

April 16, 2012
Noon
Newport, Oregon

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Councilors present: McConnell, Beemer, Roumagoux, Sawyer, Allen, Bertuleit, and Brusselback.

Staff present: Voetberg, Hawker, Tokos, and Miranda (arrived at 12:28 P.M.). Also present were: Larry Coonrod, Newport News-Times, Dave Morgan, News Lincoln County, Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner, Elise Jordan, Americorps/Vista volunteer; Lola Jones, executive director of Samaritan House, and Jim Meyers, president of the board of the Inter-Christian Outreach.

Council discussed the following items:

1. Hall addressed Council regarding a memo he had written regarding a proposed car camping ordinance. Jordan presented intake data from the most recent Project Homeless Connect program, and noted that a car camping ordinance should be a pilot program. Jones stated that the main issues with a car camping ordinance are enforcement and consistency among the approved venues. She recommended a maximum of three - four cars at any one venue. Meyers suggested that car camping be tried as a pilot project, and that it should begin with families. Jones reported that there are currently 150 families on the Samaritan House waiting list. Allen asked Jones whether she noticed an increase in the waiting list, and how other cities have addressed liability issues. Brusselback asked whether the Police Department would enforce the camping rules, or whether enforcement would be the responsibility of the venue operator. Tokos noted that this is a land use issue, and would need to be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review. Hall stated that if the city moves forward, Lincoln County could adopt an ordinance, and then take it to other Lincoln County cities. Sawyer asked about the possibility of allowing for utility hook-ups for car campers. Several sites were suggested as potential venues for car camping, including Sacred Heart Church, Church of the Nazarene, Atonement Lutheran Church, and the First Presbyterian Church. McConnell asked how the city would recover the costs of management and enforcement and other actual costs to the city. It was noted that while Portland and Eugene both have car camping ordinances; Eugene might have the more relevant model. McConnell noted that it would be interesting to have the sites identified, and ask sponsoring organizations to discuss the hosting rules. Allen suggested a public hearing at an evening meeting before going too far with the process. McConnell suggested a public hearing be held every time a new site is considered. Brusselback suggested having operators from Eugene attend a meeting to discuss the program. Meyers asked whether the program would be exclusively for Lincoln County residents, or transients as well. A discussion ensued regarding limiting the number of sites, and development of a waiting list.

Miranda reported that Gabriel Turchin camped in her car for months. He added that enforcement is usually complaint driven. Beemer suggested having car camping venues at Betty Wheeler and Frank Wade Parks and the parking lot at 9th and Hurbert Streets, noting that all have available bathroom facilities. Allen noted that he prefers the separateness from the city by utilizing the private venues. It was asked how long it would take to identify potential church sites. Jones noted that sites could be identified by July. Allen suggested that staff could look at a proposal and let Hall know what issues need to be more fully vetted. The City Council could then hold a public hearing on the draft preliminary plan. McConnell noted that this item will be placed on the work session agenda of September 4, 2012, with a possible public hearing that evening. Tokos suggested an initial public hearing on the concept. He added that there could be an overlay for specific sites with standards, and that the ordinance could contain a sunset clause. The discussion concluded with Hall noting that the city is receptive to further consideration of the concept.

2. McConnell discussed the April 30, 2012 Town Hall meeting. He noted that Roumagoux is unable to attend. He added that Council can carpool from the Lucky Gap parking lot. He reported that the intent was to mail notices to folks in the area, but there were so many that the cost became prohibitive.
3. McConnell reported that Budget Committee meetings will be held on May 8 and 15, 2012, and that there would be no City Council work sessions during May.
4. McConnell noted that erosion control and resource management/sustainability are still on the list of upcoming discussion items.
5. McConnell reported that the city manager evaluation will be scheduled during the first work session in June. He noted that the leadview process is underway.
6. McConnell reported that the contractor rules will be discussed at the June 18, 2012 meeting.
7. McConnell discussed preliminary details of the upcoming Mombetsu delegation visit. Activities will include a rededication of Mombetsu Park, followed by lunch, a pizza potluck at the Yacht Club, and a more formal gathering at the Rogue Brewery.
8. McConnell asked which Councilors were interested in signing the proclamation regarding "corporate personhood." McConnell, Roumagoux, Brusselback, and Bertuleit agreed to sign the document.
9. It was noted that the annual volunteer recognition dinner will be held tomorrow evening. Sawyer stated that he is unable to attend.
10. McConnell reported that the CWACT meeting is next week. Sawyer stated that he will attend. McConnell noted that the city is at the top of the list for grant funding to backfill the airport improvement project.
11. McConnell reported that he had received an invitation to a health department meeting. Sawyer agreed to attend.
12. Sawyer reported that the tsunami debris meeting was well attended. He added that some debris will come into Yaquina Bay and this will become a city problem.
13. Voetberg gave Council an airport staffing update. He reported that Terry will handle FBO issues; Lance will handle airport operation issues; the Public Works Department will take over the management of the AIP projects; and Chip Norman will be hired to replace Rick.
14. Voetberg reported that he will have information within the next few days regarding the next steps to be taken concerning Lincom.

15. Voetberg reported that he will be on vacation Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday.
16. McConnell reported that the city attorney is drafting a letter to the Port of Astoria. Voetberg added that Council will receive a copy.
17. Voetberg reported that Council will be asked to extend the time to draft contracts with the recipients of the tourism facility grants.
18. McConnell asked for an economic opportunity update for this evening's meeting. He added that the Chamber of Commerce committee is developing 30, 60, 90, and 120 day economic development goals.
19. McConnell reported that he will issue a proclamation regarding "Company's Coming," the community clean-up, at the evening's meeting.
20. Bertuleit complimented the new recreation brochure.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.