

**FOREST GROVE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
(COUNCIL RETREAT)  
JULY 25, 2008 – 1:00 P.M.  
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*Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Council.  
Council approved minutes as presented August 11, 2008.*

**1. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Richard Kidd called the Council Retreat to order at 12:55 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** **COUNCIL PRESENT:** Thomas Johnston, Victoria Lowe, Camille Miller, Ronald Thompson, Peter Truax, Elena Uhing, and Mayor Kidd. **STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Sykes, City Manager, and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

**2. 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:**

Sykes facilitated this portion of the work session, noting the purpose of the above discussion was to seek Council consensus on the top four legislative priorities for the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) 2009 Legislative Agenda. Sykes provided a copy of the survey submitted by the LOC for Council's review.

**Council Discussion:**

Mayor Kidd opened the floor and roundtable discussion ensued as Council studied the survey submitted by the LOC. After brief discussion, Council identified the following as being the top three legislative priorities: (H) Support new, statutory authority to allow cities to create service districts within city boundaries, establish a permanent property tax levy, and fund specific urban services within the district; (F) Support changes to the property tax system that maintains stability and predictability, while providing greater sufficiency for needed city revenue, and minimizing inequalities for property owners; and (S) Support a city transportation package for preservation funding shortfalls (as outlined in the full Transportation Committee recommendation). In addition, Council asked Sykes to enclose a letter, along with the survey, to the LOC identifying the following as having equal priority: (C) Initiate legislation to ensure that cities may collect franchise fees from all electricity providers that utilize city owned rights-of-way; (D) Ensure that any carbon reporting legislation introduced be neither burdensome to cities administratively or financially and provides reliable data; (E) Support climate change legislation that promotes the use of financially viable clean renewable resources and provides financial and technical assistance to cities for energy efficiency projects; (Q) Move to an alternative revenue system for telecommunications providers and oppose preemption of city franchising, rights-of-way and taxing authority; and (W) Establish a Statewide Drug Takeback Program - Support the Drug Takeback Task Force recommendations. In conclusion, Council discussed issues pertaining to western Washington County and identified the following local legislative issues: economic development; tourism;

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human-related resources; subregional designations; light rail; and mass transit. Sykes noted that a western Washington County Legislative Work Session has been tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2008.

**3. CITY CHARTER REVIEW:**

Mayor Kidd facilitated this portion of the work session, noting the purpose of the above discussion was to inquire if the Council should consider submitting a new City Charter to the voters at the November 4, 2008, General Election. Mayor Kidd reported the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Model City Charter, published in 2004 by Beery and Elsner, LLP, has served as the basis for most City Charters in Oregon, noting the cities of Cornelius, Hillsboro, North Plains, Dayton, Sherwood, and Happy Valley recently adopted new Charters based on the LOC Model City Charter. Mayor Kidd suggested amending the City of Forest Grove's existing Charter based on the LOC Model Charter. Mayor Kidd presented a "Charter Draft" for Council's review. The "Charter Draft" outlined suggested amendments and revisions. Mayor Kidd explained the "Charter Draft" would require that new ordinances and resolutions be adopted to implement new policies, i.e., Council Rules/Responsibilities and Elections. In addition, Mayor Kidd noted the "Charter Draft" includes provisions for adopting Orders instead of Ordinances for quasi-judicial matters and removes provisions for Urban Renewal and instead includes provisions for Special Districts. In addition, Mayor Kidd presented a proposed list of people who have expressed interest in serving on the Charter Review Committee.

**Council Discussion:**

Mayor Kidd opened the floor and roundtable discussion ensued as Council studied the "Charter Draft". Discussion ensued pertaining to the urban renewal provisions, to which Mayor Kidd explained State law has provisions relating to urban renewal and special districts, noting he is researching the above provisions. In addition, staff provided several Charter models from different cities for Council's review and provided an outline of the current Charter and the "Charter Draft", which compared each section with the suggested amendments and revisions. Staff also provided a "date calendar" of election deadlines for the November 4, 2008, General Election. Discussion ensued pertaining to whether or not the Council could meet the deadlines for the November 4, 2008, General Election. At the conclusion of the above discussion, the majority of the Council agreed that the 80-day filing period, as required by the current City Charter, would not allow sufficient time for public participation and input. Council members stressed the importance of allowing adequate time for the Charter

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Review Committee to conduct its work and allowing adequate time for public participation and input. At the conclusion of the above discussion, the majority of the Council supported proceeding with appointing a Charter Review Committee and considering submitting a new City Charter to the voters at the March, 2009, Special Election. In conclusion, Council asked staff to schedule a joint work session with the people who expressed interest in serving on the Charter Review Committee for Monday, August 11, 2008. Mayor Kidd encouraged Council members to review the proposed "Charter Draft" and the other cities models that were provided in preparation for the upcoming work session. In addition, staff indicated they would provide for the upcoming work session a table cross referencing the Charter's sections and would provide a revised "date calendar" of election deadlines for the March, 2009, Special Election.

Council recessed at 3:09 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

4. CITY MANAGER PRIORITIES FOR 2008-09:

Sykes reviewed the exceptions and objectives assigned by Council for 2008-09 evaluation period and provided a status report on each objective.

5. COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Community Trail Wildfire Protection Plan:

Thompson led the above discussion, noting he would like Council to consider pursuing grant opportunities to install a buffer zone along the west trail system, to which Council supported.

Fernhill Wetlands Budget Request:

Lowe and Sykes led the above discussion. Sykes presented a copy of a letter for informational purposes submitted by the Fernhill Wetlands Council requesting that the City consider making an annual contribution to support the long-term maintenance of the proposed field station building. Sykes noted an official agreement would need to be drafted.

Recreational Vehicle Waste Site:

Johnston led the above discussion, noting the Elks Lodge is committed to providing the City rights-of-way public access for a recreational vehicle waste site and Clean Water Services has agreed to build the site. Mayor Kidd proposed 19th Avenue/Fir Road and B Street as two other alternate locations, noting the above sites would be located on City property versus privately-owned property. Mayor Kidd provided

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a matrix outlining the operating costs to the City for maintaining a waste site and voiced concern pertaining to who would be responsible to pay for the System Development Charges. At the conclusion of the above discussion, the majority of Council voiced support of having a waste site at the Elks Lodge location.

**6. OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Truax noted he would like to pursue banning backyard burning. Discussion ensued about finding other alternatives, i.e., additional curbside yard collections. After brief discussion, Council suggested adding a line item to the City's Annual Citizen Survey to inquiry if there is sufficient support to consider banning backyard burning.

Sykes and Thompson reported they toured a biomass facility located in Lyons. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of having a local facility, to which Thompson noted that Oregon State University conducts environmental and economic biomass analysis of an area.

Johnston noted he would like the City to conduct more public guided tours of the City's Watershed. In addition, Johnston provided figures to show that baseball fields/tournaments have the ability to generate large amounts of monies.

Hearing no further discussion from the Council, Mayor Kidd adjourned the Council Retreat.

Council took no formal action nor made any formal decisions during the Council Retreat.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Kidd adjourned the Council Retreat at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder