

September 2, 2014
5:00 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City Council of the City of Newport met in a work session on the above date in the Council Chambers of the Newport City Hall. On roll call, Allen, Beemer, Busby, Sawyer, Roumagoux, Saelens, and Swanson were present.

Staff present was City Manager Nebel, City Recorder Hawker, and Community Development Director Tokos.

DISCUSSION ON THE POTENTIAL USE OF SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY TO FACILITATE WORK FORCE HOUSING

Nebel reported that Beemer requested a discussion on workforce housing and specifically how it would relate to city properties. He added that he asked Tokos to compile a brief PowerPoint presentation on how the city could give away city property for workforce housing.

Tokos made a PowerPoint presentation that covered: housing goals, policies, and implementation measures; the city's establishment of a revolving loan fund for workforce housing which has not yet been utilized; the agreement to participate in a land bank; the statute for governing the donation of land for workforce housing; the Municipal Code governing the donation of land for workforce housing; the differences between the statutes and the Municipal Code; and the process for determining whether land should be donated for workforce housing if it is determined to head in this direction.

Beemer noted that one goal is workforce housing, and that he wanted to start the process to look at what the city owns. He reviewed a handout that included three surplus city properties. He added that if the city donated one of the properties to Habitat for Humanity, a house could be built on the property as soon as next summer. A discussion ensued regarding the three properties and what the best use would be in terms of donating or selling. Tokos reported that there are different strategies that can be pursued, depending on whether Council was interested in a sale. He noted that if Council opted to pursue a sale because it believes a property is surplus; this sale would be accomplished through a sealed bid. A discussion ensued regarding requirements if Council wished to donate a property to Habitat for Humanity. Sally Bovett, with Habitat for Humanity, and also a member of the Lincoln County Land Trust board, noted that these two groups target a different demographic. Nebel reported that the purpose of the work session is to discuss and define what Council wants staff to do relative to community housing. Further discussion ensued regarding developing a report to Council that would include information relative to: surplus property; partnership with Habitat for Humanity; budgetary impact of a donation of land; structure of a potential land donation; the possibility of having a realtor look at how quickly properties might sell; the possibility of having a realtor sell surplus properties; and the potential of changing the Municipal Code. Nebel stated that staff will target the second Council meeting in October to bring a report on these issues.

Sally Bovett thanked Council for looking at all levels of housing options.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.