

**CITY OF SILVERTON  
HOMELESS/HOUSING TASK FORCE MINUTES**

**Zoom Web Conference Platform**

**May 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The task force members and staff were present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Chair Palmer explained the meeting is being held through Zoom in accordance with House Bill 4212.

Present	Excused	
X		Kyle Palmer
X		Rachel-Anne Rapoza
X		Sara White
X		Helen Thomas
	X	Jess Miller
X		Dana Smith
X		Jennifer Hannan
X		Sarah DeSantis (arrived at 6:05 pm)
	X	Hilary Dumitrescu
X		Karen Garst
X		Joseph Schmaus

Staff Present:

City Manager, Ron Chandler and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Garst made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 28, 2021. Member White seconded the motion. Member Smith abstained, because she was excused from the meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0), with member Smith abstaining.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM – NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Legislative Update – Shelter and Homelessness Bills**

Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Angela Speier provide an overview of four legislative bills that have passed and/or are likely to pass during the 2021 Legislative Session. The first bill reviewed was HB 2006 which has been signed into law on May 12, 2021. This bill takes effect immediately and requires local governments to approve an application for an emergency shelter regardless of state or local land use laws. These means a City cannot deny an application to develop an emergency shelter if the application complies with HB 2006, even if the City’s land use code would prohibit the shelter at that location. Member White asked if their pallet shelters would qualify as an emergency shelter under this bill. Ms. Speier said she believes it would and will confirm whether or not they would still be required to go through the conditional use process.

The second bill reviewed was HB 3162 which is also signed into law and requires local governments to allow the conversion of hotels and motels into an emergency shelter or affordable housing, regardless of state or local land use laws.

The third piece of legislation was HB 3115 which requires that any city or county law regulating the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outside on public property must be “objectively reasonable” based on the totality of the circumstances as applied to all stakeholders, including persons experiencing homelessness. The City will need to work with the City Attorney to ensure Silverton’s Municipal Code complies with this piece of legislation by July 1, 2023. This body could also make a recommendation to the City Council on updated code language. It has passed the House 35-23 and is working its way through the Senate.

The last bill reviewed was HB 3124A which updates the regulations around campsite removal procedures. It extends the requirements for law enforcement to provide written notice before removing homeless individuals from an established camping site from 24 hours to 72 hours. It also requires jurisdictions to store unclaimed personal property in a facility located in the same community as the camp site which it was removed from.

## **V. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM – OLD BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Community Center Updates**

At the last meeting the Task Force made a recommendation for City Council to direct staff to facilitate discussions with Sheltering Silverton and the Community Center users about the best way to create a usable winter shelter space at the Community Center. Ms. Speier reported staff held meetings with the tenants and feels a solution can be agreed upon and Sheltering Silverton will have a space to hold their warming shelter this winter.

Member Garst asked if there is any discussion on making improvements to the building that have been identified by the building official. Chair Palmer explained some modifications will need to be made to the building if this plan moves forward, but that does not include the larger capital projects that are needed. Ms. Speier explained the City has only budgeted for the potential need to install an ADA ramp if the elevator were to fail. Member Garst asked if the City could pursue a grant to assist with the improvements. At the last Work Session where City Council discussed the needs for the building they were pretty clear they were ready to divest in the Community Center once the Civic Center is completed. Staff noted the Oregon Military Department owns the building and it might be worth reaching back out to them to discuss the capital improvement needs for the building. Chair Palmer said the YMCA has expressed interest in taking over the Community Center in some type of capacity long term, which is encouraging.

## **VI. TASK FORCE UPDATES**

### **6.1 Sheltering Silverton**

Member White provided an update on Sheltering Silverton’s Day Center which will be relocating from their current space to the Community Center in June. During the month of June they will be closed in order to move and get ready for expanding winter services. They received grant funding to open a low barrier warming shelter to serve ten adult men and women. They are also working with a local church regarding the placement of four pallet shelters and are continuing to work with St. Edwards Church regarding opening of the cottages on their property. She explained they have seen a recent influx in clients due to the prolonged pandemic and no cause evictions. Member White said the agency is also preparing for a Homelessness and Poverty Summit in early October. This will be a one-day educational event and leading up to it they will be putting out a lot of materials through social media. Members discussed other ways to provide public outreach.

### **6.2 Other updates**

Member DeSantis provided an update on Silverton Area Community Aid (SACA) and a CDBG application they are working on in conjunction with the City on past due rent assistance through Business Oregon. She explained the application requires the agency serve two cities which Mt. Angel has been selected as the other city.

Member Garst said she has reached out to Senator Wyden's Office regarding funding for Community Center updates, but has not gotten a response. She will continue to pursue this as an option.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Smith made a motion to adjourn and Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk