

CITY OF McMinnville
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
Held at the Kent L. Taylor Civic Hall on Gormley Plaza
McMinnville, Oregon

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Presiding: Remy Drabkin, Mayor

Recording Secretary: Claudia Cisneros

Councilors:	Present	Excused Absence
	Sal Peralta	
	Adam Garvin	
	Zack Geary	
	Kellie Menke	
	Chris Chenoweth	
	Jessica Payne	

Also present were City Manager Jeff Towery, Police Chief Matt Scales, City Recorder Claudia Cisneros, Finance Director Jennifer Cuellar, Community Development Director Heather Richards, Parks and Recreation Director Susan Muir, Human Resources Manager Kylie Bayer, Library Director Jenny Berg, Information System Director Scott Burke, Fire Chief Rich Leipfert, Fire Operations Chief Amy Hanifan, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Debbie McDermott, Community Engagement Specialist Noelle Amaya, and *members of the News Media – Phil Guzzo McMinnville Community Media and Dora Totoian News-Register (via Zoom)*.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Drabkin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ukiah Halloran-Steiner, Mayor for the Day, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. INVITATION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

City Recorder Cisneros said Amber Johnson provided a letter that would be made part of the record.

Amanda Westphal, McMinnville community member, discussed what the Downtown Association and Visit McMinnville were doing for the arts. She asked everyone to do the survey and share it on Facebook. She had

started a non-profit organization called Saint Bezzie's to help people heal through art and community.

Marissa Martinis, McMinnville community member, spoke about the homeless camping and behaviors near the middle school. She was concerned about dangers for kids walking to and from school. She thought there should be an ordinance prohibiting this activity from a certain proximity from school zones.

Debbie Brockett, Superintendent of the McMinnville School District, and Jason Bizon, School Board Chair, discussed the proximity of homeless camps to schoolgrounds and concerns about safety for students and staff. She had reached out to other superintendents whose cities had ordinances that banned or prohibited camping near schools. She proposed an ordinance prohibiting camping within 500 feet of school campuses and along McMinnville's school district walking zones. All students deserved safe transit to and from school and they needed to be proactive on this issue.

Sean Tinker, McMinnville community member, asked if there was currently an ordinance for distance around schools.

Mayor Drabkin showed a map that demonstrated the City's current ordinance for time, place, and manner restrictions and what a buffer around schools might look like. Most of the camp locations were already illegal. Enforcement was dictated by state law.

City Manager Towery said they had excluded residential zones in the current ordinance, and most of the schools were surrounded by residential property. However, much of the camping was being done in prohibited areas and they were reviewing suggestions they heard recently to see if there were additional tools they could apply.

Councilor Peralta said the middle school abutted commercial, and that was the area the complaints were about. Having an ordinance for this area made sense.

Mr. Tinker thought there were many other places the homeless could go. He thought the ordinance should include immediate enforcement that would benefit all parties.

Susan Newby, McMinnville community member, shared a poem she wrote about how citizens felt about their town. There seemed to be little they could do about the current issues.

Leslie Toevs, McMinnville community member, lived on McDaniel Lane and things had improved greatly in the area. She was in support of an

ordinance, especially for kids who were walking to school. A change needed to be made to protect children.

Brian Zawada (via Zoom), McMinnville business owner, said the McMinnville Water & Light Commission was investigating a number of options on Marsh Lane including street vacation, adding daytime security, and installation of rock formations. There were legislative challenges, but the City's enforcement was weak and inconsistent. He did not think City leadership was interested in fully enforcing the tools they had, and it was shallow to blame it on drug decriminalization and waiting for ballot measure 110 reform. They needed to revisit the time, place, and manner and apply lessons learned.

Kim Morris, McMinnville community member, spoke about the McMinnville Community Task Force and how they had offered suggestions for ordinances, but had been ignored. They wanted to work with the City to make the City safe. Citizens needed the Council's help as the leaders of the community.

Cindee Paulsen, McMinnville community member, wrote a letter in December 2022 about her concerns over McDaniel and Lafayette and the RVs in the park and McDaniel. She received one communication from Councilor Geary. She also came in September 2023 about her concern for the students at Patton Middle School and she received no communication. They needed to come up with creative solutions to this problem.

Augustus Marinis, McMinnville student, spoke about his experience going to school near the homeless camp and how he did not feel safe. RVs at Joe Dancer Park were removed, but they came back after a couple of weeks.

Mayor Drabkin said a letter would be prepared and sent to all who spoke that would give clarity on the rules that governed the City.

4. ADVICE/ INFORMATION ITEMS

4.a. Reports from Councilors on Committee & Board Assignments

Councilor Menke reported on YCAP and the Any Door program as well as the Point in Time Count.

Councilor Peralta discussed the Council of Governments meetings and putting pressure on the state legislature for Measure 110 reform. He along with Police Chief Scales and Provoking Hope had recorded a video about the challenges of fentanyl and Measure 110 in McMinnville. He said everyone on Council cared about these issues and was trying to address them.

Councilor Chenoweth reported on the last Economic Vitality Leadership Council, Parkway Committee, and Historic Landmarks Committee meetings. He was frustrated that decisions and processes were happening behind the scenes that did not come to the Council. He thought it was time to have a discussion on the dais.

Councilor Geary reported on the last McMinnville Urban Renewal Agency Committee meeting and Third Street Improvement project.

Council President Garvin said the Fire District had hired a new Fire Chief. The Fire Board would meet twice a month now and they were exploring open flame burning ordinances. Council had the best interest of the community at heart.

Mayor Drabkin supported Representative Elmer this week for Legislative Days. Representative Elmer had a workforce housing bill she was working on. A number of committee appointments were coming up and she thanked all those who had applied and who had interviewed the candidates.

4.b. Department Head Reports

City Manager Towery said he was currently on call for jury duty. The Executive Team met last week to create draft work plans. He was one of three current and former local government practitioners invited to meet with the new president of Portland State University to talk about opportunities to strengthen connections to local government management.

Communications and Engagement Manager Amaya spoke about the Community Fair in May and the DEI Committee.

Community Development Director Richards said they had been awarded a grant for brownfields work for the ultimate RV site.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consider the request from The Compass McMinnville for Limited on-premises, OLCC Liquor License located at 706 SE 1st Street.

Councilor Geary MOVED to adopt the consent agenda as presented; SECONDED by Councilor Payne. Motion PASSED unanimously.

6. RESOLUTIONS

- 6.a. Consider **Resolution No. 2024-03**: A Resolution Appointing Members to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Communications and Engagement Manager Amaya explained the recruitment process for one regular position, one youth position, and one ex-officio position.

Councilor Payne MOVED to adopt Resolution 2024-03; SECONDED by Council President Garvin. Motion PASSED unanimously 6-0.

- 6.b. Consider **Resolution No. 2024-01**: A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Chemeketa Community College in the amount of \$146,000 for Pre-Apprenticeship and Hospitality Certification Programs for the City of McMinnville’s Business Recovery and Resiliency Grant.

Special Projects Manager Christensen said this was an opportunity to reallocate funding that came through Representative Noble in the 2021 session. They could not find enough participants who qualified for the loan program, and they were proposing to reallocate \$166,000. The time for commitment of the funds had been extended to December 2024, and the funds would be expended by December 2025.

Councilor Chenoweth MOVED to adopt Resolution 2024-01; SECONDED by Councilor Peralta. Motion PASSED unanimously 6-0.

- 6.c. Consider **Resolution No. 2024-02**: A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to amend a contract with McMinnville Economic Development Partnership in the amount of \$248,400.00 for Coordination of Sustainable, Localized Workforce Programs in association with McMinnville’s Business Recovery and Resiliency Grant.

Councilor Chenoweth MOVED to adopt Resolution 2024-02 as amended; SECONDED by Councilor Peralta. Motion PASSED unanimously 6-0.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Drabkin adjourned the Regular City Council Meeting at 8:22 p.m.



Claudia Cisneros, City Recorder