

# **City Council Meeting**

## **Hybrid Meeting in Person and Via Zoom**

### **Monday, March 18, 2024**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Baker called the City Council's hybrid meeting to order on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:03 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

**ABSENT:** Scott Clauson (excused)

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

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

#### **3. PRESENTATION:**

a. South Stage Road Extension Plan Overview/Update

Eric Swanson introduced Marc Butorac, Kittelson, and Lisa Cornutt, ODOT, to the Council.

Marc Butorac gave an overview of the project and the future transportation needs of the Cities of Phoenix and Medford.

Mr. Swanson noted that the current annexation has increased the population by more than 500. He noted that the presentation didn't consider the industrial area and the employment lands that will use the South Stage Interchange.

Mr. Butorac responded to Mr. Swanson's concerns, which must be addressed in the presentation.

b. OR99 Glenwood/Coleman Creek Project

Mr. Swanson introduces Jerry Marmon, ODOT Rogue Valley Area Manager, noting we wouldn't be where we are today without him and his team. He spoke about the Oregon

Transportation Commission bus tour last week, where they stopped at Harley Davidson to discuss how well the evacuation went with the assistance of ODOT and the other entities involved. Mr. Swanson spoke about the sidewalk repairs that are occurring in the area.

Jerry Marmon, ODOT Rogue Valley Area Manager, gave a brief background on how the project came about. He briefly spoke about the Glenwood to Coleman Creek project on Hwy 99. Mr. Marmon also spoke about a few other projects occurring in the area and answered questions from the Council about the projects.

c. Government and Public Safety Center Update

David McKay, HMK, gave an update on the progress of the Government and Public Safety Center. He spoke about the new ESCO programming, which will provide valuable information for firefighters and police. Mr. McKay advised that the estimated move-in date is May 13, 2024.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Terry Helfrich, Phoenix, spoke about pedestrian lighting in the downtown area. He stated that the Council needs to consider the area's future needs.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

a. Reports for Information & Possible Action:

1. None

b. Minutes to Approve and File:

1. Minutes from Joint City Council/Planning Commission Study/Work Session Meeting March 04, 2024.
2. Minutes from City Council Meeting March 04, 2024

Motion: I Move to Approve the Consent Agenda. **MOVED BY SHAINHOLTZ, SECONDED BY VERMILLION.** No further discussion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Shainholtz, Vermillion, Shrader, Dickson, Peterson**

**MOTION APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Public Art Application.

Mr. Swanson noted the application is a renewal proposal.

Zac Moody, Community Development Manager presented his staff report regarding the extension for the art piece. He answered questions from the Council.

The Council deliberated allowing the public art piece to remain in place for additional time.

Lynn Cohen and Phoenix spoke about how the art piece was treated to preserve it from the elements. She spoke about the reason for the length of time in the request.

Councilors spoke in favor of allowing the art piece to stay in place for a shorter time than requested.

**Motion: I Move to Approve the Request to Allow the Art Piece to Remain for Two Years.**  
**MOVED BY VERMILLION, SECONDED BY DICKSON.** No further discussion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Vermillion, Dickson, Shainholtz, Shrader**

**Nays: Peterson**

**MOTION APPROVED WITH FOUR AYES**

**8. STAFF REPORTS:**

City Attorney Doug McGeary spoke about working with staff on a new monument policy to be presented to the Council. He advised that the Oregon State Bar has asked him to give a presentation on difficult employees.

City Manager Eric Swanson spoke about his presentation to Business Oregon and how well it was received. He thanked the Council for their support in recovering the City of Phoenix. Mr. Swanson spoke about the work Public Works has been doing to keep businesses and residents in water along Hwy 99, where the water line is being moved. He thanked Chris Stephenson and the crew for all their hard work.

**9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT / REPORTS:**

Councilor Dickson spoke about attending the Rogue Valley Area Commission (RVACT) on Transportation meeting and the topics that were discussed.

Councilor Shrader spoke about the topics at the RVACT meeting. She highlighted funding concerns for the Rogue Valley.

Councilor Vermillion thanked Mr. Swanson, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Moody for all their hard work for the residents of Phoenix.

Councilor Peterson spoke about the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. She spoke about the great job Code Enforcement is doing for the City of Phoenix.

Councilor Shainholtz noted she is excited about the beautiful weather. She expressed her excitement for spring break.

Mayor Baker thanked the Council for the great teamwork in rebuilding the City of Phoenix. He spoke about the sacrifices and hard work made by all involved in Phoenix's rise.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Bonnie Pickett  
City Recorder