



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION ONLY
October 22, 2021

An Executive Session of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Riley Hill, John Kirby, Ken Hart, Michael Braden, Eddie Melendrez, Sam Baker, and Susann Mills. Councilor Hart departed at 5:25 p.m.

Members of staff present were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, and Larry Sullivan.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on October 20, 2021. Copies of the Agenda are available on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

BAKER moved, KIRBY seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(h)

An Executive Session was called at 4:34 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(h) for current or potential litigation. The Council adjourned the session at 4:54 p.m. and convened into a second Executive Session.

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(f)

An Executive Session was called at 4:54 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(f) to discuss an item covered by Attorney-Client privilege for current or potential litigation. The Council adjourned the session at 5:33 p.m. and convened into regular session.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Following Executive Session

Mayor Hill asked if anyone wanted to pursue Councilor Hart's idea to direct the City Manager to find someone to get the evidence room purged.

Councilor Kirby stated if they were to seek a firm that would do the project, would it have to be made up of an attorney and someone from law enforcement? What qualifications were needed to discern what needed to be done.

Mr. Brown stated it could be accomplished by the same team. The Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police had a program and that was who conducted the first audit. The city would be paying for their accommodations and meals. That was made up of other law enforcement officers. The good part was that the city was not involved in it.

Councilor Kirby asked how long it was estimated to accomplish.

Mr. Brown stated it could take two weeks just to get a team together. With a team, it could be another two weeks, or longer. He had no idea.



Councilor Kirby stated when the city used the team from the Chief's Association, was that paid weekly? What would be the financial requirements?

Mr. Brown stated their time was in-kind, but the city paid for their per diem and mileage. He believed the first team was under \$10K. A private company would be three to four times as much. There was a request already in place to put that together, and he would be pushing that as much as possible.

Councilor Melendrez stated it needed to be done, so pay the cost and get it taken care of.

Councilor Kirby asked if they had to put out an RFP or would the City Manager make an inquiry to some professional organizations to arrive at an approximate cost.

Mr. Brown stated it would be a professional service under \$50K, so he didn't think an RFP was required. However, it would be best to obtain more than just one quote.

Councilor Mills asked why they were looking to hire another entity to do the purge if the Oregon State Police were already investigating the issue. Wouldn't that be part of their job?

Mr. Brown stated OSP couldn't be part of the audit and purge and still maintain the integrity of an independent investigation. It had to be a separate party who conducted the purge.

Councilor Braden stated he heard Mr. Brown say he would prompt the Police Chief's Association to accelerate the purge. That appeared to be the most reasonable, responsible route versus hiring another entity to do it. That might not accelerate it as quickly, but it seemed the prudent path to take.

Mayor Hill stated it appeared the way to proceed was to have the City Manager put together different options and present those options other Council at the next meeting.

Councilor Melendrez concurred with Councilor Braden's comment. If there was a route to go that was with an organization that provided in-kind services, great, but if something needed to be paid for, then pay for it. They just needed to get this done. Also, during one of the prior presentations by Chief Romero, he was trying to get that part time employee to full time, but he didn't want to do all these things, pay for all these things, and then in a year end up back where they started with being audited or something else going missing. Maybe that was down the road, but it needed to be thought about.

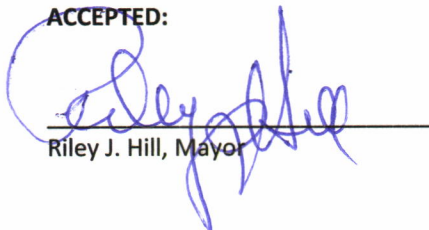
Mayor Hill asked for a consensus to have the City Manager investigate.

Council consensus to move forward with having the City Manager move forward.

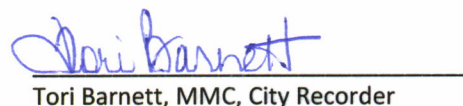
ADJOURN

KIRBY moved, BRADEN seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Melendrez-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/0.

ACCEPTED:


Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder