

City Council Meeting

Hybrid Meeting in Person and Via Zoom

Monday, December 04, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Baker called the City Council's hybrid meeting to order on Monday, December 04, 2023, at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Terry Baker, Karen Shrader, Angie Vermillion, Scott Clauson, Krista Peterson, Larry Dickson and Jillian Shainholtz

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Swanson, City Manager
Bonnie Pickett, City Recorder
Joe Slaughter, Deputy City Manager
Derek Bowker, Chief of Police
Chris Stephenson, PW Superintendent
Doug McGeary, City Attorney

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

3. PRESENTATION:

a. Employee Promotions – Police/Public Works

City Manager Eric Swanson spoke about his involvement in the selection process for the two new sergeants that Chief Bowker will announce shortly. He noted that working with Chris Stephenson in Public Works has been a privilege, confirming his dedication to the job.

Chief Bowker thanked the Council and Budget Committee for supporting the two new sergeant positions. He announced that Officer Hull and Officer Bailey had been selected to fill the two Sergeants' positions. Chief Bowker noted that Officer Hull has just over 19 ½ years in law enforcement, and Officer Bailey has 17 ½ years of experience in law enforcement.

Deputy City Manager Joe Slaughter announced that Chris Stephenson had been promoted to the position of Public Works Superintendent; with his five years of the job and vast knowledge of the job, he was a perfect fit for the position. His team respects him, and he leads by example.

b. David McKay, HMK – Government and Public Safety Center Update

Mr. Swanson presented the monthly update on the Government and Public Safety Center. He spoke about staff being able to visit the site to see the progress of the building.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Reports for Information & Possible Action:

1. Addendum to Solid Waste Collection Franchise Agreement
2. Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement – ePermit System and Services
3. Correcting Clerical Error on Ordinance No. 1034

b. Minutes to Approve and File:

1. Minutes from City Council Meeting November 06, 2023.

Motion: I Move to Approve the Consent Agenda. **MOVED BY VERMILLION, SECONDED BY SHAINHOLTZ.**

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Ayes: Vermillion, Shainholtz, Peterson, Clauson, Dickson, Shrader
MOTION APPROVED WITH SIX AYES

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION:

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Parks and Recreation Committee Peace Pole

Mark Peterson, Parks and Recreation Committee, presented the Committee's recommendation for a Peace Pole in Blue Heron Park.

Councilor Peterson noted the pole will be placed in the pollinator garden.

The Council spoke about the need for a policy on the standards for putting up Peace Poles in the City of Phoenix Parks.

Doug McGeary advised that creating a standardized policy on placing Peace Poles in Phoenix Parks is a good idea.

Motion: I Move to Table the Topic Until we Have a Monument Policy at the Next City Council Meeting. **MOVED BY SHAINHOLTZ, SECONDED BY VERMILLION.**

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Ayes: Shainholtz, Vermillion, Shrader, Peterson, Clauson, Dickson
MOTION APPROVED WITH SIX AYES

8. ORDINANCE: READING / ADOPTION:

9. STAFF REPORT:

a. City Attorney Doug McGeary, no comment

b. City Manager Eric Swanson noted that the second Council meeting in December has been canceled. He spoke about looking back over the past year, noting some of the accomplishments due to the support of the City Council, staff, and the community. Mr. Swanson stated that the best way to describe all that has occurred as divine.

c. Deputy City Manager Joe Slaughter spoke about the scale of things over the past year and the exciting upcoming projects. He noted that the collaboration on projects with the City of Medford has been refreshing. Mr. Slaughter stated none of the accomplishments over the last year would have been possible without the support of the Council.

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT / REPORTS:

Councilor Dickson stated that working with the other councilors is a great privilege. He noted that he anticipates a fantastic 2024 for Phoenix. Councilor Dickson wished the Council a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Shrader spoke about the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT) meeting she attended, giving an update on the 2027-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement program. She noted that Christmas Tree Lighting this year was a success, and everyone had a good time. Councilor Shrader wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Vermillion spoke about all the good things that have happened over the past year in Phoenix. She stated she is very blessed and thankful for all the staff has done. Councilor Vermillion noted that the Christmas lights look great and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Peterson spoke about the amazing things that have happened over the past year in Phoenix. She noted that the New Government and Public Safety Center looks better than expected. Councilor Peterson attended the PAC Wall Grand opening and the Christmas tree lighting, which were excellent. She noted that this Saturday will be the Parks and Recreation Committee Bulb Planting Event in Blue Heron Park at 10:00 a.m. Councilor Peterson congratulated Chris Stephenson on his new position and thanked him for all his hard work. She stated that she was thankful for the two new Police Sergeants. Councilor Peterson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Clauson noted that he was asked to speak at the Rotary meeting, where he presented everything that happened in Phoenix. He stated that the Christmas Tree lighting had a big turnout and that all the decorations looked great. Councilor Clauson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Shainholtz noted the Christmas Tree lighting was great. She stated that being on the Council is cool and that she is thankful for all the support. Councilor Shainholtz congratulated Mr. Stephenson on his new position. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

County Commissioner Dave Dotterer noted he had the privilege of Chairing Congressman Bentz Service Academy Selection Board last Wednesday, where they interviewed 14 people in person. He noted the estimates for the new jail have come in, and the County is looking for \$200,000,000 for 400 beds and \$340,000,000 for 900 beds. Commissioner Dotterer noted the topics of focus for the Oregon Legislator and expressed his concern that they may be focusing on too many things. He spoke about the State Legislator using the word accountability when speaking about how local governments spend the money, noting that some Counties have turned services they used to provide back to the State since the State is telling the County how to run things without providing financial assistance.

Mayor Baker spoke about all of the accomplishments of the Council and staff over the past year, noting the sky is the limit when it comes to all the good things we can do for the citizens of Phoenix. He noted that he didn't expect the turnout for the Christmas Tree lighting, but the people of Phoenix want to be a part of what is happening in Phoenix, even in the pouring rain. Mayor Baker spoke about being grateful for the Council and staff and how they honestly care about the residents of Phoenix. He shared a story about Officer Aaron Hull's father and how his influence affected his path in life. Mayor Baker noted that he will present at the first meeting in January to recap the past year. He wrapped up the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Bonnie Pickett
City Recorder