

**MISSION STATEMENT: TO CREATE A HEALTHY, SAFE, DIVERSE, AND PROSPEROUS CITY
BY ENGAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DEVELOP AN ENRICHED QUALITY OF LIFE.**



**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL – CITY OF ONTARIO OREGON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021, 6:00 PM, MT
[Zoom Link](#)**

Pursuant to the Public Meetings Laws and Rules within the Oregon Revised Statutes, the City Council has the authority, ability, and standing to take action on any items on the Agenda, or add items to the Agenda, during the Study Session or Regular Meeting, as long as all public meeting notice requirements have been met.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Freddy Rodriguez ____ Sam Baker ____ John Kirby ____ Ken Hart ____
Michael Braden ____ Eddie Melendrez ____ Mayor Riley Hill ____

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This Agenda was posted on February 19, 2021. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website at www.ontariooregon.org.

3) MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS Citizens may address the Council; however, Council may not be able to provide an immediate answer or response. Out of respect to the Council and others in attendance, please limit your comment to three (3) minutes. Please state your name and city of residence for the record.

5) DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) Appoint Three City Councilors to Ad-Hoc City Charter Review Committee
- B) Preliminary Meeting Schedule for Ad-Hoc City Charter Review Committee
- C) Ingeborg Dickerson Letter (dated 02/03/21) re: Homeless Shelters
- D) Update on PERS
- E) Cost Analysis of Justice Court
- F) Resolution #2021-106: Proposed Use of Marijuana Funds

6) CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A) ORS 192.660(2)(e)

8) ADJOURN

Ingeborg Dickerson
1555 River Street
Payette, Idaho 83661
Tel: 208-642-0772

February 3, 2021

Messrs.

Riley Hill, Mayor of the City of Ontario

Steven Romero, Chief of Police of the City of Ontario
Freddy Rodriguez, Ontario City Council Member
Michael Braden, Ontario City Council Member
John Kirby, Ontario City Council Member
Ken Hart, Ontario City Council Member
Sam Baker, Ontario City Council Member
Eddie Melendez, Ontario City Council Member

Gentlemen:

I am the widow of Ray Dickerson. In 1992 Ray and I bought the Huey Apartments at NW 3rd Avenue and 1st Street in Ontario. After my husband died in 2017, I have been managing the apartments myself. At the moment, I have a good onsite manager, Cody Demaris.

The City of Ontario saw fit to locate the tiny homeless shelters directly across the street from my apartment. I was not notified of this. It is possible I missed a blip in the Argus newspaper, but I was in the hospital with cancer surgery.

When I spoke to the lady who owns the Townhouse apartments where the shelters are located, she assured me that someone would be available 24/7 to supervise the tenants. She also told me there would be a six-foot fence to enclose the entire project. None of that is true.

I have attached my second letter to Barbara Higginbotham of Community in Action, and to Riley Hill. I fear for the safety of my tenants, some of whom are children, and for the obvious reduction in their quality of life in living at my apartments. I am urging you for better police presence, a real fence, possibly chain link that deters jumping across, and someone in charge to supervise the shelter patrons.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ingeborg Dickerson

Mrs. Ingeborg Dickerson
1555 River Street
Payette, Idaho 83661
Tel: 208 642 0772

Barbara Higginbotham
Community in Action
915 SW 3rd Ave.,
Ontario, Oregon 97914

February 3, 2021

Dear Barbara,

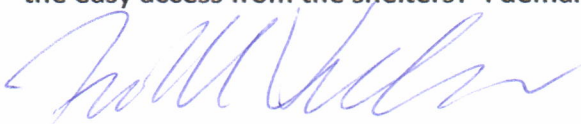
I have written to you before with my concerns regarding the placement of the individual homeless shelters across the street from my Huey apartment building located at the corner of NW 3rd Avenue and 1st Street. Now my worst fears have already come to pass.

On January 26, 2021, the sister of one of my tenants was outside with the tenant's dog, when a vagrant man trespassed on the apartment property and the dog began to bark at the man. This man attacked the dog. Another male tenant came to the aid of the tenant's sister and tried to make the man leave. This man pulled a knife on my tenant, then fled down the alley. My tenant, Jason Crane, told me that man lives at the homeless shelter.

I called the police later to ask for the report and was told there was only an incident report, not a police report. The officer, Chris Bollyard (sp?), told me he had been a tenant of mine in one of the apartments and knows the place, as well as my onsite manager, Cody Demaris and spoke highly of him.

During the discussion last fall at Ontario City Hall of where to place the shelters I was assured there would be someone in charge 24/7. Both, the police officer and my manager, found it is not so. My tenants, some of whom have been with me for over 25 years, tell me the shelter occupants are very noisy, mainly during the night hours, mainly from 2 – 6 am. They slam car doors, shout, fight and take my tenants' parking spots. My tenants also tell me there is drug dealing going on during the night in the shelters, and the homeless jump the fence, although they are supposed to stay inside the enclosure. I do not understand why a chain link fence was not put up; it would not impede visibility to drivers.

I am urging you to keep your word and supply someone who will be responsible for the behavior of the homeless. I have children living both in the white house at 330 NW 1st Street and in my apartment building. Can you guarantee me nothing will happen to them, regarding the easy access from the shelters? I demand 24/7 supervision and enhanced police presence.

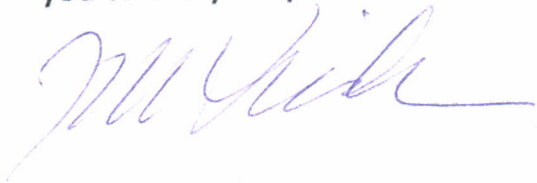


Ingeborg Dickerson

Ccs: Riley Hill, members of the Ontario City Council, Chief of Police.

The undersigned are tenants of the Huey Apartments, located at NW 3rd Avenue and NW 1st Street.

They have brought their concerns about the behavior of the patrons of the newly located homeless shelters across from my apartment building to me. I am urging you to use your powers to lessen the negative impact on their lives.



Ingeborg Dickerson



Brandie Buck



Terri Lawrence



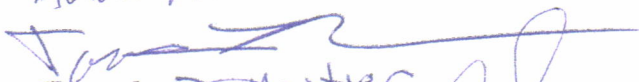
Jason Crane



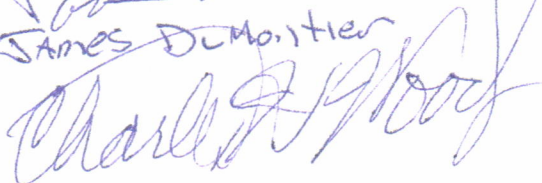
Cody Demaris



Adam Andrews



James Dumortier



Charles Wood

February 9, 2021

Mrs. Ingeborg Dickerson
1555 River Street
Payette, ID 83661

Dear Mrs. Dickerson,

Thank you for your letters regarding the shelter units located at 123 NW 3rd Ave in Ontario. I appreciate your concerns and want to let you know more about the shelter and its residents. The shelter committee is in the process of developing informational flyers and is planning to distribute them into the community near the shelter. The desired outcome is that the community will be better informed about who the priority residents of the shelter community are and who they are not.

As you know, the shelter was developed in 2020 as a pilot program. The result of the pilot program was very positive. There were 39 family/individual residents of the shelter over a span of just under one month. 38 out of 39 residents were given assistance to find "step up" housing prior to the project closing. The only police calls that were placed at the shelter were due to "wellness" checks that were conducted. There were no police calls for fighting or other nuisance issues. There was one call made to the police because a youth left their backpack on the sidewalk and it was returned to the owner.

The current shelter houses 16 residents/families. The priority for these units is elderly/disabled and families with small children. The shelter offers a clean and safe place for select few homeless residents of our community. This is a 16-unit solution in a community that has well over 300 homeless people. The fence was placed around the property according to City code. The fence is helpful for residents and non-residents to understand that this is a private community and offers a boundary to those who do not reside there. There has been education given to several non-residents who have trespassed on the property and private property signs have been placed in conspicuous locations that can be viewed by the public.

Oversight of the shelter is provided 24/7 through a contract with Origins Faith Community. Origins continues to offer support to the staff and the residents. They participate in weekly shelter calls to improve services. Origins is not the oversight for all homeless in Ontario even though they have a special interest in helping the homeless. The shelter committee strives to meet all challenges head on with the help of Origins Faith Community and the Day Shelter operations that provides meals, education, warming, and computer access to those who participate there.

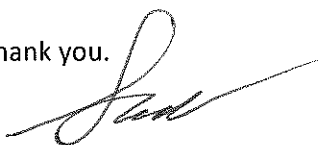
Community in Action staff met with each shelter resident on Monday and reinforced the rules and expectations of all residents. This may cause some residents to move from the shelter but it is important that the rules are applied strictly for safety and health reasons. Community in Action also

communicated that the Origins staff has the power to report incidences to help mitigate health and safety concerns.

Safety for citizens is a top priority for the shelter committee. The City of Ontario has agreed to have more police presence in the community so you may see them driving by more often. The shelter committee may also want to discuss the addition of security cameras that may further discourage shelter residents and non-shelter residents from activity that will negatively reflect on them. Please give that some thought and let me know if you think this is something that will reinforce positive behavior from all who reside in that area. We also want to reinforce that if any resident in any community suspects that they are in danger or witness a crime taking place, they should call 911 immediately and report the incident to police.

I want to thank you for your assistance in helping the less fortunate in our communities. I have reviewed your letters with the shelter committee and your input is valuable to us. Please keep me informed as we strive to make improvements to the shelter community and the citizens who reside near it.

Thank you.



Barb Higinbotham
Executive Director
Community in Action

Cc: Riley Hill

Adam Brown

Shelter Committee

Tori Barnett

From: Ken Hart
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 7:07 AM
To: ~CityCouncil
Cc: Adam Brown; Tori Barnett
Subject: Budget Resolution
Attachments: FY 21-22 Budget Resolution.docx

Mayor, City Council members and staff:

I am requesting that the attached (copied below) resolution be put on the agenda for our consideration at the scheduled February 23, 2021 City Council meeting. Thank you....kh

FY21-22 Budget Resolution:

I move that the Ontario City Council direct staff and the Budget Committee to submit and pass a budget that assumes all locally taxed marijuana revenue will be used for the following purposes only:

- Payments to reduce the unfunded liability of the City of Ontario's PERS retirement debt which is currently in excess of \$13 million (interest payments on this unfunded liability negatively impact the general fund resources by taking funds from operations and puts them towards PERS interest payments), and
- Engineering, design and federal matching requirements for infrastructure improvement projects that benefit the citizens of Ontario, and
- Capital projects that benefit the citizens of Ontario.



RESOLUTION #2021-106

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING USE OF MARIJUANA FUNDS

- WHEREAS,** The City is experiencing a substantial growth in revenue attributable to the sale of marijuana; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Marijuana legalization has increased across the United States and it is believed that states will continue to soften their stance toward acceptance; **and**
- WHEREAS,** A significant amount, far more than a majority, of the revenue comes from sales to residents in Idaho; **and**
- WHEREAS,** If marijuana sales are legalized in the State of Idaho, Ontario will lose the majority of this source of revenue; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Investments in our community and efforts to make our primary services more sustainable for the future is the most responsible use of this revenue stream.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Ontario City Council, to direct staff and the Budget Committee to submit and pass a budget that assumes all locally taxed marijuana revenue will be used for the following purposes only:

- Payments to reduce the unfunded liability of the City of Ontario's PERS retirement debt which is currently at almost \$11 million (interest payments on this unfunded liability negatively impact the general fund resources by taking funds from operations and puts them towards PERS interest payments); and
- Engineering, design, and federal matching requirements for infrastructure improvement projects that benefit the citizens of Ontario; and
- Capital projects that benefit the citizens of Ontario.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ontario this ____ day of _____ 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NAYES:
ABSENT:

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____ 2021.

ATTEST

Riley J. Hill, Mayor

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder