

e.

CITY OF LINCOLN CITY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING

November 23, 2020, 10:00 AM

The final minutes for this meeting are supplemented by an electronic recording of the meeting, which may be viewed online at www.lincolncity.org under the tab "Agendas, Packets and Videos". The staff reports, resolutions, ordinances and other documents related to this meeting are also available at the same location. This meeting is rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4. (See Channel 4 guide on the hour at <http://www2.lincolncity.org/program-guide/>).

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

DATE: December 14, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dick Anderson	Mayor	Present	10:00 AM
Judy Casper	Councilor Ward 3	Present	10:00 AM
Diana Hinton	Councilor Ward 1	Present	10:00 AM
Riley Hoagland	Councilor Ward 2	Present	10:00 AM
Rick Mark	Councilor Ward 3	Present	10:00 AM
Mitch Parsons	Councilor Ward 1	Present	10:00 AM
VACANT	Councilor Ward 2		

Staff present: Ron Chandler, City Manager; Richard Appicello, City Attorney; Jerry Palmer, Chief of Police; Tony LaSoya, I.T. Director.

Mayor Anderson performed Roll Call.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Use of the Public Right-of-way and other public property for Parking

Mr. Appicello said there were several items of Council Consensus regarding Parking.

The first item was criteria to use when restricting parking. Mr. Appicello discussed how his draft ordinance language reflects the Transportation Plan parking guidelines, and the parking guidelines of the Public Works Department. Mr. Appicello recommends providing the City Engineer with the ability to

apply these guidelines and approve restrictions. Mr. Appicello added parking-specific text (metered parking, prohibited parking, parking permits) to the "Authority" part of the ordinance.

To address Council's desire to allow the public to park in City lots with a permit, Mr. Appicello said the City Manager could issue a placard to residents who don't have access to off-street parking. However, Mr. Appicello cautioned that using public property should come with a fee. Council could charge a fee for placards, or use parking meters. Mr. Appicello said that residents who don't have off-street parking can park in the City right-of-way for free.

Regarding VRDs in the Roads End area, Mr. Appicello said that Roads End had VRDs with Lincoln County permits grandfathered in when Roads End was annexed into the City. In other areas of the City VRDs have to have an off-street parking space for every bedroom. In Roads End, that isn't always the case. Mr. Appicello said that parking cannot be considered a health and safety issue; it's a land use issue. Mr. Appicello said that the best option he sees is to mark the right-of-way in the Roads End area for appropriate parking spaces. The City can also prohibit parking in the right-of-way on either side of the road as appropriate. The City could also develop additional parking by improving the right-of-way or developing City property to provide extra public parking spaces. Mr. Appicello said the law cannot prohibit visitors from parking in City-owned right-of-way.

Mr. Appicello discussed how the overnight parking in Taft was authorized and permitted by the City. Mr. Appicello noted that these spaces haven't always been used as intended (for locals needing a place to stay overnight). Vacationers have also taken advantage of the free parking spaces. With the Governor's emergency order prohibiting gatherings of more than 6 people, Mr. Chandler has revoked his emergency order permitting the overnight parking in Taft.

Mayor Anderson asked for clarification re: placards. Are placards synonymous with permits? Mr. Appicello confirmed they were.

Councilor Hinton asked Mr. Appicello if there would be an appropriate time to update the rules regarding the grandfathered in VRDs in Roads End? Mr. Appicello said that health and safety regulations are the only rules that can be changed with grandfathered in VRDs. Parking is not considered a health and safety regulation.

Mayor Anderson asked Council if they could discuss the easier parking issues? The first item would be identifying streets that are too narrow for parking on both sides, and that Council do whatever is necessary to find those and limit parking to one side. This might provide a positive impact to the Roads End parking issues. Mr. Appicello said that the Municipal Code does not to be amended to do this; however, Mr. Chandler would need to issue an Order or Council would need to issue a resolution to prohibit parking in certain parts of the right-of-way. Mr. Appicello asked for Council direction on where to start.

Councilor Mark said that he didn't know if this was a city-wide problem, while acknowledging the issues in Roads End and the previously-discussed issues on NW 8th Court. Councilor Mark said that he doesn't see parking issues in Cutler City. Councilor Mark suggested building more parking lots in Roads End and not making changes in other areas of the City.

Mayor Anderson said that he would prefer to get ahead of potential issues across the City now. Mayor Anderson said the new City Park in the SE area of the City will increase parking along those streets, noting that SE Keel is a narrow gravel road. Mayor Anderson said he would like to survey complaints City-wide regarding parking problems.

Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Chandler how long it would take to survey these areas? Mr. Chandler said it would take some time and some money. The survey would be a contracted service. Mr. Chandler said that he would have City staff do an initial review and then contract with an agency to perform a targeted survey.

Councilor Hinton says that the survey is the first step. Councilor Hinton asked Mr. Chandler about additional parking. Are Oregon State Parks willing to provide more parking at Roads End? Mr. Chandler said that State Parks are willing to do so, if the City pays for it. Councilor Hinton asked if Transient Room Tax could fund extra parking spaces for visitors. Mr. Chandler said that it could. Mayor Anderson asked how a parking lot could be limited to tourist parking only? Mr. Chandler said that you could make a good case that Roads End State Park would be primarily used by tourists.

Mayor Anderson asked about charging for parking at Roads End? Mr. Chandler said he would bring that up with Oregon State Parks. Councilor Hinton said that people would be adverse to paying for parking and they would park more in the residential streets.

Councilor Mark suggested a system with 2 hours of free parking and then you pay for more parking after that. Councilor Hoagland said that Drift Creek Falls is a State Park with paid parking.

Mayor Anderson asked about enforcing parking regulations. Chief Palmer said the main thing is being easily able to determine what is legal parking and what isn't. The Police Department have a hard time with this in Roads End and in the SW 35th area of town. Currently the PD look for parking that encroaches on traffic. Chief Palmer said that a legal parking spot in the City right-of-way is legal for both residents and visitors to use. Chief Palmer suggested a local community services officer might be a good solution to enforcing parking in problem areas.

Councilor Casper gave an example scenario of a person moving their car from one legal spot to another nearby spot after the 24 hour period expired. Councilor Casper asked if this was legal? Chief Palmer confirmed that it was legal, and that this was a difficult issue for the PD to effectively enforce. Councilor Casper said that other cities have regulations that prohibit parking on the same street within a certain period of time.

Mayor Anderson asked Chief Palmer how many staff would be needed for more regimented enforcement? Chief Palmer said the PD would need at least 2 more officers. Overnight Parking, between 2:30 am and 5 am, occurs at the times when there are fewer officers out patrolling Lincoln City streets. If Council wants 24 hour parking enforcement then more staff would definitely be needed.

Councilor Casper said this is a seasonal issue. Could we focus on a certain time frame? Chief Palmer said that while more issues come up during the summer, it is a year round issue. Chief Palmer said it is harder to hire part-time enforcement officers. Chief Palmer discussed how a Community Services Officer could help with other area issues such as VRD and Code Enforcement.

Mayor Anderson said that surveying and marking certain areas is important. SW 35th gets very congested, and Roads End needs to have appropriate parking spaces identified. Signage identifying where you cannot park is important as well. Are these the next steps? Mr. Appicello suggested that, at the next Council meeting, Council give direction to staff through motions to start surveying areas for appropriate parking. Councilor Hinton agrees with Mayor Anderson that surveying and marking is the first step.

There was a power outage at this point in the meeting, which created a pause in the discussion.

Upon the meeting resuming, Councilor Hinton said there will have to be a lot of public involvement in the process. Mayor Anderson agreed, saying that getting information to the public is important. Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Appicello to share some suggested motions for the next Council meeting. Mayor Anderson asked City Councilors to provide information about problem parking areas in their wards.

Councilor Hoagland said that there was a public parking lot on SE 3rd that could serve the new City park, provided that the City improves pedestrian access.

Mr. Appicello asked Council for their suggestions ahead of the next meeting so that Mr. Appicello can incorporate those suggestions into potential motions.

Councilor Hinton asked if the Police Department could provide extra patrol along problem areas when they have time? Police presence makes a big difference and a couple of tickets would help get the word out that the City is taking parking enforcement seriously. Councilor Hinton noted that vacation rentals are fuller than in previous years due to the increase in people being able to work remotely.

Mayor Anderson said this is a good opportunity to think ahead about where new or expanded public parking lots might be, and also noted that having a private parking lot might be a good business opportunity.

Councilor Casper said it's worth discussing metered parking at beach accesses. Councilor Casper is concerned about people taking advantage of the paid parking and it not being used to assist local residents as intended. Councilor Casper discussed the issue in SW 35th with local residents getting a ticket for parking near their residence in a City beach access lot. Councilor Hoagland noted that the parking ticket was dropped once the Police Department learned of the circumstances. Mr. Appicello said that enforcement needs to occur equally for residents, visitors, and transients. Councilor Casper said that metered parking on the lot at SW 32nd would help resolve the issue in the Nelscott area, since the lot is quiet at night. Mr. Appicello said that at the next meeting a motion could be passed to create metered overnight spaces in the Nelscott area.

Mayor Anderson asked for an explanation of how an overnight meter would work. Mr. Appicello said that signage would be required, permitted spaces should be marked, and overnight parking hours should be defined as non-daylight hours or 9-10 pm to 7-8 am.

Mr. Chandler said that newer parking meters can accept payment by credit cards. These newer meters provide electronic information on payments received. Councilor Hoagland said that these meters would still require enforcement and monitoring, and also residents would need to pay a permit fee. Councilor Hoagland is not in favor of charging residents for parking.

Councilor Mark said he thinks residents will use free parking in the City right-of-way overnight rather than meters. Councilor Mark said that there are apps for parking in bigger cities. Councilor Mark wonders if enforcement will be made easier with new technology. Mr. Chandler will do some more research on parking meter technology, specifically where the information gathered from the meter goes. Does the information get transferred to the Police Department, or does it remain at the meter?

Mr. Appicello reminded Council that overnight parking is currently prohibited, so the Police Department can ticket cars parked in City lots between 2:30 am and 5:00 am. Mr. Appicello doesn't suggest getting rid of this provision. Instead, he recommends using metered spaces in a lot for overnight parking, or allowing overnight parking in an entire City lot through a paid permit.

Mayor Anderson asked about resting in these lots. Can these spaces be used for resting, or just for parking? Mr. Appicello suggested providing limited spaces for overnight parking- perhaps one or two spaces in a particular lot. Mr. Appicello said that, following Council direction, he is working on contacting local religious institutions to ask for their assistance with this. Mayor Anderson asked how the City could stop people taking advantage of overnight parking spaces designed to help local people who need a place to sleep? Mr. Appicello said signage, and also prohibiting empty vehicles in these lots between the designated hours.

Mr. Chandler reminded Council that more regulations will lead to more enforcement.

Councilor Parsons asked for confirmation that overnight parking in the Taft lot is now prohibited. Mr. Appicello said yes, and that the Governor's order led to this decision. Mr. Chandler said that enforcement issues and the need to re-stripe parking areas also led to the decision to revoke the emergency order.

Councilor Parsons asked if, once the COVID freeze is over, the City will re-allow overnight parking in that area? Mr. Appicello said that he recommends the City do something once the freeze is over. Chief Palmer said that the PD now has housing information and resources they can give people who were parking overnight in that lot, including information on temporary hotel accommodations.

Mayor Anderson asked about the need to offer victims of the Echo Mountain Fire a place to sleep overnight. Mr. Appicello said that all fire victims were taken care of with help from the Red Cross.

Mayor Anderson asked if surveying and metered spaces would be two good first steps to get started? Council concurred that they were.

Councilor Casper asked about private parking lots, mentioning that perhaps the Eagles in Nelscott might want to offer this. Mr. Appicello said that interested parties should contact the Planning Department for more information.

Councilor Hinton said this was a good start.

Mayor Anderson reminded Council of the Planning Director candidate meet and greet tomorrow (Tuesday November 24) and of the Executive Session on November 30. Discussion was held regarding whether the Executive Session should start at 9:30 am, 10 am or 2 pm. The consensus was to have the Executive Session at 10 am on November 30.

3. ADJOURNMENT

 // s //
DICK ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

 // s //
JAMIE YOUNG, CITY RECORDER