

CITY OF SILVERTON
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Silverton Community Center – Council Chambers – 421 South Water St. and Zoom

June 15, 2020, 6:15 p.m. or immediately following the Urban Renewal Agency meeting

I. OPENING CEREMONIES – Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. Mayor Palmer and City Clerk Angela Speier attended in the City Council Chambers. The rest of City Council and staff were present through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Mayor Palmer explained this meeting is being held through Zoom due to Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-16.

Present	Absent	
X	_____	Mayor Kyle Palmer
X	_____	Council President Jason Freilinger
X	_____	Jim Sears
X	_____	Matt Plummer
X	_____	Dana Smith
X	_____	Laurie Carter
X	_____	Crystal Neideigh

Staff Present:

City Manager, Christy Wurster; Chief of Police, Jim Anglemier; Community Development Director, Jason Gottgetreu; Finance Director, Kathleen Zaragoza; Public Works Director, Petra Schuetz; City Engineer, Bart Stepp; Assistant Finance Director, Sheena Kroker; Assistant to the City Manager/HR Coordinator, Elizabeth Gray; and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None submitted

III. OATHS OF OFFICE/PUBLIC RECOGNITION – None scheduled

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Palmer noted one piece of written testimony was received from Ammon Benedict and was sent to City Council prior to the meeting (attachment 1).

Stacy Palmer, Silverton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director provided an update on a survey the City Council had requested the Chamber send to the business community regarding a voluntary face covering program where businesses would set aside a certain time for individuals wearing face coverings to shop. She said the survey was sent to 300 businesses and 96 have responded. She reviewed the results to-date, 76 percent would not be interested in participating in this type of program. Due to the responses the Chamber is not interested in serving in a coordination role. Director Palmer will provide City Council with the written results after the survey closes on Wednesday.

V. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS – None scheduled

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

6.1 Resolution No. 20-16 – To determine the eligibility to receive State Shared Revenue and Resolution No. 20-17 – Declaring the election to Receive State Shared Revenue

Mayor Palmer called the public hearing regarding the possible uses of State Shared Revenue open at 6:30 p.m. No Councilor wished to abstain or declare a conflict of interest. Finance Director Zaragoza said the City receives approximately \$100,000 in State Shared Revenue annually and it is currently used for general purposes. There was no public comment. Councilor Freilinger made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Sears seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Councilor Freilinger made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-16 to determine the eligibility to receive State Shared Revenue and to adopt Resolution No. 20-17 to declare the City's election to receive State Shared Revenue and use it for General Fund purposes. Councilor Sears seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

6.2 Resolution No. 20-18 – Adopting the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, impose and categorize taxes and make appropriations

Mayor Palmer called the public hearing regarding the adoption of the fiscal year 2020-2021 Approved Budget open at 6:34 p.m. No Councilor wished to abstain or declare a conflict of interest. Finance Director Zaragoza said the dollar amount has not changed since the Budget Committee's approval, but she referred Council to the staff report which explained a change related to the Sewer Fund. There was no public comment. Councilor Sears made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Carter seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mayor Palmer closed the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Councilor Freilinger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-18 to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 in the total amount of \$64,006,341, levy taxes of \$3.6678 per \$1,000 assessed value for the permanent rate, levy \$275,000 for the Pool Operation Levy and make appropriations as listed in the resolution. Councilor Sears seconded the motion. Councilor Plummer asked Finance Director Zaragoza to provide an overview of the funds related to the Police Department. Finance Director Zaragoza explained the Police Department includes the police program and the other fund associated with the department is Community Enforcement, which deals with abatement and parking enforcement. There is not a police officer funded within the Community Enforcement program. She explained the Police Department is funded out of the General Fund and only the funds outside of the general operating fund (i.e. Water and Sewer enterprise funds) pay into the General Fund. The transfers from the enterprise funds do not go into the Police Department budget. The only other fund associated with the Police Department is the Vehicle Fleet Fund which does not include the purchase of a new police vehicle this year. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Civic Center Status Update and Discussion – Mackenzie Engineering, Inc.

Representatives from Mackenzie presented three site plans and design options related to the Civic Center to City Council. Cathy Bowman provided an overview of the direction that was given during the May 18, 2020 Work Session and how the team utilized that feedback in the site options. She also explained a survey will be released tomorrow in order to receive community feedback on the three site plans and to learn what else the community would like to see on the site. The representatives from Mackenzie reviewed the possible elements for the site, the various architectural styles currently in Silverton, as well as some additional building elements to consider.

The three possible site options were reviewed with City Council. This included the building adjacencies and layouts, green space, play equipment, splash pad, parking and other elements of the three site options. The elements for each site can be interchanged, so if there is a particular element that City Council likes in one of the plans it can be incorporated in a different scheme. That will be made clear in

the survey as well. The survey will be open until July 3 and the results will be presented to City Council during the July 6 meeting. Mackenzie will also provide cost estimates at the July 6 meeting.

Councilor Carter said she is impressed with all three sketches, but prefers option 2. She would prefer to see a softer element used in the exterior such as wood rather than brick. She said the first option's building footprint is too large and the third option looked too much like a motel. She liked all the elements in option 2, including the creek and the green space. She also appreciates the protection of the trees in all three options.

Councilor Freilinger is concerned with the cost of the designs. He would prefer option 2, but stressed the Council might need to go with the smaller footprint of option 3 if the cost is too high.

Councilor Plummer agreed with Councilor Freilinger. Option 2 is his preference; he especially likes the stadium seating and entry off Water Street. He would like to see these components brought into a smaller footprint if needed. He also liked the street/sidewalk improvements on the corner of A Street.

Mayor Palmer liked option 2 the best and is not interested in option 1, due to the separation of the Police and the rest of City Hall. He likes the architecture of option 2 the best. He likes the festival street, splash pad, stadium seating, and the other elements used.

Councilor Sears preferred option 2. He said he liked all the amenities and feels it allows for more options due to the parking location off A Street. He said these are great choices and thanked Mackenzie for their efforts on the site plans.

Councilor Neideigh said option 2 is her favorite. She liked the look of the stormwater collection on site, the stadium seating, the festival street and the use of the Eugene Field columns. She asked why a basketball hoop was not incorporated into the plans. Councilor Freilinger asked if a survey question could be added in order to gauge the community's interest in a basketball hoop. Ms. Bowman said there are a number of open ended comments in the survey that will allow the public to include other elements they would like to see on the site.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Councilor Carter made a motion to approve consent agenda consisting of items 8.1 and 8.2. Councilor Freilinger seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (6-0) with Councilor Plummer abstaining due to his employment with SAIF Corporation.

8.1 Resolution No. 20-19 – Extending the City of Silverton's workers' compensation coverage to certain volunteer positions

8.2 Resolution No. 20-20 – Authorizing signers on City bank accounts

IX. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Christy Wurster said the City will be posting the link of the survey on Facebook and the City's website so residents can provide feedback on the Civic Center designs presented tonight. She asked City Council to share the link to get as much input on the survey as possible. The City will also provide printed surveys for people who cannot access it online. Council discussed a variety of approaches on how to advertise the survey and ensuring all materials are available to people filling it out. She provided an update on the phased reopening of City Hall. The order requiring face coverings in City-owned facilities will be presented to City Council on July 6. In addition, the City Attorney is also suggesting City Council consider a separate order regarding public meetings.

X. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Smith said she has been having a lot of fun working with the team at Mackenzie and City staff on developing the design options presented tonight.

Councilor Sears voiced his concern regarding the information shared by the Chamber of Commerce. He said he was disappointed there was not more support for a voluntary program. He is wondering if the City Council should revisit making face coverings mandatory, because of the recent increase in cases. Council discussed the idea of revisiting this topic and decided not to pursue it as a mandatory requirement at this time. They would like the City to work with the businesses who indicated they would be willing to set aside certain time blocks for masked only shoppers. This could include the City helping to fund masks that businesses could provide to customers, especially the businesses with smaller square footage that make physical distancing more challenging. Councilors Plummer and Freilinger volunteered to look over the survey results and work with the businesses to start a voluntary program. Councilor Sears described the businesses he would like to see involved in the program, such as grocery stores and pharmacies. He also suggested helping with advertising and providing an incentive for the participating businesses. City Manager Wurster said the City could look into providing signage for businesses and also placing an article in Our Town about the importance of social distancing and the other elements to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Councilor Carter provided an update on a scheduled mediation between the Oregon Garden Foundation and MGM.

Councilor Plummer thanked the Public Works Department for their speedy response cleaning up a large portion of a tree that fell at the park near the Library. He would like to see the City look into a pedestrian connection from town to Wayside Park once the development of the Pettit property begins. He would also like Council to discuss the future of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). He said the TAC has received the draft Transportation System Plan (TSP) presentation and is wondering what the future is for that committee. He said the transportation projects have been identified in the TSP and the Environmental Management Committee (EMC) would like to work on creating safe bike routes in town, so he would prefer to dissolve the TAC. City Council was supportive of Council Plummer's recommendation of looking a disbanding the TAC. City Manager Wurster said this action will take an ordinance to repeal the existing ordinance that created the TAC.

Mayor Palmer thanked the people who have been participating in weekly resource calls with him. They have been very helpful in coordinating resources throughout the emergency declaration. He thanked Paul Peterson for his role in the group and his work with the school district this past year. He also discussed the need for the community to move forward from the recent division and needing to help the community heal.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Sears made a motion to adjourn and Mayor Palmer adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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City of Silverton, City Council Special Meeting – Monday 15 June 2020.

Discussion Item IV Public Comments:

Good evening Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff. Thank you for your dedication and continued service to Silverton. The past few months have been incredibly trying for our City, our State, and our Nation. Yet, in spite of all that is going on in the world, you continue to take time away from your families, your careers and yourselves to make Silverton a better place.

I was upset to learn of the public response leading to last week's Work Session. Many of the written comments to the Council were beneath what I've come to expect of Silverton. Disagreements within our community are of course going to happen, and they are an important part of public policy making. However, to degrade you as Council members, to use derogatory names, and borderline threaten council members, is an unacceptable slap in the face, not only to your service to this City, but to this City itself. None, of you deserved to be treated in such a manner, and I am sorry that you were.

Again, thank you for your service to our City, you are most appreciated.

Ammon Benedict
Ammon S. Benedict