maintenance: During the term of the License, Licensee shall have the sole responsibility to provide maintenance, safe-guarding, irrigation, and upkeep of the property.
5. Improvements: Licensee shall not install permanent improvements on the property without Owner's express written consent in advance. All improvements shall be temporary only and shall be promptly removed by Licensee at the termination of the License.
6. Site Condition: If the License is not renewed, the Licensee will return the property to the same condition present prior to tenancy.
7. Filing for Tax Exemption: The Owner shall file tax exemption documents with the Malheur County Tax Assessor's Office as deemed necessary by the County.

Councilor Crume asked if anyone had thought of the need of a fence to separate the property?

Mr. Brown stated it had been discussed, and that was part of the plan. The money would be taken from the state grant. There would be a gate large enough to drive in, and a pedestrian access at the sidewalk on the north side of 3rd, facing North Oregon.

Councilor Crume asked what protected the city against any type of lawsuit or claims.

Mr. Sullivan stated there was no such thing as no-fault liability. There would have to be some type of evidence that the city did something negligent.

Councilor Capron asked how many feet of fence they were anticipating.

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, stated they were looking at 225 feet.

Mayor Hill asked if the city was paying for the fence.

Mr. Brown stated no, that would come out of the grant. The fence would also block off the salt shelter.

Mayor Hill stated the plan currently reflected 20 units. Was there enough money for that?

Mr. Brown stated he did not believe there would be sufficient funding for 20, it would be closer to 15.

Ms. Higinbotham stated they estimated 10-20 units.

Councilor Crume asked what the plan was to help combat potential problems the surrounding properties might encounter due to increased transient traffic.

Pastor James Vogt, Origins Faith Community, stated he had a different opinion than what the Council had received in their meeting documents. Nichols Accounting quoted headlines for areas in Spokane and Vancouver, but that hardly an apples to apples comparison. Homeless numbers and population density – Ontario was not Vancouver, BC. He understood the list of concerns and the list of incidents that Nichols had dealt with. His building was only a block away from there, and they had experienced similar incidents. But he viewed what they were proposing as a solution for those actions to cease. People needing a restroom, or water, or somewhere to sleep, would be

addressed with the village. There might be an increased traffic flow, but Origins was a great example. There had been those type of incidents, but that had stopped since opening up the day shelter. The location was good because the shelter was only one block away.

Mayor Hill asked about the argument “the more you provide, the more will come”. And, how many would be allowed to reside in each unit?

Pastor Vogt stated the home was 8x10, so only one occupant per home. If the program excelled, they would be looking at larger, family-sized units.

Mayor Hill asked about a screening process. Such as addicted people vs. homeless by circumstance vs. mentally ill. Would anyone and everyone be allowed in?

Pastor Vogt stated the size of the facility vs the size of the homeless population necessitates prioritizing. Because of the nature of this project, it cannot be permanent in any way. The goal was to help transition out of homelessness.

Councilor Rodriguez believed having the village at the proposed location would not grow the activity that was already known. But giving those in need a place to stay wouldn't prevent it, either. Both sides needed to meet in the middle. Many had voiced concerns about the danger that might be present after-hours. Was it possible to have a 24-hour individual on site, or video surveillance, vetting, or require volunteer work? That might create a safer shelter area. Were those things that Origins would be willing to work on with Nichols?

Pastor Vogt stated this was a big deal with many sides. All of the issues were not lost on them, and they were all sympathetic to their concerns. However, when speaking about cameras, or 24-hour employees, it was a tough and they needed to put it all out there. From where he stood, it felt like the City Council was asking an awful lot of his small church. They were willing to step into that role, but what was the city willing to do? There had been many parts of the discussion where Origins had been asked to commit to things, but the only thing he'd heard from the City Council was that their hands were clean and they'd have no responsibility. This project was going to need more than just his small church and some grants that Community in Action could get. This was a community wide problem. But he kept hearing from the Council that they were not paying for this, and were not paying for that, and that would come out of the grant over and over. At this rate, the grant would only be able to purchase three shelters!

Councilor Vogt agreed that the city should bear some burden, but he would be 100% behind adding in the things they'd been discussing, to ensure it was a safe area.

Councilor Vogt agreed, and believed the county should bear some responsibility, as well as some surrounding communities. He knew that employees from Fruitland had asked him for hand-outs to give to their homeless population to send them over to Origins. This was too much to put on one small group.

Mayor Hill stated he met with the City Manager and Chief of Police in Fruitland and asked about that. Both denied ever doing that. When asked what they did with their homeless population, they indicated they didn't have services and had no problem.

Councilor Capron asked how long they intended to remain at that site? The city had expressed plans for that site for use by public safety personnel.

Pastor Vogt stated that had been addressed during the PDAC, and it could be worked around. But, currently, this was only a five-month plan.

Councilor Crume stated the problem seemed to be that no one wanted it “in their backyard”. The city had to find a space that fit most of the needs with the least amount of resistance.

Mayor Hill asked how many shelters they wanted to put in place.

Pastor Vogt stated his original plan was for 20 shelters. It kept decreasing because he kept hearing that things had to be taken out of the grant funds.

Councilor Capron asked how many shelters would be there if there were no other funds except the \$150K grant.

Pastor Vogt did not know; that was Barb's data. He thought this was supposed to be a partnership, and it was a city service, so the city would step in and support it in a partnering type of way.

Councilor Justus stated if the Council approved everything that night, when would the first person be in the village?

Pastor Vogt stated he wasn't sure he wanted approval that night. This was the first he'd heard about the agreement that had been drawn up, where Origins did so many things. He hadn't even reviewed it yet.

Councilor Crume asked if any other churches had stepped up to help out.

Pastor Vogt stated one church had indicated they would take a Christmas Eve offering.

Councilor Crume asked if other organizations in town had been approached for assistance? Or the county, or other cities?

Pastor Vogt replied not yet.

Councilor Capron asked how long Pastor Vogt would need to review the proposed agreement.

Pastor Vogt stated it would be a few days.

CAPRON moved, PALOMO second, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENE AT THE NEXT WORK SESSION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT BY ORIGINS.

Councilor Justus stated he understood the need for review, but there were also things that needed to be done. The city needed to approach the county and other cities and ask for financial support. For the city to tell him to contact the other churches and to also reach out to other cities and the county, was not right.

JUSTUS moved, CAPRON second, TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO INCLUDE HAVING THE CITY MANAGER REACH OUT TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO SEE IF THEY WERE WILLING TO HELP.

Councilor Rodriguez agreed the city should do the reaching out. But, couldn't that be done after the approval of moving forward.

Pastor Vogt stated his position would be to fight for helping as many people as possible. If the list of things talked about were to be deducted from the grant, that would remove homes. For example, have the city fund and install the fence. That would mean more houses would be available.

Ms. Higinbotham stated they needed to make a choice. Either move forward with the pilot program, or just keep kicking the can down the road. She needed a partnership from the city. She had it with Origins. They needed a decision.

Mayor Hill stated the issues that had been brought up were fencing, how many units, insurance, violations, and a review committee. He didn't want to lose the \$150K and the chance to get something moving, but if they could work in those items, and that Nichols was on the review committee, at the end of the pilot period, it should be considered by Council. They needed to quit dragging it out.

Pastor Vogt stated for him, representing Origins, if they could sit down, with a representative from the Council, they needed to have about a six-hour meeting. There were about 25 items that needed to be talked through and get clarity. What would the city be willing to help with?

Mr. Sullivan stated they were making a motion to table the action. It didn't require a reason.

Mr. Brown stated he would not mind reaching out to the other agencies, as well as meeting with Pastor Vogt and Ms. Higinbotham to work out something more finite.

Councilor Palomo stated they were asking for between 10-20 units on that property, and they were getting \$150K for the project. They needed to budget using just the \$150K. If they had to cut 10 units out so they could build a fence, or whatever else, then build 10 units now.

Pastor Vogt stated his disagreement was why did they only have \$150K that they came up with? If this was a community project, and it was a city service, there should be some other financial input from other entities. It shouldn't be just the money that Barb was able to get.

Councilor Braden stated what they had before them was step one in joining a partnership with the other two entities. The Council asked staff to conduct a PDAC, and a license had been created. The first step was the Council offering the partnership the license to use the city's property for the next six months. There were many other things that the City Manager stated he'd help with.

CAPRON moved, JUSTUS seconded, **TO CALL FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.** Roll call vote: Crume=yes; Rodriguez=yes; Palomo=yes; Justus=yes; Capron=yes; Braden=yes; Hill=yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Restated amendment: JUSTUS moved, CAPRON second, **TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO INCLUDE HAVING THE CITY MANAGER REACH OUT TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO SEE IF THEY WERE WILLING TO HELP.** Roll call vote: Crume=yes; Rodriguez=yes; Palomo=yes; Justus=yes; Capron=yes; Braden=yes; Hill=yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Restated motion: CAPRON moved, PALOMO second, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENE AT THE NEXT WORK SESSION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT BY ORIGINS AND TO HAVE THE CITY MANAGER REACH OUT TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO FIND OUT WHO WAS WILLING TO BE INVOLVED.**

Mayor Hill stated for clarification, if this was passed, the city would contact other jurisdictions, revise the agreement, give it to Origins, and have it back before the Council at the next session.

Restated motion: CAPRON moved, PALOMO second, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECONVENE AT THE NEXT WORK SESSION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT BY ORIGINS AND TO HAVE THE CITY MANAGER REACH OUT TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO FIND OUT WHO WAS WILLING TO BE INVOLVED.** Roll call vote: Crume=no; Rodriguez=no; Palomo=no; Justus=no; Capron=yes; Braden=no; Hill=yes. Motion failed 2/5/0.

BRADEN moved, CRUME seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE TEMPORARY LICENSE TO ORIGINS FAITH COMMUNITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1 FOR A PORTION OF TAX PARCEL ID 18S47E03CB05700 AND 18S47E03CB04600 AS SHOWN IN THE MAP ATTACHED TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT.** Roll call vote: Crume=yes; Rodriguez=yes; Palomo=yes; Justus=yes; Capron=no; Braden=yes; Hill=yes. Motion carried 6/1/0.

Council consensus (6-1, Mayor Hill against) to direct staff to attempt to get Vale, Nyssa, and Malheur County, along with other service organizations, including the churches, to try to find extra help with this project, and to work with Origins on any necessary wording on the license agreement.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Mayor Hill stated he was contacted by the paper asking what was occurring at the golf course. The Council knew it was probably going to come to light. He had shared it with the City Manager and the City Attorney about ten days ago that there were disgruntled employees calling him and making allegations that there were activities going on out there that were not consistent with the use of the property. He wanted the Council aware of that issue.

- Councilor Capron asked if anything had been done regarding the water billing statements?

Mr. Brown stated staff had made some adjustments. First, they were now able to itemize the items on the card. There was also concern about the security of social security numbers, but the city had stopped collecting social security numbers several years ago, and they had been purged them from the system. It was just by customer number. He had spoken with the individual who had voiced concern and explained that the worst thing that could happen was that someone would pay his bill for him. The person was pleased with the outcome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

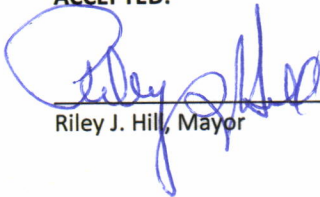
Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(h)

An executive session was called at 7:45 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(1)(h) to discuss current or potential litigation. The Council reconvened into regular session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURN

CRUME moved, JUSTUS seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-yes; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder