



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 14, 2023

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, Sam Baker, John Kirby, Eddie Melendrez, and Ken Hart. Penny Bakefelt was excused.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Corinna Hysell, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, James Swank, Al Haun, and Paul Woods.

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

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on February 10, 2022. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

Dan Cummings, City Manager, asked for the addition of an action item under New Business to discuss the request by ODOT for a Letter of Support for a grant that was due February 27, 2023.

MELENDREZ moved, HART seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Burks, Post 67 Commander, Ontario, stated he was before Council that evening based on a resolution that had been passed to ask the Council to start a Veteran's Committee. The Ontario post had been here since 1919, and the veterans there had always supported the Ontario community. Recently, there appeared to be a disconnect between veterans and the city. This was something that could potentially benefit both entities.

CONSENT AGENDA

KIRBY moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2023**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments: City Committees (Budget, Diversity, Homelessness TPM; Planning)

Tori Barnett, City Recorder, presented.

There had recently been a resignation from the Budget Committee, so there was now a vacancy for that position, and a request for appointment had been received from Norm Crume. Also, one application received had asked to be appointed to two different committees.



The applicants for the various committees were as follows: Steffani Gilbert, Diversity and/or Homelessness; John Breidenbach, Manny Alvarado, Sandy Kendall, Marc Berg, Christine Hood, and Jenni Rodriguez, Homelessness; and Antonio Sunseri, Planning.

Councilor Hart asked if that had been an extra application for the Budget Committee, or had that been published as an opening? How did Mr. Crume become aware of the vacancy?

Ms. Barnett stated upon Mr. Braden's resignation, she received the application from Mr. Crume yesterday.

Councilor Hart stated while Mr. Crume would be an excellent addition, he would like it opened up to the community, for maybe just one Council meeting, to see if there were others in the community that might have an interest.

Ms. Barnett stated she knew staff was hoping to get it filled quickly as budget hearings were coming up.

Councilor Hart stated there would be at least one more meeting so they could try to see if there was anyone else interested.

Ms. Barnett stated if that was the direction of the Council, she'd make it happen.

Councilor Kirby stated it had been discussed that there would possibly be the cancellation of the second meeting in February.

Councilor Hart asked why there would not be a second February meeting.

Mr. Cummings stated that was an item on the current agenda to discuss the issue, but it was because he had made vacation plans to be gone during that meeting, before realizing it was a conflict. Regarding the vacancy on the Budget Board, advertising for that vacancy had been discussed at the staff level, and it was quite expensive. However, it could go on the city's website and Facebook page for no charge.

Councilor Baker stated his agreement with Councilor Hart in opening the position up to solicit other applications for the position.

Councilor Hart stated the March 7th meeting was all information and the board would not take any action, so anyone interested could attend, and at the following meeting of March 14th, the Council could act upon any applications received. He recommended they be more transparent.

KIRBY moved, HART seconded, **TO APPOINT STEFFANI GILBERT TO DIVERSITY AND ANTONIO SUNSERI TO PLANNING.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

HART moved, MELENDREZ seconded, **TO APPOINT JOHN BREIDENBACH, MANNY ALVARADO, SANDY KENDALL, MARC BERG, AND CHRISTINE HOOD TO THE HOMELESSNESS TPM AD HOC COMMITTEE.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Bid Award: Airport Water Line Extension

Al Haun, Assistant Project Director, presented.

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE BIDS AS PRESENTED AND AWARD THE WATER LINE EXTENSION TO WARRINGTON CONSTRUCTION FOR THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$25,800.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



ODOT Letter of Support

Dan Cummings, City Manager, apologized for this late addition, but he'd only received the emailed request that day. ODOT was asking for a letter of support from the City of Ontario, as they wanted to pursue a grant for the East Idaho Avenue underpass, referred to as US 30. He was seeking a consensus from the Council to have him research this issue, to ensure it was a grant for a specific area, and that it would be a benefit to the city. And if it was, the Council authorized him to compose a letter of support for the Mayor's signature.

Councilor Kirby asked who had true ownership of the bridge.

Mr. Cummings stated the trussell, the crossing, belonged to Union Pacific Railroad. The underpass, the right of way, and the concrete walls belonged to the city. He was surprised that ODOT was going after a grant to fix that since it was a city street. That's why he wanted to confirm this project.

HART moved, MILLS seconded, **TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER TO ODOT IN SUPPORT OF THE GRANT APPLICATION.** Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**Finance: Monthly Update December 2022**

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Public Works: Annual Update 2022

Al Haun, Assistant Project Director, presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Safe Streets for All \$280,000 Grant** *(PowerPoint attached)*

Paul Woods, City Engineer, presented. Some bullet points for background: Established as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; Provides \$5 billion in funding over 5 years; This is the first round of grant awards under the program; \$810 Million awarded to 510 communities; 473 Action Plans and 37 Implementation Projects; Only local governments are eligible for funding, state DOTs are not eligible; Merchant McIntyre identified the opportunity and coordinated the submittal. Last August, the city approved a resolution in support of the grant application, committing to the elimination of traffic fatalities or transportation related deaths from the current level of 3.4 to zero by 2027, as part of the vision zero program. In developing the scope of work, it indicated Ontario is committed to establishing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that is aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries in its community in the next 5 years.

In August of 2022, the Ontario City Council passed a resolution that pledged the city to working towards the goal of zero deaths in the community. If provided SS4A funding, the city would actively create opportunities for meaningful community engagement, including the creation of a SS4A Task force that represented diverse interests, and several opportunities for public input and feedback. The city's effort continued its strategic approach to updating its Transportation Plan and leverages Police Department leadership and experience with Vision Zero and safety implementation strategies.

Ontario would combine this experience with an evidence-based approach to drive the entire Action Plan development process. Specifically, the city would use data to examine trends of accident locations, conditions, and other factors that resulted in serious injury and death on its roads.



With 81.80% of its population in an Underserved Community Census tract, Ontario would seek to identify demographics and road users that were overrepresented in accidents in the community. This information, along with resources such as EJScreen and FHWA Socioeconomics and Equity Analysis, would help Ontario determine areas of the city that were in the most need of road safety improvements to promote equity. Ontario would also use this same evidence-based approach when selecting projects and strategies for its Action Plan, using FHWA resources and proven safety countermeasures to increase safety and equity in a low-cost, high-impact manner throughout the community.

The following email was received by the city: *The City of Ontario Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan, for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) FY22 Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan, was selected for award. Congratulations! The selection is for \$280000 in Federal funding: This email is not authorization to begin work, and it does not guarantee Federal funding. USDOT and City of Ontario must establish and execute a signed, mutually agreed upon grant agreement prior to the disbursement of award funds. No costs incurred before USDOT signs and executes the grant agreement will be reimbursed. Below provides information on next steps.*

Immediate next steps: *USDOT will make public announcements related to the awards on Wednesday, February 1. We will also publish a short summary of the proposal from your application to put on our Safe Streets and Roads for All website as part of the public announcement, pursuant to Section H Part 2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). If you want to modify what is provided on our website once you see it, please let me know by emailing SS4A@dot.gov. The website link is <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.*

What to expect in the next few weeks: *My colleagues at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are responsible for establishing and executing a SS4A grant agreement with City of Ontario. You can expect to hear from a FHWA representative with your State's FHWA Division Office in the near future. In the weeks ahead you will receive more information about next steps, including an invitation to an upcoming FHWA-sponsored webinar for grant recipients to describe the process leading to an executed grant agreement. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. In the meantime, if you have questions about next steps, please direct them to FHWA using the email SS4A.FHWA@dot.gov.*

Finally, we ask for your patience as we work diligently toward executing grant agreements so your important safety work may begin. This is a new program, with hundreds of new grant recipients, and it will take us time to process these grant agreements.

It's exciting to see so many communities on the path to improving roadway safety, and the whole SS4A Program team is passionate about helping you succeed. Thank you for your commitment to roadway safety.

For the grant implementation, Public Works would take the lead in implementing the grant, working closely with the Police Department and City Manager. Public Engagement Facilitation and Grant Administration would be done by Jacobs (\$50K); and Technical Consultant would be Kittelson (Likely the bulk of the work).

February 28th Council Meeting

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated this was to ask for consideration in canceling the February 28, 2023, Council meeting. He had scheduled a trip with his wife in celebration of her birthday, and had accidentally booked it over the 28th, so he would miss that meeting. In meeting with staff, it was determined that the issues that needed to be presented to Council would be at the March 14th meeting.

Council consensus to cancel the meeting scheduled for February 28, 2023, Council meeting.



Ladder Truck #109: Status and Options (Letter attached)

Clint Benson, Fire Chief, presented.

On February 1st Ontario Fire and Rescue received a failed inspection report for ladder truck 109. Truck 109 is a 1987 Seagrave that currently has 20,898 miles and 3,997 hours recorded. The inspection was conducted by Apparatus Equipment & Service, Inc. for a cost of \$1,975.10. The inspection tested truck 109 in accordance with NFPA 1911, Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles. "The primary purpose of this standard is to provide requirements for an inspection, maintenance, and testing program that will ensure that in-service emergency vehicle are serviced and maintained to keep them in safe operating condition and ready for response at all times" (NFPA 1911, 1.2.1). The last test conducted on 109 was in 2020. Ladder truck 109 can now only be utilized to flow water from the ladder. The ladder is not safe for use by firefighting personnel for training or rescue operations.

The inspection report lists the main reasons for failure as failure of electrical components while rotating the aerial portion of the apparatus, leaking extension ram seals, and loose extension cables. I have reached out to Dusty Ballantyne of Star Fire District Maintenance Division, the company that currently provides maintenance and repairs to our fleet. Mr. Ballantyne informed me that the cost of the electrical issues alone would be more than \$20,000 and that due to the age of the apparatus, parts for the other required repairs will be very difficult, if not impossible to find. I am still gathering cost information for the other issues; however, they will be very costly as well and we have already spent over \$14,000 in repairs for 109 in this current budget year. Our budget for vehicle repairs for the 22-23 FY is \$14,610 and we are currently more than \$11,000 over budget.

I have gathered cost estimates for several options moving forward:

- 1. Complete refurbishment of Truck 109: Not recommended due to the age of 109 and inability to get parts.*
- 2. Purchase of a used ladder truck in good condition (2010 or newer): \$600K to \$750K.*
- 3. Lease a new ladder truck. I am still waiting for annual cost estimates for this option.*
- 4. Purchase a new ladder truck (stock unit- 2 to 8 months wait time): \$1.6 million*
- 5. Purchase a new ladder truck (custom unit- 35 to 38 months wait time) -1.75 million*

I will continue to explore options and cost estimates. My recommendation is option #2 if moneys are available. One of my future goals for the fire department is to create a capital reserve account for fire apparatus, so that apparatus is replaced on a scheduled basis, prior to incurring excessive repair costs and safety issues.

Councilor Mills stated it appeared 109 needed to be retired. Some of the over \$1M mark were scary. She believed that option 2, purchasing a used truck, not knowing what a used one would run, was the way to go.

Mr. Cummings stated staff was attempting to get a FEMA grant. Merchant McIntyre had been working on that for quite a while. That application was due in February. However, even if the city received the grant, it was 30 months out from notification to get one in. A new ladder would be approximately \$1.5M. The FEMA grant was only up to \$1M, so even if the city received the grant, they'd have to find the additional \$500K-700K to complete the purchase. That's why Chief Benson made the presentation. The city needed a ladder truck. The city was going to have a new 5-story motel soon. This was to put the information before the Council so they could determine the best route, and how they wanted to direct to staff to move. Where would the money come from for a used truck, for about the same price it would be to bring in match dollars for a new truck, with no guarantee the city would get the grant to make that purchase. Staff was seeking direction on their next move.

Councilor Kirby stated in reading the agreement the city had for shared equipment with other cities, was there someone in the valley that had a ladder truck?



Chief Benson stated there was. The city was in a good Mutual Aid Agreement with several departments around the area, and Weiser and Payette had ladder trucks. The issue could be that on a good day, if they were paged out for a ladder truck right when the call came in, it was still 20 minutes before getting that truck here. Could be up to 40 minutes on the average if they were requested as the guys were leaving the station.

Councilor Kirby verified that in the last budget cycle, there were funds set aside for a truck, but that was for Rescue One, and those funds had been expended.

Mr. Cummings stated that was correct. That truck had been ordered.

HAND-OUTS

Check Register *(Attached)*

January 2023; no questions.

Department Stats *(Attached)*

Police, Code Enforcement, Fire, Public Works – January 2023

Minutes: *(Attached)*

County Court: 01-18-2023; 01-25-2023; 02-01-2023

Tater Tots Trail: 12-14-2022; 01-11-2023

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Councilor Hart stated since Mr. Burks was still in attendance, he'd like to have on the March 14th agenda, to add the discussion regarding the development of a veteran's committee for the city. He would ask Mr. Burks, that since the city oftentimes struggled to find volunteers to serve on the various committees, that he attend the 14th meeting with a list of Ontario residents that would be interested in serving. That would help the Council put together a committee.

Mr. Burks stated with regard to the March 14th meeting, he'd be traveling to Washington, DC, and upon his return, he had to go to the Portland/Tillamook area, then St. Helens, and then down to Prineville. He would not be back to Ontario until the 19th. He could do the homework, but he would not be able to actually attend the meeting on the 14th.

Mr. Cummings stated he had discussed this request with Mr. Burks and informed him that this was not a normal city committee, and that city staff was already spread out very thin, along with meeting times. Mr. Burks indicated his group would operate the committee. They would have the membership appointed by the Council, but the committee would have a secretary that would handle the clerical pieces. They did not expect Ontario staff time for this. Also, if the Council Chambers were unavailable, they would hold their meetings at one of the veteran facilities.

Councilor Hart disbursed a hand-out to the Council, a document that had been released by the Governor on February 2, 2023. Governor Kotek was creating a statewide Housing Production Advisory Council. The Governor's office was looking for volunteers to be appointed to that committee. She was looking to appoint housing developers with an expertise in permanent, supportive, affordable, and market rate housing, representative of rural and coastal communities, communities of color, and local government representatives. It was to provide her advice and State of Oregon advice as she had made an increase in housing production one of her priorities. Former Mayor Riley Hill was going to submit his name on an application, which was due February 15th. Councilor Hart asked that the City of Ontario send a letter of support for Mr. Hill's candidacy. It was up to the Governor to determine the committee, but having support from the city would be beneficial. He'd like them to have a consensus to direct staff to draft a letter of support for Mr. Hill's application, with the Mayor as signatory.



Council consensus to compose the letter of support for the candidacy of Riley Hill to the Governor's committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

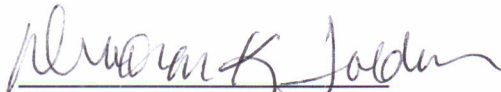
ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property

An executive session was called at 7:05 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(e) to discuss real property. The Council reconvened into regular session at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

BAKER moved, KIRBY seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-yes; Folden-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

ACCEPTED:


Deborah K. Folden, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder