

**TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

April 21, 2021

6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rod Cross called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. electronically via Zoom in Toledo, Oregon.

Present	Absent	
X		Mayor Rod Cross
X		Council President Joshua Smith
X		Councilor Jackie Kauffman
X		Councilor Heather Jukich
X		Councilor Todd Michels
X		Councilor Betty Kamikawa
		Vacant

Staff present: City Manager (CM) Judy Richter, City Recorder (CR) Lisa Figueroa, Police Chief (PC) Michael Pace, Public Works Director (PWD) Bill Zuspan, City Attorney (CA) David Robinson, Library Director (LD) Deborah Trusty, Assistant Library Director (ALD) Harrison Baker, Children's Librarian (CL) Denyse Marsh

Visitors present: Katy B., Dave Morgan, Craig Lash, Rob Duprau, Nancy Bryant, Tracy Mix, Lorna Davis, Barry Bruster, Cindy Olivieri, Elaine Howard

2. PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation – National Volunteer Week

Mayor Cross read a proclamation and declared April 18 – 24, 2021 as National Volunteer Week.

Presentation – Urban Renewal Feasibility Study results

CM Richter introduced Elaine Howard of Elaine Howard Consulting, LLC. Ms. Howard presented the results of the Feasibility Study. [Copy of the presentation is included in the Council packet] She indicated the City covers nearly 1,600 acres, which would include 311.75 [19.59%] acres within an Urban Renewal Area (URA) and the total assessed value limitation is 25% and the City's assessed value is just under 10%, meeting that criteria. She explained the total maximum indebtedness over a 30 year period the city can spend on projects is \$30,900,000. She noted if they do not have enough projects to spend all the money, then the City can share the revenue. She reviewed the impacts on taxing districts and the timeline on establishing the Urban Renewal Area. She recommended the City Council establish an URA by September of 2021 to use the values of properties as of January 1, 2021. She said an Urban Renewal Agency must be established as one of the first steps through a non-emergency Ordinance. The Council asked clarification questions in regards to the renewal monies available and the projects/areas it could be used on. She explained how the City's revenues would be impacted if an URA were established.

Ms. Howard summarized the next steps in a timeline:

- Decide whether to hire a consultant to help with Plan and
- Report preparation and process for adoption
- Receive public input
- Define projects
- Prepare documents in accordance with ORS 457
- Go through a formal public review/adoption process, which includes a briefing to taxing districts and legally required public notifications

Presentation – Library Department

LD Trusty presented a Powerpoint on research and studies on public libraries and the communities they serve. She reviewed the benefits of libraries to their communities such as:

- Residents feel safer
- Less likelihood of feeling socially isolated
- Residents are more content with their neighborhood
- There is more social trust

LD Trusty provided facts within Lincoln County:

- The state has been ranked 48 out of 50 by the U.S. Department of Education for the percent of graduating seniors actually earning a diploma (78.4 % in 2016), and has been two years in a row
- Lincoln County is about the same, with 77.8% of would-be graduates actually earning a diploma during the same year
- The largest number of dropouts in LCSD are among those who are experiencing homelessness and those who are not yet proficient in English during high school

LD Trusty indicated the Toledo Library is participating in an adult literacy program with the Employment Services of the Shangrila Organization in Newport for tutoring at the Library.

CL Marsh reported on the Summer Reading Program and provided examples of the events included in the program. She said the theme for this year is ‘Color Your World’, which includes interactive activities that allow children to redeem rewards. She said she is working with Janet Runger of the Crow’s Nest Gallery to set up a Family Art Day where families create fairy houses as well.

ALD Harrison Baker provided a report to the Council on some of the technical equipment that is on loan at the Library, which includes laptop, web cameras and internet hot spots. He noted the items they received were funded by the Cares Act Fund to help connect families for distance learning and work through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Interview – Budget Committee candidate

Mayor Cross inquired whether Michele Johnson was present for the interviews. CR Figueroa indicated she was not present but Mr. Bruster submitted an application earlier in the day, he was invited to the meeting for an interview and is present. The Council interviewed Mr. Bruster for the Budget Committee position and after the interview, Mayor Cross said the decision to make an appointment to the Budget Committee is scheduled for later in the meeting.

Interviews – City Council candidates

The Council interviewed candidates Robert Duprau, Nancy Bryant and Tracy Mix for the open vacancy on the City Council.

3. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Port of Toledo (Port) District Manager Lorna Davis addressed the City Council. She said she was interested in the URA discussion and provided an update to the Council on upcoming Port projects, including the installation of electric vehicle car charging stations, the progress on the new boatyard building and the possible expansion of the welding program.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Consider approval of Minutes from the Executive Session held on March 3, 2021, Work Session held March 24, 2021, Executive Sessions and Regular Meeting held on April 7, 2021

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Smith/Kamikawa) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the motion carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION

Receive Urban Renewal Feasibility Study

The Council discussed the Feasibility Study and considered whether they should proceed in establishing an URA. Following discussion, there was a consensus of the Council to work with Elaine Howard to proceed with establishing an URA.

Discussion of Water and Sewer rates effective May 21, 2021

CM Richter provided different scenarios to the Council on the impact of the water rates based on a 3% increase and then a 2% flat rate and 4% usage increase and it noted there was not a very big difference between the scenarios. After further discussion, the Council requested staff bring back more scenarios:

- 2% flat rate and 4% usage for every customer
- 2% flat rate and 4% usage for residential only
- 3% for commercial and industrial

6. DECISION ITEMS

Appoint individual to the Budget Committee

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Smith/Jukich) to appoint Barry Bruster to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Kauffman noted a potential conflict of interest because Mr. Bruster is her landlord.

Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

It was inquired as to whether they have to interview Ms. Johnson before appointing her. City Attorney Robison indicated he would confirm the process while the Council considers the next item.

Approval of the Toledo Public Safety Association salary schedule

CM Richter summarized the council report and indicated including a part time dispatcher would be able to provide the Lead Dispatcher more time to assist with Administrative duties for the Department. She indicated one of the current dispatchers is interested in the part time position, which would allow the City to recruit for a full time dispatcher and it would be easier to fill the position. She noted a copy of the salary schedule was included in the packet. PC Pace indicated this would help the department with any future growth needs.

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Smith/Jukich) to approve the Toledo Public Safety Association salary schedule as presented, which includes a Part-Time Dispatcher for Toledo Police and Fire and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditure of \$26,430 for installation of safety catwalk at the Water Treatment Plant

PWD Zuspan presented the council report and said the project was included in the Capital Improvement project list.

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Smith/Kamikawa) to authorize expenditure of \$26,430.00 to install Safety Catwalk around deep well basins at Water Treatment Plant and the motion carried unanimously.

Interviews and appointment of individual to fill the unexpired term on the City Council

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Kauffman/Michels) to appoint Robert Duprau to fill the unexpired vacancy on the City Council and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Cross asked Ms. Bryant if she would be willing to serve on the Budget Committee and Ms. Bryant replied she would.

CA Robinson reported Council rules Section 5.1.1 interviews shall take place with candidates but noted the Council has the authority to temporarily suspend the rules to make an appointment.

Motion – It was moved and seconded (Cross/Kauffman) to temporarily suspend the Council rules and appoint Michele Johnson to the Budget Committee and the motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

PWD Zuspan thanked the Council for their continued support and updated them on the current projects.

PC Pace presented pictures and a report on the dispatch stations and noted some updates were needed in the dispatch room including the installation of new carpet, painting and relocating outlets. The Council inquired as to whether there were any issues due to the closure of the lobby and PC Pace replied no.

CA Robinson asked the Council to reconsider the status of the Yaquina Bay Hotel, he does not believe they are providing the housing that is needed.

CM Richter said she is close to finishing up a budget for the Budget Committee. She said she been contacted by several organizations for letters of support for funding, but wanted to seek input from the Council for letters to the Port of Toledo and the other one was from East Lincoln County Rescue for the Eddyville Fire Station before she signed her name to a letter on the Council's behalf. There was a consensus from the Council in support of letters for all of the entities.

Mayor Cross reported on the Art Toledo phantom galleries opening and staff shared pictures from the event. He reported several local artists are on display in vacant storefronts to peak interest in those locations.

Councilor Jukich indicated T-Mobile is offering a technological make over to a town in the United States and encouraged everyone to submit nominations for the City of Toledo. She said the deadline is May 8. The Council discussed options on nominations and it was determined Councilor Jukich would submit the nominations to T-Mobile.

CP Smith asked clarification questions in regards to the Electric Vehicle charging stations and whether there would be a cost associated for using them.

Mayor Cross reported the Toledo Summer Festival is planning a one day event this year with a car show and fireworks. He suggested the Council consider another Town Hall meeting possibly at the High School football field for an update on the URA.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:

/s/City Recorder Lisa Figueroa

/s/Mayor Rod Cross