CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present or attended via telephone were Riley Hill, Norm Crume, Freddy Rodriguez, Ramon Palomo, Marty Justus, Michael Braden, and Ken Hart. Also present were Councilors-Elect John Kirby, Sam Baker, and Eddie Melendrez.

Members of staff present in person or via telephone were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Terry Leighton, Steven Romero, Kari Ott, Dan Cummings, Larry Sullivan, and Laura Reyes.

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

Special guest Colton Slinker led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on January 5, 2021. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

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

SPECIAL ACTION

OUTGOING CITY COUNCILORS: NORM CRUME, MARTY JUSTUS, AND RAMON PALOMO

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented each outgoing City Councilor with a plaque, thanking them all for their service to the City of Ontario.

SWEARING IN NEW CITY COUNCILORS EDDIE MELENDREZ, SAM BAKER, AND JOHN KIRBY

City Recorder Tori Barnett swore Eddie Melendrez, Sam Baker, and John Kirby into their positions as Ontario City Councilors.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **TO APPOINT COUNCILOR FREDDY RODRIGUEZ TO THE POSITION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND COUNCIL LIAISONS

Mayor Hill recommended moving Luke Kellar, currently the Alternate on the Airport Committee, to a regular position on that Committee; and appointing Councilor John Kirby to the position of Council Liaison to the Airport Committee; Councilor Ken Hart to the Audit Committee; Judy Snyder and David Sullivan to the Budget Board; Councilor Eddie Melendrez to the Business Loan Fund Committee; Janet Komoto to the Diversity Advisory Committee; Councilor John Kirby to remain a member, in addition to Council Liaison, to the Marijuana Ad-Hoc Committee; Lynn Johnson and David Goldthorpe to the Parks Committee; John Breidenbach to the Planning Commission; Scott Wilson to the Public Works Committee; Councilor Sam Baker as Liaison to the Public Works Committee; Debbie Blackaby to the Visitors

& Conventions Bureau Board, and Councilor Ken Hart as the voting member representing the Council on the V& C Board.

BRADEN moved, RODRIGUEZ seconded, **TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS AS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

CONSENT AGENDA

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED A HANGAR LEASE TRANSFER TO DARRELL LATHAM, 246 DECATHLON: AND A HOUSING INCENTIVE GRANT TO GARCIA**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMERCIAL LAND LEASE: JIM BAIN, #245 ERCOUPE
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE LEASE AS PRESENTED FOR JIM BAIN AT #245 ERCOUPE.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL AWARD: AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CONTRACT
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded **THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE OREGON DOT GRANT AGREEMENT ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS OF $358,931.28 AND CONFIRMING CITY MATCH FUNDS OF $89,728 TO BE INCLUDED IN FY22 BUDGET.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

RESOLUTION #2021-102: WAIVE UTILITY FEES FOR RESTAURANTS AND BARS THAT WERE REQUIRED TO CLOSE PART OF THEIR SERVICE DUE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-65
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

Councilor Baker asked what would be done if the businesses were required to be closed longer.

Mayor Hill replied that the Council would revisit the issue at that time.

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2021-102, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, APPROVING A FORGIVENESS OF UTILITY BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER (2020), JANUARY (2021), AND FEBRUARY (2021) FOR BUSINESSES THAT WERE REQUIRED TO EITHER BE CLOSED COMPLETELY OR TO BE CLOSED TO DINE-IN SERVICE BECAUSE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-65.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PRESENTATION

JOINT CITY COUNCIL – PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN FOR EAST IDAHO AVENUE
Planning Commission Chair Ralph Poole called roll for the Planning Commission, who were all attending via telephone. Those present were Ralph Poole, Cindy McLeran, John Hall, Max Twombly, Blu Fortner, and Cydney Cooke. John Breidenbach was absent.

Nick Foster, Kittleson & Associates, addressed the PowerPoint presentation (attached).

Councilor Hart requested that they be provided a document which outlined current to new, so the changes were easily identifiable. Also, when mentioning Oregon standards, was that referring to rural Oregon standards, or Portland standards?

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, they would. There was a document which would show the existing code. Anything proposed as a change would be struck out and new items would be underlined. Also, it was being recommended to reduce the parking requirements to reduce driving and promote walking and biking to the businesses.

Mr. Brown stated there should be graphics included in that document.

Councilor Kirby asked if the proposed housing development behind Walmart was aware of this proposal.

Mr. Cummings stated no; they had to rezone from High Density Commercial to General Commercial. The proposed code on C2H would allow the same thing to occur, but under a conditional use permit. It gave the city more control. Instead of turning the entire commercial area into a parking complex, they could control how many spaces and set some rules.

Mayor Hill stated he noticed a lot of green spaces on the proposal, along with some areas for draught spaces. His concern was the maintenance and what the cost would be to the city. He did see that there was rock or bark in some areas, but the bark could blow away and the rocks collected cigarette butts and trash. It always looked nice when first installed. All that green looked nice but was concerned about the cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Foster stated that was something that could, and should, be addressed during the design.

Commissioner Poole stated if this moved forward as wanted, and the trail system went along the Snake River ending at the Oregon State Park, there was no parking anywhere other than commercial already developed parking. There was parking in front of Big 5, but that was their parking. There was parking at Walmart, but that was their parking. If the city was going to entice people to use these multi-use trails, won't the city need to provide parking? He believed people would want to park there and unload their bikes or whatever and then hit the trails. What was the plan?

Mr. Cummings stated the plan was that near the Water Treatment Plant at the end of SE 5th Avenue, the city had a piece of property that would become the trailhead for this end of the trail.

Commissioner Poole questioned some of the areas in town where there were narrow streets, no curbs or sidewalks, and some open drain ditches. Those were supposed to be addressed so there could be pedestrian and bicycle traffic. How high were those prioritized? Or was all the funding going to go on Idaho Avenue?

Mr. Foster stated there was a drawing showing the areas that were being proposed for improvement. That was included in their outline.

Councilor Hart stated there still road in Ontario that were not all paved, something that had been brought up in a previous Council meeting.

Mr. Cummings stated this grant was focused on the East Idaho side; it was not town wide.

Mr. Brown stated they all saw the city from a different perspective, so everyone's ideas were important. He encouraged them all to get them to staff or Chairman Poole.

Chairman Poole stated he wasn't trying to direct funds into a specific place, but they were spending a lot of grant money in an area to improve the looks of things. He liked that, but to him, there were areas in town that were safety hazards because of no curbs, no sidewalks, and even open ditches. He wasn't trying to downplay beautification and the accessibility for walking and biking on East Idaho Avenue, because that would be great, but he was also aware that there were other areas in the city with half streets, unfinished streets, lack of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. There was a 20% match on this grant, so make sure the use of those funds was going in the proper direction.

Councilor Kirby stated East Idaho Avenue was busy, and he knew proponents of the bike paths. They wanted to go where the others were. But those streets were designed a long time ago, and they weren't going to get any wider. Same thing downtown – instead of the bike path going down South Oregon, it would be on SE 1st Street over by the Train Depot. On this project, the parallel street would be SE 5th, which ran that entire length of where they wanted to be. It was congested now, and he saw no benefit to putting bikes in the middle of it.

Mr. Foster stated the East Idaho project would go in in conjunction with widening East Idaho Avenue. It would allow space for the walkers and bikers to get off the road they were using now.

Commissioner McLeran stated she wasn't seeing the timeframe on the project for East Idaho Avenue.

Mr. Foster stated it wasn't currently programed for funding by ODOT, so it was probably at least five years out.

FORTNER moved, HALL seconded, **TO ADJOURN THE PLANNING COMMISSION PORTION OF THE MEETING**. Roll call vote: Cooke-yes; McLeran-yes; Fortner-yes; Breidenbach-out; Hall-yes; Twombly-yes; Poole-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF 2021 MEETINGS CALENDAR

Councilor Kirby asked if the calendar was provided electronically so they had notice of updates.

Mr. Brown stated staff would accommodate whichever medium the Council wanted. Meetings could be pushed on their calendars via their city mail, or whatever they wanted.

Councilor Braden stated the committee appointments read that the Airport Committee met on the fourth Monday of every month, which was what had been done in the past, but it now read the first Monday of the month.

Ms. Barnett stated she had been informed that the Committee wanted to move their meetings to the first Monday of the month.

Councilor Hart suggested tabling this issue to the next meeting so everyone could sync their calendars.

Councilor Braden stated this just set the regularly scheduled calendar in a format that could be viewed. Why weren't they approving it now?

Mayor Hill stated it was at the pleasure of the Council.

Councilor Kirby stated he just wanted it more accessible; make it an easy tab.

KIRBY moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **TO TABLE THE CITY CALENDAR UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-no; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/1/0.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

KIRBY moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE CITY TO ACT AS A FIDUCIARY FOR CERTAIN LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE EASTERN OREGON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BORDER BOARD.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

RESOLUTION #2021-101: GRANT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL AWARD
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

KIRBY moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2021-101, A RESOLUTION TO AWARD GRANT ADMINISTRATION, LABOR STANDARDS, AND RELATED SERVICES TO DUCOTE CONSULTING, LLC, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF $25,000.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

WALMART EASEMENT
Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE EASEMENT AGREEEMENT AND COMPENSATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-no; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/1/0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Finance: Monthly Report *(Attached)*
Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

City Recorder: Annual Report *(Attached)*
Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

Police: Quarterly Report *(Attached)*
Steven Romero, Police Chief, presented.

Code Enforcement: Quarterly Report *(Attached)*
Steven Romero, Police Chief, presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Councilor Kirby stated he noticed the new visual package they were seeing that night. He appreciated what had been done. He hoped to bring in better sound quality for just telephoning in.

Mayor Hill stated he signed a check last week for $7,500 worth of equipment, and then paid $1,000 a meeting to have someone look over it. He thought the meeting fee was a bit excessive. He wanted to ensure that when they reviewed contracts, more attention was paid before approving.

HAND-OUTS

Minutes: *(Attached)*
County Court: 11-05-2020; 12-09-2020; 12-23-2020; 12-30-2020

SREDA *(Attached)*
Agenda 01-05-2021
2020 Snapshot
2021 Budget

Monthly Department Stats *(Attached)*
Fire & Rescue
Public Works
Police
Code Enforcement

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Mayor Hill stated he signed a check last week for $17,000 for floor covering that went to the gun range. When they approved that, he thought it was for improvements for the gun range itself, not for carpet inside the building. Again, they needed to pay more attention to the contacts brought before them.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORS 192.660(2)(h)
An executive session was called at 8:30 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(1)(h) to discuss current or potential litigation. The Council entered a second executive session at 8:58 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORS 192.660(2)(d)
An executive session was called at 8:58 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(1)(d) to discuss labor negotiations. The Council reconvened into regular session at 9:27 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
BRADEN moved, KIRBY seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE ONTARIO POLICE ASSOCIATION WHAT IF PROPOSAL DATED 12-21-20.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ADJOURN

RODRIGUEZ moved, BAKER seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:

Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder