

November 18, 2019
4:00 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The Newport City Council met in a work session on the above date and time in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Goebel, Jacobi, Hall, Allen, and Botello. Parker and Sawyer were previously excused.

Staff in attendance was Spencer Nebel, City Manager; Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director; and Jason Malloy, Police Chief.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Interview Sister City Committee Applicants. Nebel reported that on September 3, 2019, Council adopted Resolution No. 3870 creating a Sister City Committee. He stated that the city advertised for applicants for the six at-large members. He noted that three interviews were held at the November 4, 2019 work session, and that Richard Giles and Laura Kimberly will be interviewed today. He added that the Mayor will make appointments subject to ratification of Council.

Council interviewed Richard Giles and Laura Kimberly.

Red Light Cameras. Nebel reported that at the June 17, 2019 Council meeting, Council heard a report on the possible use of a red light camera at the Highway 101 and Highway 20 intersection. He stated that Council requested to revisit this item later in the year to allow some time to ponder this issue. He added that on the positive side, technology can help control problems at intersections with very little manpower, which is an issue since patrol officers cannot be at every location all the time to enforce laws. He noted that there is definite proof that red light cameras substantially increase compliance, and compliance brings about a safer intersection. He stated that on the negative side, there is always some level of pushback about automating enforcement activities. He noted that with red light cameras, individuals may go to municipal court to challenge the findings. He added that overall, he supports the use of this technology.

Jacobi asked how people find out they've run a red light. Nebel replied the ticket with a photo is mailed, and there is a video online.

Goebel asked how to collect fines when there are many tourists going through town. Malloy replied when a driver fails to respond to a ticket, licenses are suspended if they are from Oregon or neighboring states. He noted tickets are sent to the owners of the vehicle, and there's no obligation to turn over the people who borrowed the car. Malloy said he doesn't have a recovery rate. He added red light related crashes are up 20 percent from the last ten years. Malloy reported, ultimately, it is a safety measure, not a revenue generating measure.

Hall stated she would want to go forward with this for one year and then review. She asked what the cost of a ticket would be, and how to address the issue of people who can't afford a fine getting trapped in a vicious cycle and never getting their licenses back. Malloy replied the state is studying the vicious cycle issue.

Botello said she read a study on red light cameras from the University of Arizona. She noted the cameras work for a couple of years in reducing crashes, but the citizens start using a different route and accidents continue.

Jacobi asked if there are signs that warn drivers of red-light cameras. Malloy replied there are signs.

Botello asked the cost of the system. Malloy replied he does not know the cost yet. He asked Council for direction on taking the next steps to research this.

Allen asked when this could be brought to an evening Council meeting. Malloy replied late February or early March. Allen asked how many coastal cities have red light cameras. Malloy replied zero. Allen asked how many cities the size of Newport have these cameras. Malloy said he is not aware of any cities the size of Newport in Oregon that have the cameras. Allen replied he is not inclined to support this.

Nebel asked if there is support for pursuing collection of information on this topic or if the issue should be dropped. Goebel replied he is not in support of cameras. Botello replied she is not inclined to support them. She asked what would be the criteria for a citation. Malloy replied the criteria for issuing a citation would be decided by the city.

Jacobi reported she believes in being proactive on safety issues, and is inclined to support cameras. Hall stated she is hesitant to support this. Botello added she wants more information, but she is also hesitant.

Allen requested Malloy finish researching the questions Council brought up, and then present the findings as he has time. He emphasized there is no need to rush.

Malloy reported he would check into current communities that have red light cameras in Oregon, if there are there penalties from removing equipment, and agreement options and costs.

Hall also requested information on fine reductions when drivers appear in court.

2020/2021 Goal Setting Process. Nebel reported that he has had several discussions with staff and the Vision 2040 Advisory Committee regarding Council's goal setting process. He stated that for this coming year, the process be reversed, by having Council meet to review its goals, and then forward that report to the department heads and advisory committees to see what concrete steps could be taken to address those goals in the coming fiscal year and beyond. He added that he would like to use the 2040 Vision document as a basis for the goal setting process. He stated that the Vision 2040 Advisory Committee concurs with this effort, and that the packet contains that Committee's suggestions related to goal setting.

Nebel reported that the primary concern expressed by departments is having an understanding of the organizational capacity to start new initiatives while working to address ongoing operations and initiatives in the future. He stated that he believes that by focusing on the Council's longer-term goals, there can be a more holistic process that will make more sense from an organizational standpoint. He added that this will help guide the organization as to future priorities, and identification of specific steps that would come back to the Council for review.

Nebel noted the Council goal setting session is scheduled for January. Goebel asked if department heads would change their ideas about what's important for their goals if the process changed. Nebel replied changing the process will help set long-term goals. He noted if Council takes a look at the long term from a governing body standpoint, he thinks

it will be helpful in laying out a way to accomplish the more major issues that will transform the community as the envisioned in the Vision 2040 document.

Jacobi asked if there would be feedback on the goals Council set last year. Nebel replied that is part of his report. Jacobi asked what the new timeline for goal setting is. Nebel replied the Council would have its goal setting session on January 13. He stated he would make a report for Council approval on January 21. He noted that would be sent to department heads and advisory committees for feedback, and then the Council would approve a final report for budget priorities for the next fiscal year at the second meeting in March. He added he thinks there's opportunity for the Council to play a leadership role in setting the tone going forward.

Hall asked how the issues that fall outside the vision framework are addressed. Nebel replied the budget priorities in March would capture those issues.

Creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee. It was requested that this item be discussed at a future work session.

City Manager Evaluations Update. Allen noted the evaluations are online and available in Word. He requested Council get the evaluations to him and Sawyer by November 25 for discussion at the December 2 meeting. He suggested a work session next year to talk about the format of the evaluations. Nebel added the schedule for work sessions will be discussed at the December 2 meeting as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.