

Council Present:

Dave Stram
Nora Reynolds
Brent Gifford

Jacob Daniels
Jane Vincent
Adam Pelatt

Staff Present:

Larry Patterson
Roberta Tharp
Layli Nichols
Denise Walters
Madeline Phillips

City Administrator
City Recorder
Finance Director
City Planner
RARE Intern

Council Absent 0

Press: 1 – Creswell Chronicle –Martha McReynolds, Jr.

Audience: 3 – Holly Campbell, Sheila Hale and Steve Carmichael

The special City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Dave Stram at 9:05 am.

Financial Training for Council

This training session was a repeat work session for those members who were unable to attend in October. Brent Gifford and Layli Nichols delivered a training session to familiarize City Council members with a variety of budget documents including quarterly spending reporting, and monthly expenditure reporting as well as how to create and read a budget.

Council Meeting Schedule

A discussion was held regarding the scheduling of additional work sessions to provide council and staff an opportunity to communicate with each other on projects or issues the city may face.

Community Visioning Session

Introduction to the Process

Madeline Phillips presented an overview of a Community Vision for Creswell, including a brief historical summary of key events in Creswell's civic history. Creswell was incorporated in 1909 on the heels of A.C. Bornschadt's vision of a Fruitland empire, with a surge of civic pride. Knowing where the City of Creswell draws its origins from will help inform a vision for its long-term future.

A vision statement captures the best characteristics of a community and the core values that must persist in the future in order to retain them. The benefit of such a vision includes identifying a common desired future to guide discussion and committee work (assure that decisions made dove-tail together) and prioritize tasks. This way, advisory boards and community members can engage, along with the City, in pushing forward in a mutually-advantageous way.

Visioning now can engage with residents regarding a wide-range of issues, especially those related to how the City of Creswell may grow.

Where do we want to go? Councilor Gifford asked if it would be prudent to break this question into a short-term and long-term segments. Staff agreed that this distinction will be most important in the development of Objectives in the Visioning process.

Exercise: Value-Laddering

In order to reach community characteristics, issues, and aspirations that a Vision might contain, Council members participated in a Value-Laddering exercise involving short phrases that described these ideas.

Where are we now?

What makes Creswell a great place to live?

- Balance between small town and proximity to Eugene-Springfield Metro, also to the country/open space beyond the City Limits.
- History of settlement here – both wagon trains and Native American settlement goes back generations. Many of the same families still live here.
- Kind, humble, and generous residents – many of whom are generous with their time (volunteer) and help others in need.
- Neighborliness – familiarity with one another

- Access to amenities – outdoors, affordable living, transportation, dynamic library

How would you describe Creswell to someone who was thinking about moving here?

- Supportive
- Continually growing and improving
- Cohesive – folks pull together to support one another, local teams
- Charitable and humble – humility in giving, generous with one's time/resources (i.e. support for Food Pantry)

Where are we going?

Staff presented data and context regarding regional growth pressures. The South Willamette Valley has the potential to grow significantly over the next planning horizon. Creswell has been a leader in population growth over the last four decades, in recent years growing the fastest year-over-year in all of Lane County. For this exercise, Council was asked to imagine Creswell's population reaching 20,000 residents, the side of Klamath Falls, Ashland, or Newburg, OR.

Larry Patterson provided an similar growth example from his experience in Bend, OR, noting that growth of this kind can happen in different ways, depending on the policy decisions made. Mayor Stram added a personal example of growth he experienced living in Newberg, OR. Councilor Vincent cautioned that Creswell is, in many ways, subject to national pressures, which could make implementing a vision difficult in our post-recession economic climate. Councilor Pellat inquired if Staff had projected how long it would take Creswell to reach 20,000 residents. Staff replied that due to the variability of growth vis-à-vis policy decisions, a time period was not specified.

Where do we want to go?

What are the key characteristics that are critical to making this City feel like home, as Creswell grows from its current size to a much larger population?

- History – discussion focused on retaining historic integrity of downtown while accommodating growth.
- Infrastructure – population growth has outpaced infrastructure improvements.
- Intimacy – small-town familiarity has preserved community ties between residents, which will be important to retain and preserve as the City grows.
- Volunteerism – the Library and other social/cultural service organizations are quite active in Creswell.
- Interdependence – Interwoven, closed-loop local economies that develop intentionally around an industry or an idea may be critical to diversify beyond a growing economic relationship with the Eugene-Springfield Metro area.
- Unique business climate – Positively Creswell has highlighted micro-enterprises common here in Creswell, which might lead to an incubator opportunity.
- Regional Tourism – Creswell could be known as a gateway to regional assets such as golf/recreation and Lorane wine country. Holiday events and celebrations (Tree Lighting, 4th of July) bring community members together while attracting regional neighbors.

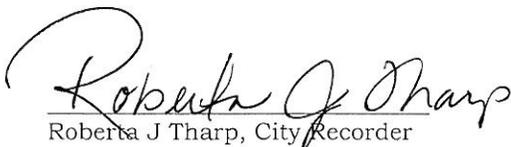
Next Steps

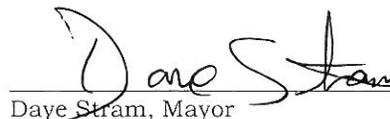
Madeline will be charged with assembling a summary of this discussion for use in future stages of the Visioning process.

Since discussion was fruitful, but did not complete all of its intended points (namely future changes and categorization of ideas), Council agreed to hold an additional work session in January to complete the exercise.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Stram adjourned the special meeting at 11:35am.


Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder


Dave Stram, Mayor