

January 6, 2014
Noon
Newport, Oregon

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Councilors present: Roumagoux, Saelens, Beemer, Busby, Allen, Sawyer, and Swanson.

Staff present: Nebel, Hawker, Gazewood, Tokos (part of the meeting), and Paige.

Media present: Dave Morgan from News Lincoln County and Dennis Anstine from the Newport News-Times.

Others in attendance: Nyla Jebousek.

Roumagoux called the meeting to order.

Roll was taken.

1. Roumagoux asked for items not listed on the agenda that Council wanted to discuss at this or a future work session. The following items were mentioned: The potential revision of the City Council Rules to reflect legal counsel's concern regarding approval to form of ordinances; and potential vacant and marketable properties (at the second meeting in February or the first meeting in March).
2. Roumagoux reminded Council that the City Council e-mail distribution list includes Nebel and Hawker.
3. Prior to interviewing applicants for the Planning Commission vacancy, Beemer recused himself due to a bias. He noted that one of the applicants manages some of his properties. Beemer left the room. The Mayor and all the Councilors reported that they either know some of the applicants; recognize some of the applicants; or are aware of the applicants. Roumagoux noted that Suzanne Dalton has requested a telephone interview, and that Dustin Capri is unable to participate in the interviews, but wishes to be considered for the vacancy.

Council interviewed the following applicants: Bob Berman, Lee Hardy, William Hutmacher, Michael Franklin, Michael Rickus, Suzanne Dalton (via telephone). Dalton removed herself from consideration.

Tokos reported that the members of the Planning Commission Citizen's Advisory Committee (PCCAC) participate fully in Planning Commission work sessions. It was noted that Berman, Hardy, and Dalton are current members of the PCCAC, and that Dustin Capri is a former member of this group. It was reported that the longest serving members of the PCCAC are Hardy and Berman. Swanson stated that she prefers a new person with fresh ideas such as Hutmacher, Franklin, or Rickus. Tokos suggested that it is advisable to have diversity in the location of Commissioners' residences. He added that there currently aren't any women on the Commission, and that the

Commissioners have much different backgrounds. Saelens noted that it would be nice to have Capri's experience as a planner. Sawyer stated that both Hardy and Berman have done a wonderful job, but that he prefers Berman for the vacancy.

This discussion concluded at this time, and Beemer returned to the room at 12:46 P.M.

4. A discussion ensued regarding the priorities for the City Manager during the first six months of his tenure. Nebel reported that he had held discussions with City Council, department heads, and others. He noted that his observations are that the city has a professional staff; and that he is impressed with the level of City Council commitment. He added that other observations include an inequality among departments, and a lack of central coordination among departments. He noted that potential improvements could be made with a better structure for City Council meetings allowing for predictability with the agenda and agenda items.

Nebel reported that some of his top four priorities for the first six months include: hiring of a new Finance Director; follow-up of the Infrastructure Task Force recommendations; improvement of the budget process, and addressing the airport management structure. He updated Council on the status of the Finance Director recruitment. He added that he needs a clear understanding of Council's expectations of his role at Council meetings. The City Council concurred with Nebel's top four priorities for the next six months. Allen asked Nebel whether he is comfortable that the Infrastructure Task Force follow-up and budget process improvement can be accomplished without a full-time Finance Director. Staff was asked to check the agreement with Bob Gazewood to see if adjustments should be made. Swanson noted that Gazewood's housing issue needs to be addressed.

5. A discussion ensued regarding Nebel's role at City Council meetings. Nebel noted that he sees his role as one with direct involvement with issues that Council will be considering at meetings. He suggested a format where the Mayor would ask the City Recorder to introduce an item; the City Manager would provide a summary with a recommendation; Council questions would occur after the City Manager's summary along with any department head comment; although department heads would be expected to attend a meeting where they are responsible for an agenda item. Nebel added that this process would provide order and structure to the meetings. He noted that this process would reduce or eliminate surprise agenda items. He suggested any action from a work session be taken at an evening meeting. Roumagoux noted that this process would refer all items to the City Manager, who would ask department heads to speak, if required. Roumagoux also noted that the Council meetings would be more orderly if Council let the Mayor know when someone wishes to speak. Beemer noted that Nebel's suggestions were good, and this is an opportunity to tighten up the process. Saelens thanked Nebel for the opportunity to reset the process and engage in more orderly meetings. Swanson complimented Roumagoux on what she has done. Allen noted that former Mayor McConnell did a nice job of moving the Council forward procedurally. Roumagoux stated that she would like to adhere to the three-minute rule as the meetings are too long. Busby asked whether there would be no formal action taken during a work session, and Nebel noted that is his recommendation. Beemer stated that he supports the recommendations in general. Allen read from the City Council Rules. Sawyer suggested moving items involving

department head input up in the agenda. Nebel noted that he would look at the agenda structure to see whether there is a better way to deal with it. A brief discussion ensued regarding a change to the videography of the meeting. Allen noted that the City Council Rules allow the City Manager to arrange the agenda. Nebel stated that he would bring a report to the next meeting in January institutionalizing the direction of Council, and added that the restructuring would occur at the first Council meeting in February. Nyla Jebousek talked about the three minute rule for public testimony. Roumagoux noted that the three minute rule was for Council as well. Jebousek talked about interruptions and debate during public comment, and suggested Council silence during public comment. Saelens suggested adjusting the microphones. Allen noted that the public comment period is for issues not on the agenda, and that the different public comment periods needed to be differentiated. Nebel suggested the public write the questions, and that after the three minutes for public comment, a request be made to the presiding officer for the floor to respond to questions. Busby asked about contacts with department heads, and Nebel noted that if Council wanted something from a department head, the request be directed through the City Manager.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:38 P.M.