

Council Present:

Holly Campbell  
Ted Romoser  
Jane Vincent

Brent Gifford  
Dave Stram

Staff Present:

Michelle Amberg  
Roberta Tharp  
Cliff Bellew  
Layli Nichols  
Shelley Humble  
Madeline Philips  
Maia Hardy

City Administrator  
City Recorder  
Public Works Director  
Finance Director  
Airport Manager  
Planning Technician  
RARE Intern

Council Absent: 2 – Adam Pelatt & Omar Bowles - excused

Press: 1 – Scott Olson – The Chronicle

Audience: 9

The City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Dave Stram at 7:00 PM.

**Presentations**

**Portland State University (PSU)  
Policing Study**

Mayor Stram introduced Phil Keisling, Director of Center for Public Service at PSU, and Kent Robinson, Senior Fellow, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Administration to provide the Council with a presentation on the upcoming Policing Study.

Mr. Keisling addressed the Council thanking them for the opportunity to partnership with the City on this project. He went on to acknowledge that this report will review and assess the law enforcement program currently provided by the City and develop and compare program alternatives for providing those services.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Public Safety report will be delivered to the Council by June 15, 2015. The report will provide the Council a foundation to work from:

- it will define the issue
- all of the components
- provide some sense of service needs
- identify the revenues
- and answer questions

Mr. Robinson reviewed the process as to how he will compile the information:

- Define the service area; city boundary and the consideration of a UGB (Urban Growth Boundary) expansion within the next five years; as well as a hypothetical district such as zip code, school district boundary etc.
- Look to the future – five to ten years
- Comprehensive Service Assessment using 911 call data

Mr. Robinson outlined and reviewed each of the tasks:

- Define Current and Future Service Area; Forecast Population and Development Trends
- Assessment of the Current Service Demand and Program Cost
- Alternative 1: Current Service Level – Lane County Sheriff 3 Deputies and 1/3 Sergeant
- Alternative 2: Establish a City Police Department
- Alternative 3: Law Enforcement Special Districts
- Alternative 4: Creswell Police Department with shared services from another department
- Alternative 5: Creswell Police Department purchasing services from another department
- Prepare Written Report and Slide Presentation

The report will provide all the information in a standard format that will define the alternatives. Included will be a slide presentation and a formal report.

Discussion ensued on judgement of effectiveness: are we reducing crime by implementing one of the alternatives and do we have evidence of effectiveness of other City's our size (Winston, Warrenton and Phoenix) who have their own police departments vs what Creswell has now. Councilor Romoser noted the monthly Calls for Service Reports from Lane County Sheriff's Office have become increasingly longer since the addition of another officer, and pondered over whether or not we were reducing crime or catching the criminal's. Mr. Robinson spoke to the fact it depends on your department: whether they are certified or not, what they have to offer and what they specialize in. Mayor Stram asked that if the quality of the department has directly to do with the personnel then in the other communities can we include retention of officers; do they have a more difficult time hiring experienced officers, or is it a revolving door. Mr. Robinson noted that Warrenton has officers that have been with the department for 10 years to their whole careers.

Mr. Keisling noted that this is a decision making tool not a recommendation for what the citizens of Creswell should do.

Councilor Campbell asked if there would be any open public presentations; Mr. Robinson said they would make a presentation to the City Administrator and then possibly present to the Council in a Work Session.

At 7:40 pm Mayor Stram called for a brief recess, and reconvened the work session at 7:49 pm.

#### **Lane County Sgt. Billy Halvorson Sheriffs Contract**

Sgt. Billy Halvorson addressed the Council to provide a brief presentation regarding Increasing the Contract Sergeant Position for Creswell/Veneta. Sgt. Halvorson noted the Lane County Sheriff's Office has adopted his mission statement for the contracted law enforcement provided to the cities of Creswell and Veneta:

"To develop and implement an exceptional policing contract model, which adds substantial value and influence to the Lane County Sheriff's Office and the communities we serve."

Sgt. Halvorson's position is currently split three ways: the City of Creswell, the City of Veneta and with the Oregon State Marine Board. As demands for service increase, Sgt. Halvorson recommends increasing his contract time with the Cities of Creswell and Veneta to .5 (1/2 time) each instead of .333 (1/3 time). By removing the Marine Board responsibilities from his position and increasing his time in the contract cities, Sgt. Halvorson would be available to increase his support for his patrols as well as his administrative duties. He noted he holds the philosophy of policing very high and would like to be more visible in the community including hosting a monthly meeting to talk and listen to citizens. If the Council chooses to move forward with this proposal he would move his office to Creswell as his home base and dedicate specific days to each community. He would like to see this implemented beginning January 1, 2015 and on a trial basis until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2015. If the City finds this trial period successful, it could be implemented on a permanent basis beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the largest issue in this proposal is the financial aspect for the City. The cost to increase his position during the trial period would be \$30,000 or \$15,000 per city.

Councilor Gifford asked what Veneta's views are on this proposal. Sgt. Halvorson stated they are very interested in this arrangement but noted if either Creswell or Veneta chooses not to proceed with this proposal, it will be null and void. He also noted that the Sheriff's office is ready to move forward.

City Administrator Michelle Amberg commented that should the proposal be set in motion, Creswell would have to do a mid-year budget adjustment and she would need to work with the Finance Director to see if the \$6 Public Safety Fee is covering the contract.

A discussion ensued regarding the Council's Public Safety survey and the results indicated that the public would like to see more officers.

Mayor Stram asked to have this placed on the December agenda for Council action. Sgt. Halvorson ended his presentation noting that this proposal aligns well with the Council's goals and the public's wishes.

#### **Discussion Items**

Mayor Stram with the consensus of the Council moved forward Agenda Item B – Community Center.

### **Community Center – Su Liudahl**

Library Director Su Liudahl addressed the Council with a proposal to take over the Community Center management. She noted the Library is negotiating the expansion of their building as they don't have enough space to provide all the services they feel the community needs. The top priority for the Library is the addition of a community room. In managing the Community Center it will allow a place to hold meetings and events, cooking classes and the expansion of senior center hours.

Ms. Liudahl proposed that by the Library managing the Community Center they wouldn't be duplicating the room space with an addition to the Library, it would reduce city staff time and money dealing with the rental and maintenance of the building and it would increase utilization of the building. The Library staff could also write grants to help promote programs. Their request will need to be addressed in short manner as they are in the design phase of the addition to their building.

Ms. Liudahl presented additional ideas for programs the Library could provide for the community at the center:

- Increasing the hours for the Over 40 Social Club
- Hosting Teen Events
- Craft and Cooking Classes
- Movie Nights
- Year round Farmers Market
- Community Meeting Space

A discussion ensued in regards to the Community Center being built with Community Development Block Grant money and Ms. Amberg noted staff would need to look at the assurances. Clarification was requested about what option they were requesting; to have the building turned over to the Library or a long term lease. Sue Bowers, Library Board Member noted that the Library is more interested in managing the building instead of owning the building. Councilor Gifford noted that the Council is having a policing study coming up and depending on the results of that study, the city may need the property for a police station. He asked if they could wait until after the study was complete and Ms. Liudahl noted that would be a problem for the Library.

Mayor Stram announced he will place this on the December work session agenda for Council discussion and at that time they can decide whether or not to put in on the January agenda for action. This will allow the Council time to get community feedback on their feeling about this topic.

### **Nuisance Properties – Shelley Humble, Code Enforcement Officer**

Ms. Humble provided an update on two nuisance properties:

233 West A Street

ServePro has been contracted by the bank who now owns the property (233 West A Street) to demolish the existing structure, clean-up the property and rebuild. According to Oregon law, the bank (who purchased the property at the foreclosure auction) couldn't serve trespass notices to the prior tenants/owners of the property for six months allowing them time to recoup their finances and purchase the property back. During that six month period a fire broke out in the home. At the time of the auction/purchase the bank placed an insurance policy on the property and listed the prior tenant/owner as an additional insured. Bob Bash from ServePro, who is handling the bid and working with the bank has spoken to the tenant and received written approval to rebuild. Mr. Bash is now working on removing the tenants van from the property prior to demolition. ServePro was hoping to have the bids submitted to the bank by the end working day today. It is anticipated that it will take the bank approximately two weeks to issue approval of the bid proposal. Once that happens, ServePro can begin the permit process with the city. Once the rebuild is completed, the bank will sell the property at which time the city will recoup their liens against the property.

10<sup>th</sup> Street

Building inspector has gone through the property and claimed the shed where a tenant is living isn't a viable living space. Planning Tech, Maddie Phillips is working to create a letter to be sent to the residents/owners of the property to that effect and that it can no longer be lived in.

At 9:03 Mayor Stram called for a recess and reconvened the meeting at 9:11 pm.

### **Tree Care Plan**

Holly Campbell presented a draft copy of the Tree Care Plan. She noted that the plan is a requirement for the Arbor Day Tree City USA status and asked that everyone read the Executive Summary at the beginning of the report. Ms. Campbell noted that the city does not have a tree replacement policy included in the Development Code nor does it have a codified process for public tree evaluation and/or removal. The committee is proposing a plan to replace the trees in Holt Park.

Maddie Phillips spoke to the costs of replacement of public trees and noted the Tree Care Plan will serve as a resource for folks to understand how they go about planting a tree and what the cities rules and regulations are.

A discussion ensued regarding the trees on Oregon Avenue becoming too large and if they could be saved if they were to be transplanted somewhere. Public Works Director Cliff Bellew noted the trees are an ornamental pear, chosen by the architect and maturity is approximately forty feet tall.

Councilor Campbell explained the Tree Board's next step is to get the plan out in an accessible form to the public and to host some workshops. She asked the Council to review the plan for approval at the December meeting. This will allow the Tree Board to report to the Arbor Day Tree Foundation that we have an adopted Tree Care Plan and then they can go forward and create a public use pamphlet/booklet.

**Reports: Committees, Commissions and Boards**

Administration Committee – Adam Pelatt, Chair  
Judge Pro Tem Hiring Process

No report was given.

Economic Development Committee – Jane Vincent, Chair

No report was given

Mayor Stram reported that he and Ms. Amberg met with the Airport Commission and the Economic Development Committee and discussed a sustainability plan for the Airport. Ms. Amberg drafted a nice document to present to the University of Oregon's Capstone Project Program. At this time we are waiting to hear from them.

Finance Committee – Brent Gifford, Chair

Audit is almost complete. They have provided the Finance Director with a small list of follow up items. The preliminary findings and report should be completed by mid to late December.

Public Safety Committee – Brent Gifford, Chair

Mr. Robinson from PSU will want a City Councilor, preferably the Chair of the Public Safety Committee as a point person for the Policing Study.

RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) Participant Maia Hardy

Council has received a survey in regards to the Bald Knob proposal and would like to have responses back by next Wednesday.

Cultural Committee – Holly Campbell, Chair

The grant application approved by the Council will be sent out to non-profits who have worked with the City in the past and others like Looking Glass who are beginning to work in our community.

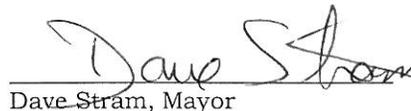
Transportation & Public Works Committee – Holly Campbell, Chair

The committee is working on public information/education pieces regarding utility rates. The goal is to have it included in the November utility bill.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion Mayor Stram adjourned the work session at 9:33 pm.

  
Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder

  
Dave Stram, Mayor