

CITY OF SILVERTON
CITY COUNCIL AND THE SILVER FALLS SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT WORK SESSION MINUTES

Silverton Middle School – Cafeteria – 714 Schlador Street

January 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tom Buchholz called the Joint Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. and introductions were made.

City Council Present: Mayor Kyle Palmer, Council President Jason Freiling, Jim Sears, Dana Smith, Crystal Neideigh, and Laurie Carter (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)

City Council Excused: Matt Plummer

City Staff Present: City Manager, Christy Wurster; Community Development Director, Jason Gottgetreu; Public Works Director, Petra Schuetz; Police Chief, Jeff Fossholm; Assistant to the City Manager/HR Coordinator, Elizabeth Gray; and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

Silver Falls School Board Present: Chair Tom Buchholz, Vice Chair Tim Roth, Jonathan Edmonds, Shelly Nealon, Ervin Stadel, Jennifer Traeger, and Ron Valoff

Silver Falls School Board Excused: None

Silver Falls School Board Staff Present: Superintendent, Andy Bellando; Assistant Superintendent, Dandy Stevens; Teaching & Learning Development, Jennifer Hannan; Superintendent/Board Secretary, Debbie Valoff; and Business Manager, Steve Nielsen

II. OVERVIEW OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Superintendent Andy Bellando directed the participants to a handout located at their stations showing the graduation rates for Silver Falls School District and statewide. Silver Falls School District graduation rates continue to rise and in 2018 were at 91 percent, one of the highest in the area and throughout Oregon.

Mr. Bellando provided an overview of the existing agreements between the City and the School District, including:

- a. School Resource Officer – contract with the City for a district-wide SRO. This position is funded by the school district during the school year and the City during the summer months.
- b. SCAN-TV – is a contract with the City for the district to provide video production services which are predominately done by students.
- c. Safe Routes to School Partnership
- d. Swim Team use of City Pool – a partnership that allows the district to use the pool for swim team practices and meets.
- e. Facility Use Partnership – this allows the City and School District to jointly use facilities at no charge.
- f. Construction Excise Tax Collection Agreement – the City collects excise taxes for the School District on all new construction within city limits and remits payments on a quarterly basis.
- g. Greenspace Maintenance Agreement – The City provides a \$20,000 grant annually to help the district maintain greenspace. This allows the district to purchase equipment and supplies.

Councilor Carter asked Mr. Bellando what he attributes the higher graduation rates to. Mr. Bellando explained that teachers are focusing on the individual needs of students and their growth. Councilor Smith inquired about facility use prioritization and the need for more park facilities. Mr. Bellando explained that the priorities are determined by School Board Facility Use Policy. He reviewed how the scheduling works and indicated that there have not been too many conflicts, but facility use requests have increased over the last five years.

III. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL AUDIT UPDATE

Dandy Stevens, Assistant Superintendent with Silver Falls School District and Becky Gilliam, Safe Routes to School Regional Policy Director explained that they are members of the District Wellness Committee and provided an overview of the committee objectives. Ms. Stevens explained that the committee developed a Wellness Plan that includes a student exercise component encouraging students to walk, bike, skateboard, run, etc. to and from school. Ms. Gilliam provided background information related to the Safe Routes to School Program. Included in the meeting packet were Safe Routes to School audits for each of the Silverton schools performed by Alta Planning & Design in 2016. Located at the Council and Board stations was an update on the Safe Route to School infrastructure improvements in Silverton that were recommendations from those audits. Ms. Stevens explained that on Friday the District will be surveying parents regarding their drop-off and pick-up behavior and what goes into their decision on how their children get to and from school. The results will be shared with the City. Ms. Gilliam explained the Safe Routes to School grant program and indicated they will be accepting non-infrastructure grant applications in the Spring. The City did apply for two infrastructure grants last cycle, but those applications were unsuccessful.

The infrastructure projects were discussed and City staff gave an update on the Transportation System Plan (TSP) scoring process. Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu explained that the Safe Routes to School projects have the most points associated with them in the scoring process. Discussion ensued regarding possible remote drop off locations to help alleviate traffic issues during drop off times and how those types of programs work.

Councilor Smith said that there are a number of sidewalk projects on the list and explained that sidewalks get built through new development and that the City doesn't have enough funding to address all the sidewalk projects listed. Councilor Smith also said that the entrance to the high school parking lot at Western and Grant was never supposed to be used as a student entrance and should only be open for staff and buses to help with traffic concerns on Western Avenue. Ms. Stevens explained that there is a traffic study taking place at Silverton High School in order to study the flow of traffic and congestion. Councilor Smith expressed the need for students and faculty to be carpooling. Ms. Stevens explained how parking passes are distributed.

IV. STREET/ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND RELATED INFORMATION

City Manager Christy Wurster and Public Works Director Petra Schuetz provided an update on upcoming construction projects.

a. First Street and Jefferson Street Crosswalk Timeline

Public Works Director Schuetz said that the project design will be released in eight weeks and the construction will begin early 2020. She reviewed the list of improvements that the project entails which will increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Chair Buchholz asked about the process to lower the speed limit. Director Schuetz explained that it is a challenging process with strict criteria and the road is a freight route which makes it even more difficult. The Council and Board expressed their concerns with the 45 mph speed and staff will communicate those concerns to ODOT as the project moves forward.

b. Silverton Road Bridge Construction Timeline

City Manager Wurster reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that Brian Nicholas, Marion County Public Works Director presented to City Council at their January meeting. She explained that this project will completely close a portion of Silverton Road for several months. The soil conditions identified have caused the closure time to be extended through December 2019. The majority of the City Council was in favor of delaying the start of construction until early 2020 to avoid the holiday season which is critical for the business community. City staff has given that information to Mr. Nicholas and the county was agreeable to that change.

V. GRANT STREET AND WESTERN AVENUE – JURISDICTION AND TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN DENSITY

Mr. Bellando provided a brief history regarding the parking entrance off of Western and Grant Streets. He said that three to four years into the operation of the high school there was a large increase in traffic. He explained that when the school was first opened that entrance could only be accessed by buses and staff; however, that created pedestrian safety concerns and bus delays. The bus entrance was then relocated off of Kromminga Drive and now the buses park in front of the high school to drop off and pick up students. When that change was made the entrance off Western and Grant was opened for student access to help relieve the congestion off Pine Street. He said that the original Traffic Impact Analysis did not factor in the increase in traffic.

The School District is willing to work with the City to try and solve this issue, but any change made cannot impact the bus schedules. The district is working with Marion County to open an overflow parking lot off of Grant Street, which could also cause an increase of traffic in that area. He said that the district is also considering having a staff member stationed on the sidewalk at Grant and Western Avenue in order to have a presence at lunch and after school to help reduce speeding on those streets. Mayor Palmer explained that Western Avenue is under Marion County's jurisdiction and the City has limited ability to make changes, such as designating it a school zone in order to lower the speed limit.

Other Updates

Mayor Palmer provided an update on the If I Were Mayor Contest that is currently open for entries. He said that last year a Silverton High School student won at the state level and encouraged student participation this year. The City also created a Flag Contest after a suggestion by two students in the district and two of the top three designs forwarded to City Council for consideration were created by Silverton High School students. He expressed his amazement on how active the student body population is in local government and civic issues. Chair Buchholz thanked the City and School District for their partnership and working well together. Mayor Palmer explained that the City Council also created a Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee through the Government and Politics Club and thanked those members for their attendance tonight. Lastly, Mayor Palmer provided an update on the concept of creating a Parks and Recreation District in which the City is working with a consultant to determine its feasibility.

The City Council was excused from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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