



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL
Monday, January 6, 2020
Keizer Civic Center, Council Chambers
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken as follows:

Present:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Kim Freeman, Councilor
Daniel Kohler, Councilor
Marlene Parsons, Councilor
Laura Reid, Councilor
Roland Herrera, Councilor
Elizabeth Smith, Councilor
Youth Councilor Christopher Wolfert

Staff:

Chris Eppley, City Manager
Shannon Johnson, City Attorney
Nate Brown, Community Development Director
Bill Lawyer, Public Works Director
John Teague, Police Chief
Tim Wood, Finance Director
Tracy Davis, City Recorder

FLAG SALUTE Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS None

COMMITTEE REPORTS None

PUBLIC TESTIMONY None

PUBLIC HEARING *Mayor Clark opened the Public Hearing.*

a. Liquor License Application – Change of Ownership and Trade Name – Tequila Nights (New Trade Name – Area 51 Bar and Grill) City Manager Chris Eppley summarized his staff report.

With no further testimony, Mayor Clark closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Freeman moved that the Keizer City Council recommend approval of the application of Area 51 Bar and Grill under the guidelines as established by ORS 471.178 and the ordinances of the City of Keizer and to forward this recommendation to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for final approval. Councilor Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Clark, Reid, Freeman, Parsons, Herrera, Smith and Kohler (7)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
a. ORDINANCE – Prohibiting Camping on Sidewalks, Public Property and Public Rights-of-Way; Declaring an Emergency

City Attorney Shannon Johnson summarized his staff report.

Sandra McCullough-Jones, Keizer, shared a story of her son, which she noted is a common story relating to the homeless. She urged Council to remember that they are elected to serve all people including the homeless and, if they choose to support this ordinance, to provide better services in the community to serve the homeless.

Mayor Clark and Councilor Reid responded noting that the City is collaborating to bring in new resources to address the needs of the homeless.

Jonathan Thompson, Keizer, representing the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, shared ways in which the Chamber has worked to provide for the needy and homeless. He also pointed out negative aspects of the homeless including property damage and drug paraphernalia. He concluded noting that the Chamber sees this ordinance as a necessary tool in the toolbox to remedy this issue.

Richard Walsh, Keizer, expressed dismay at seeing homeless people huddled under bridges and in doorways and voiced agreement with what the Council is trying to do, but noted that an alternative plan for the homeless is imperative. He suggested the use of Conestoga huts on vacant properties for housing alternatives, allowing homeless to secure their meager belongings and go to job interviews and re-assimilate back into society.

Councilor Herrera voiced support for this plan. Mayor Clark urged Councilor Herrera to take the tour offered by Mr. Walsh and shared information about warming shelters. Mr. Walsh expressed concern regarding the safety of large facilities and asked to be part of the planning process on the possible Conestoga hut program.

Mark Coutis, Vice Char of the West Salem Neighborhood Association, suggested that the Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility be purchased to house the homeless.

Kevin Dial, Keizer, reviewed the complexity of the homeless issue and noted that the issues were: lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, and the need for community involvement.

Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, provided information regarding shelters and programs already in place to assist the homeless population and cautioned that the passage of ordinances restricting the homeless could have unintended consequences.

Councilor Freeman urged people to volunteer for the Point in Time Count that would take place at the end of the month, noting that the results of this count have a direct impact on the amount of funds received from the government for developing programs to help the homeless.

Lore Christopher, Keizer, encouraged Council to not move the problem but take steps to resolve it and to help this population and protect citizens and children. She voiced support for no camping in public places and commercial zones and urged that land be found near transit and social services to place Conestoga huts and assist the homeless population.

Amy Courser, Keizer, pointed out that all homeless are not under the same blanket; over 700 non-profits are working on this issue and many homeless are not willing to utilize the services. She noted that Council has a moral responsibility to the citizens to keep their city safe and clean and urged that solutions be explored together with the homeless.

Barbara McCullough-Jones, Keizer, questioned the use of the word 'citation' in the proposed ordinance and questioned how this would affect those people with no identification.

Mr. Johnson responded that a violation is a nuisance and can be abated; the citation in the ordinance does not have a dollar amount and is simply a tool and would likely be used as incentive.

City Manager Chris Eppley explained that law enforcement is already engaging in the homeless community and trying to get them into shelters and services. This ordinance will not change that but will provide additional tools.

Chief Teague added that in regard to legal residency, the police are not allowed to ask so they do not. He added that the police spend more time dealing with the homeless than on traffic or non-criminal calls for service. They have good relationships with the homeless in the community, but they also do not want to see Keizer public places become unattractive.

Community Development Director Nate Brown added that using citations for Code Enforcement is a last resort. Staff first works with the homeless to get resources and the only time a citation is used is if the person refuses to comply.

Kevin Spade, Keizer, explained that he and his wife were homeless for 7 years because they were addicted to methamphetamines. Keizer Police Officer Kevin Hill set into action a plan to get them healthy and off the streets and gave them hope. He didn't give them money or get them out of trouble but he told them they were better than this and the words still ring clearly. They have been clean for 14 years and live in a home. His wife is now a drug and alcohol counselor and he is a pastor. He shared the story to make the point that every homeless person is an individual with individual circumstances and issues, and concluded noting that hope is the key ingredient.

Councilor Freeman moved that the Keizer City Council adopt the revised (on the dais) Bill for an Ordinance Prohibiting Camping on Sidewalks, Public Property and Public Rights-of-Way; Declaring an Emergency. Councilor Herrera seconded.

Mr. Johnson read portions of the revised ordinance since it was not in the packet. Discussion then followed regarding the issuance of a citation, the complexity of this issue and the desire to help.

Motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Clark, Reid, Freeman, Parsons, Herrera, Smith and Kohler (7)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. RESOLUTION – Authorizing City Manager to Sign ODOT Delivered Project Federal Project on Behalf of the City of Keizer – Wheatland Road Multimodal Corridor Plan Agreement with the State of Oregon
- b. Approval of December 9, 2019 City Council Work Session Minutes
- c. Approval of December 16, 2019 City Council Regular Session Minutes

Councilor Freeman moved for approval of the Consent Calendar. Councilor Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Clark, Reid, Freeman, Parsons, Herrera, Smith and Kohler (7)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilor Kohler thanked the crews responsible for keeping traffic flowing in Keizer Station during the opening of In-N-Out Burgers and announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilor Reid shared information about events at McNary High School.

Councilors Freeman, Smith, Parsons and Herrera announced upcoming meetings.

Youth Councilor Wolfert reported that construction is going well at McNary.

Mayor Clark reported on meetings she had attended and announced upcoming ones.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Eppley reported that he had spoken recently with Cub Scouts about City government.

Chief Teague reported that there has been a rash of stolen cars in the area and urged everyone to lock their doors and refrain from leaving their cars running in their driveways.

Nate Brown reported that Marion County Economic Development team has a new grant giving \$15,000 for three years to each city for economic purposes. Work will begin to come up with a list of priorities to bring to Council. He asked Council to provide input for those priorities as well.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Clark shared the contents of several written communications including a reminder about the Holiday Card Contest for 2020, an invitation to a conversation about Host Homes, an email from Thomas Toombs regarding Air B & Bs and the response from Community Development, a card from the Leap Day Lady and a letter from Marion County Commissioner Cameron indicating that the maximum number of refugees the county could receive to be 100. Mayor Clark asked permission from Council to send a letter to Marion County supporting this number. Council agreed by consensus to allow this.

AGENDA INPUT

January 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – City Council Work Session
• City Council Goal Review/Progress Report
January 21, 2020 (Tuesday) – 7:00 p.m. – City Council Regular Session
February 3, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – City Council Regular Session
February 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – City Council Work Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

MAYOR:

APPROVED:

Cathy Clark

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor #1 – Laura Reid

Councilor #4 – Roland Herrera

Councilor #2 – Kim Freeman

Councilor #5 – Elizabeth Smith

Councilor #3 – Marlene Parsons

Councilor #6 – Daniel R. Kohler

Minutes approved: 01-21-20