

November 21, 2011
Noon
Newport, Oregon

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

Staff present: Voetberg, Hawker, Tokos, Miranda, and Protiva.

Council discussed the following items:

1. McConnell asked what date the City Council would prefer to hold a joint meeting with the County Commissioners. Council concurred that January 11, 2012 was preferable. Brusselback asked that the agenda include a follow-up on the issues discussed at last year's joint meeting.
2. Tokos delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding economic development. He noted that grant monies had been awarded, and along with budgeted monies, should fund an economic analysis. He reported that an RFP for the economic analysis had been prepared and that five proposals had been received. He noted that the firm of Eco Northwest had been selected. He reported that the scope of work includes an updated on economic data and employment forecast; preparation of a commercial/industrial buildable lands inventory; development of a cohesive economic development vision and strategy; and identification of the city's role in helping the community achieve its economic vision. He noted that the tangible products from the study will be an economic opportunity analysis report, and economic vision, strategies, and implementation strategies. Allen asked about the connection with the work of the Lincoln County Economic Development Alliance, and Tokos noted that there is not much overlap. He added that the target of the Lincoln County Economic Development Alliance is marine related industrial activities. Tokos reported that a technical advisory committee would have to be developed, and he suggested twelve potential members. Several additional suggestions were made, and McConnell agreed to represent the City Council on this committee with Beemer as alternate. Tokos noted that the meetings will kick off either the week of December 12 or after the beginning of the year. He reported that there will be five or six meetings that will be scheduled six weeks apart. He noted that the group should complete its work by June or July of 2012.

Lorna Davis presented a brief update on the economic development work of the Chamber of Commerce. She noted that the Chamber's economic development committee has met twice and has a slightly different focus. She reported that a survey regarding livability will be conducted during December and January. She added that it is her hope to create an economic development director position that is partially funded by the city.

Voetberg noted that as this process continues, staff will ask for Council direction regarding economic development promotion. He used, as an example, the forgiveness of SDC's, noting that there are other options the city would have to promote economic development. Allen asked that when options are provided to Council that current start-up costs be included for comparison.

Allen asked for the pros and cons of an economic development director position functioning as an internal staff person, Chamber staff person, or consultant.

3. Miranda and Protiva appeared before Council to discuss proposed park rules. Protiva noted that there are currently no specific adopted rules which makes enforcement difficult. He noted that six rules had been developed and included in the packet. He reviewed the draft rules. Allen noted that the "park closed" rule needs clarification. It was the consensus of Council to have the legal staff review the rules, and to bring an ordinance to Council at a later date.
4. Council received a status report on the work of the Public Arts Task Force from Catherine Rickbone. Rickbone introduced the members of the Public Arts Task Force in attendance. She reviewed the history of the development of public arts policies, noting that this Task Force was created via Resolution No. 3528. She reported that the Task Force is recommending that: 1. Council consider adopting the policies and procedures developed by the Task Force; 2. Council form a city Public Arts Committee; and 3. Council consider adopting a Percentage for the Arts ordinance, and an Art in Public Places policy. Voetberg reported that the legal staff will review the recommendations, and that this item will likely return to Council in February.
5. Miranda discussed the process for resolving the hedge issue on Rhododendron Street. He noted that this evening, the discussion would center around the process and not the specific issue. Roumagoux reported that she has a potential conflict of interest as she knows one of the parties. Allen stated that if there are to be handouts, he prefers to get them prior to this evening's meeting. Miranda reported that there will primarily be photographs. Allen stated that any update given at this work session should be reiterated this evening. Miranda reported that the City Council must determine whether a nuisance exists. Allen asked why the matter was not listed under "public hearings" on the agenda, rather than "action items."

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.