

**PHILOMATH CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION NOTES
Philomath City Hall Council Chambers
February 26, 2024**

A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Work session called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Mayor Chas Jones.

Present:

Mayor Chas Jones
Council President Ruth Causey
Councilor Matt Lehman
Councilor Jessica Andrade
Councilor Christopher McMorrان (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)
Councilor Teresa Nielson

Absent:

Councilor Diane Crocker

Staff Present:

City Manager Chris Workman
Assistant City Manager Chelsea Starnar
Finance Director Mike Murzynsky
Public Works Director Kevin Fear
City Recorder Ruth Post

B. WORK SESSION

Start Time: 5:34 p.m.

1. Strategic Plan Draft and Pre-Budget Discussion
 - Discussion to focus on top priorities of each Councilor.
 - Councilor Nielson's priorities were distributed (Supplemental Agenda Item #B.01A)
 - Discussion about redevelopment of northeast City Park playground area.
 - Councilor Andrade's priorities involved ways to get more affordable housing and looking at the two City properties.
 - Councilor Causey's top priorities included the Council taking a more active role in attracting businesses.
 - Discussion about expanding that priority to retention of businesses and involvement of new Housing & Economic Development Committee.
 - Discussion about impending Interfor sawmill closure.
 - Councilor Causey's continued list included hiring of additional police officer to allow two officers on duty at all times and a discussion about the viability of a tree protection ordinance.
 - Councilor McMorrان echoed the police officer hiring priority and staffing evaluation with addition of new streetscapes landscaping.
 - Discussion about additional staffing, seasonal staffing and contracted landscaping maintenance.
 - Councilor Andrade requested prioritization of the utility rate study, the gas tax concept and water conservation. Additional prioritization of code review to prevent residential development problems like Millpond Crossing from occurring again.
 - Question of reviewing survey results identifying areas of improvement needed.
 - Mayor Jones identified creating a railroad quiet zone, explore opportunities that exist for attracting a grocery store, and staff assistance for completion of Millpond Crossing lot line adjustments.

- 1 • Recommendation to update Objective 2.2.6 and action item to address development of
- 2 those properties and housing.
- 3 • Review of survey results.
- 4 • Discussion about Objective 2.2.2 regarding business environment and specificity of
- 5 attracting a grocery store.
- 6 • Consensus to prioritize grocery store recruitment activities for staff.
- 7 • Agreement that housing will be addressed by new committee and park improvements
- 8 are on the Park Advisory Board's radar.
- 9 • Discussion about gas tax for street improvement revenues, including electric vehicle
- 10 charging stations, timing of discussion, public discussion in town hall.
- 11 • Water Conservation Plan update included in 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan and
- 12 consideration within utility rate study.
- 13 • Discussion about code changes that have been made and those under consideration by
- 14 Planning Commission that could impact future development issues such as those
- 15 experienced at Millpond Crossing.
- 16 • Discussion about business retention, recruitment, current objectives related to economic
- 17 development and being prepared to take advantage of opportunities when they come up.
- 18 • Railroad quiet zone discussed, including known challenges of success. Agreement not
- 19 to prioritize.
- 20 • Discussion about facilitation of the Millpond Crossing lot line adjustments. Consensus to
- 21 develop an objective related to proceeding.
- 22 • Discussion about police officer staffing, traffic enforcement, and crime reduction.
- 23 Possibility of tying it into an emergency preparedness objective, enforcement automation
- 24 and contracting with another law enforcement agency for additional staffing.
- 25

26 **C. ADJOURNMENT**

- 27 1. Work session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

28
29 SIGNED:
30 Chas Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:
Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder