

City Council Study/Work Session Hybrid Meeting in Person and Via Zoom Monday, February 20, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Baker called the City Council's hybrid meeting to order on Monday, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Terry Baker, Karen Shrader, Angie Vermillion, Krista Peterson, Larry Dickson, and Jillian Shainholtz (5:36)

ABSENT: Scott Clauson (excused)

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

2. DISCUSSION – STREETS AND PARKS UTILITY FEES AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES:

Eric Swanson, City Manager, advised this is a study session to exchange information and provide guidance to staff. He noted Zac Moody and Catherine Hansford presented the information to the Council.

Zac Moody, Community Development Manager, presented his staff report to the Council regarding the reasoning for the proposed fee changes.

Catherine Hansford, Hansford Consulting, presented the study commissioned to review utility bill fees and SDCs to the Council. She presented the proposed updates to the street fees for the residents and businesses in Phoenix. She noted the Streets fee has not changed since 2001; however, the SDC fees have had a few increases due to inflation. Ms. Hansford presented three options to generate fees to fund future Capital projects. She explained the methodology for the proposed Street fee and the calculations for the fee.

Ms. Hansford answered questions from the Council about the bond options of the proposed changes.

Mr. Moody answered questions from the Council regarding the proposed changes to the fees. He spoke about the rates currently being assessed for residents and businesses.

Ms. Hansford explained the process for going out for a bond and if it would need to be voted on by the residents of Phoenix. She advised the bond would be paid back through the fees on the utility bills.

Mr. Swanson spoke about the pros and cons of bonds for the city versus the pay-as-you-go option.

Mr. Moody answered additional questions from the Council regarding the proposed fee and whether it is possible to recoup losses due to past incorrect billing.

The Council discussed the proposed fees compared with other Cities in the Rogue Valley and the need for street repairs in Phoenix.

Mr. Swanson noted the fees on the utility bills are meant to be self-supporting instead of using funds from the general fund.

Mr. Moody explained that different classes of residents would pay different percentages for the fees, making the fees equitable across the board for the residents of Phoenix. He explained the process for approving the fees the Council would like to see brought forward for approval. Mr. Moody noted that the proposed Parks Fees presentation must be brought back to the Council when more time is available.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Bonnie Pickett
City Recorder