

City Council Study/Work Session Hybrid Meeting in Person and Via Zoom Wednesday, January 17, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Baker called the City Council's hybrid meeting to order on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 5:31 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
Joe Slaughter, Deputy City Manager
Doug McGeary, City Attorney
Bonnie Pickett, City Recorder
Derek Bowker, Chief of Police

2. DISCUSSION – PROPOSED CHANGES CAMPING ORDINANCE:

Mayor Baker advised that no decisions will be made this evening on the proposed changes to the Camping Ordinance.

Eric Swanson, City Manager, noted that a discussion has been occurring internally about changing the Camping Ordinance. He spoke about the Oregon Supreme Court looking at the Camping case from Grants Pass. Mr. Swanson introduced City Attorney Doug McGeary.

City Attorney Doug McGeary gave a brief background on the changes in the homeless population over the years. He spoke about the explosion in the number of homeless individuals in Jackson County. Mr. McGeary spoke about the options the homeless population alternative had available in the eyes of the court. He presented the proposed changes to the current ordinance. Mr. McGeary answered the Council's questions regarding the definitions of the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Baker spoke about how less strict other cities in Oregon are than the City of Phoenix has been and continues to be. He spoke about how the homeless shelters are working to encourage individuals to stay instead of leaving to sleep under a bridge.

Mr. McGeary went into detail on how the proposed ordinance will be applied in the City of Phoenix and answered questions from the Council.

Councilor Vermillion asked if the Oregon Supreme Court case regarding the Grants Pass case outcome would affect the ordinance before the Council.

Mr. Swanson noted that there has been no report of individuals from Phoenix at the Rogue Retreat in Medford. He noted that there aren't many resources in Phoenix for homeless individuals, which lessens the numbers in Phoenix.

The mayor suggested that the Council may need to continue the conversation later to allow the Council to discuss the proposed ordinance.

Mr. McGeary rounded out, presenting the ordinance to the Council. He answered questions from the Council regarding the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Dickson suggested adding the cemetery to locations where camping is not allowed.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Bonnie Pickett
City Recorder