



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS * 33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE * SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056

Disclaimer: These minutes are intended to summarize the conversations that took place in this meeting rather than provide a full transcript. Anyone wishing to view the full conversation can find a recording of this meeting on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VagoDCNeh2M.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the April 1, 2024 City Council meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Larry Lehman	Interim City Manager
Tyler Miller	Council President	Chris Fluellen	Police Lieutenant
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor	Carol Almer	Finance Administrator
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor	Isaac Butman	Assistant to City Manager
		Laurie Joseph	Community Development Director (left at 8:00pm)

Remote: Councilor Kim Holmes; Megan Greisen (left at 7:23pm); Ty Bailey; Beth Rajski (left at 8:35pm); Jennifer Gilbert (left at 8:01pm); Adam (left at 7:16pm); Citizen (left at 9:42pm); FAFO DDS (left at 8:40pm); Frank (left at 7:15pm); Michelle; Timmi Sue Hald (left at 9:49pm); Mercedes Massey; Scott (left at 8:13pm); Public Safety 1st (left at 9:49pm); and Mike Maggi (left at 8:37pm); (2) unknown callers; Juliet Hyams (joined at 7:49pm); B Jensen (joined at 8:14pm and left at 9:49pm); Angela (joined at 9:30pm and left at 9:49pm).

Approval of the Agenda

Council President Miller moved, and Councilor Lafrenz seconded the motion that Council approve the agenda. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Public Comment

Brady Preheim explained he just wanted to commend the Mayor and Council. He stated It's pretty rare that he shows up and doesn't have a complaint or to yell at somebody. He explained for him to come before Council and actually thank them #1 in particular, Councilor Holmes, who did a fantastic job of calling out the transparency and accountability, which is anything but transparent, or accountable and he really appreciates that, and he also really appreciates how you are handling the discussion about the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and the fact that you are having a public conversation about it. You have not made any decisions. He had the opportunity to speak to one of your officers individually about it and he was very complimentary of the Council and didn't commit either way, very politically correct about whether he thought it was a good idea or not. He explained what was striking to him was the faith that the officer put in the Council to listen, take input and make a decision that was best for everyone, and he thinks that shows a lot of confidence in the Council and in the way that you're handling it, and he appreciates it. He really appreciates the comments that Councilor Holmes has said. He stated that is the only time that he has ever played a part of a public meeting on his radio show, and he really does appreciate her comments because often and he knows you get a lot of complaints as he usually does complain, but silence is consent. The fact that you didn't do that, he really does appreciate that and that you brought out problems with the group that has put out false information. He explained it is not just about you, they have multiple topics that they are unfortunately spreading false information about. He stated one last thing that sort of follows up on your work session that he would like to put the bug in your ear is water. It is an issue for you, it is an issue for Saint Helens. St. Helens wants to fill our wastewater lagoon, which is a \$170 million project and eventually we're going to be a merged town, St. Helens, and Scappoose. He brought this up on the Economic Development Committee when he was a member of that committee probably six years ago and unfortunately, the mayor at that time was adamantly opposed to the plan. He thinks now is the time to start a conversation about how you create a regional water and sewer district, build a new plant in Warren because eventually Warren would either be an incorporated city or become part of St. Helens or Scappoose, that's going to happen. He is not talking five years or ten years but twenty-five to fifty years, and he think it's now time to start that conversation about how we look at water and sewer as a regional solution. He has already mentioned this to the Council in St. Helens, and they are receptive. He thinks it's time to start those conversations about how you do that and it's a cost savings similar to what you're doing with your police. He thinks there are economies of scales by merging and combining services, and he thinks water and sewer is an important one.

Mayor Backus thanked Brady.

Consent Agenda ~ March 18, 2024 Council Work Session minutes; March 18, 2024 City Council meeting minutes

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion that Council approve the Consent Agenda ~ March 18, 2024 Council Work Session minutes; March 18, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

City Council Interviews

Ty Bailey

~~William Etter~~ ~ decided to pull application

Joel Haugen

Mayor Backus and Council interviewed Ty Bailey virtually.

Mayor Backus and Council interviewed Joel Haugen in person.

New Business

Appointment of new City Councilor

Councilor Jacobs voted for Joel Haugen.

Councilor Holmes voted for Ty Bailey.

Mayor Backus voted for Ty Bailey.

Council President Miller voted for Ty Bailey.

Councilor Santiago voted for Ty Bailey.

Councilor Lafrenz ~ abstained

Congratulations Ty Bailey!

Ty Bailey thanked Mayor and Council.

Oath of Office for new Councilor

Oath of Office will be administered at the next Council meeting due to Ty Bailey attending this evening virtually.

Proclamation ~ Save Soil Day

Mayor Backus read over the Save Soil Day Proclamation proclaiming March 21st as Save Soil Day in Scappoose, Oregon, as soil is vital to all life and urges all citizens to be a part of the Save Soil movement to support national policies towards soil restoration and aim to raise the organic content of soil to a minimum of 3% - 6%. He urges all citizens to participate in creating bright futures for our children and the future of our planet.

Habitat for Humanity request for land use fee waiver for 10-lot Subdivision

Community Development Director Laurie Oliver Joseph went over the staff report. SDC (Scappoose Development Code) Chapter 17.164.210.B states that, "Council may, on its own motion, waive the land use application or appeal fee for other non-profit organizations". Habitat for Humanity submitted a Subdivision Preliminary Plat application on March 22, 2024, for a 10-lot subdivision in Scappoose and has submitted a letter to Council, via the Planning Department (see Exhibit A of the staff report), to request that Council waive their land use fees, totaling \$6,000. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization. Habitat for Humanity owns 0.74 acres of land between SE Oak and SE Myrtle Streets, just west of SE 4th Street. The City received a Subdivision Preliminary Plat application on March 22, 2024, which proposes a 10-lot subdivision to support the construction of 10 new townhomes. The City will begin review of the submitted application in the coming week(s). Payment of land use application fees are due when the application is submitted, and an application cannot be deemed complete until payment of the required fees is received by the City. The applicant submitted the land use application along with the request for a fee waiver, rather than the fee of \$6,000. Council will need to decide whether or not to waive the fees so that staff is able to deem the application complete after our review of the submitted application materials. If Council does not waive the fees, then Habitat for Humanity would need to pay the \$6,000 in order for the application to be deemed complete and scheduled for Planning Commission's consideration of the request. Additional background information: The Habitat for Humanity project is located, as previously stated, along two frontages – SE Oak Street and SE Maple Street, both of which have sub-standard water mains within the right of way. The water main in SE Myrtle Street is 4" and in SE Oak Street the water main is 2". These two water mains would need to be upsized along the project frontage to the current Water Master Plan standard of 8" as a part of this subdivision project. Habitat for Humanity previously requested assistance through ARPA funding that the City received to upsize these water mains in support of their upcoming project. During the November 21, 2022 Council meeting, Council voted to earmark \$50,000 to support upsizing of the SE Myrtle Street water main and \$250,000 for the SE Oak Street water main upsizing (see Exhibit B of the staff report). The water main upsizing is expected to occur in coordination with the Habitat for Humanity project. If Council approves this request, the City would forfeit \$6,000 in total revenue to the Planning and Engineering Department budgets. Specifically, it would be a waiver of \$3,750 of Planning fees and \$2,250 in Engineering fees. As stated in SDC 17.164.210.B, "Council may, on its own motion, waive the land use application or appeal fee for other non-profit organizations". There are no criteria that Council needs to consider or follow in making this decision; therefore, staff has not provided a recommendation to Council on this request.

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, Columbia County explained the process for the building the subdivision and how people qualify for the homes.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion that the Council waive the land use fees totaling \$6,000 Habitat for Humanity a nonprofit organization. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Mayor Backus asked Jennifer if they would keep the City updated on when the ground breaking starts.

Jennifer Anderson stated she wants to compliment the City on their staff because Laurie and Chris have been amazing to work with.

Ordinance 918: Franchise with CenturyLink

Interim City Manager Larry Lehman went over the staff report. The City's existing Franchise Agreement with CenturyLink expired June 30, 2006. A new agreement has been negotiated and is being presented for Council's consideration. The agreement has been provided in its entirety for Council review. The franchise fee will remain at 7%, the legal limit for the industry. For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, revenue was budgeted at \$3,500. Staff recommends Council adopt Ordinance No. 918 as presented

Council President Miller explained the problem that he keeps having with these franchise agreement is the terms because it doesn't benefit the City, generally to have a long term because it just ties our hands unless there's a provision in here that says we can raise the rate without notice. He asked where does the 7% come from?

Interim City Manager Larry Lehman replied he thinks that percentage is statutory.

Council President Miller asked with notice can the City raise the rate? If the cap raises by law, would we have the flexibility to give notice and charge that amount?

Interim City Manager Larry Lehman explained there can be a clause added to the agreement that if the legal limit rises from 7%, we would reopen it.

Mayor Backus opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m. and closed it due to no one wanting to speak on this matter.

Councilor Jacobs moved, and Council President Miller seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance 918: Franchise with CenturyLink, with the amendment of adding if the legal limit rises from 7%, we can revisit the agreement.

Exploring Options for Achieving 24/7/365, On Duty Law Enforcement in Scappoose City Limits

Mayor Backus gave an overview to bring Ty Bailey up to speed on this.

Mayor Backus read a public comment from Teresa Keller, who resides in the City limits. Teresa asked does City Council intend to notify all residents before making a final decision about contracting the police department. She asked are you going to hold a town hall and listen to the people you serve?

Mayor Backus stated in his mind, he speaks for himself right now, that he would say yes. He is trying to do this based on the citizens telling him what they want, and he wouldn't be doing a service to them if he didn't look at this and go out and ask, so he does want to do that. He explained the main thing the Councilor Holmes has stressed from the beginning is she wants transparency, she wants it out within the community, she wants everyone to be involved. He stated so we are trying to do this as transparent and open as possible, getting all the information, so we are all on the same page.

Councilor Kim Holmes explained she will go over the packet of information that is before everyone this evening. She explained on February 1st she presented the first section of this packet to Council, and we walked through it. They covered a range of questions that the Sheriff answered, they covered topics such as estimated costs, the level of service that we would be wanting to explore for the Community. She explained as the Mayor stated, we're looking at 24/7 coverage with two officers on duty and she does want to note that this is a level of service that she doesn't think this Community has seen in over a decade. So, what we are really trying to do is make sure that we are getting the level of public service that we think the community wants and to find a sustainable funding mechanism for that. At the end of the review of that Information, Council did determine that further exploration was warranted. She launched that second phase of discovery and what that comprised of was a number of inquiries, a meeting with the city. She thanked Carol for her time and being here this evening. She explained Carol was really the cornerstone of helping to assemble some information on the City side around specific costs. She explained they had a meeting where she met with Carol, Larry, Brian Jensen, Lieutenant Fluellen, Mayor Backus, and Council President Miller. She explained they had a similar meeting with the Sheriff, City Manager Larry Lehman, Mayor Backus, Council President Miller, and herself again reviewing the questions that we sent to him for phase two, that is contained in your packet and then also asking for information relating to the certain cost items that you see on this spreadsheet. She worked with both parties to identify similar cost items so we could do that side-by-side comparison, which Council had requested at the last meeting. She also took the step of reaching out to a couple of cities that do have contracted services to better understand the structure of those contracts, what their experiences have been, and you'll find those in the appendices as well. So that's really what you'll see before you. The new information effectively starts on page 25 of that packet and kind of like we did the last time, unless someone from Council has a different recommendation, what she would suggest is that we walk through kind of each new topic area and just summarize the topic areas that we cover in phase two is related to the treatment of equipment, transfer of equipment and additional

delivery of services, some follow up questions relating to staffing, questions relating to community engagement, community visibility and branding, use of technology for public safety, focus on public safety priorities and interagency engagement relating to public safety issues.

She went over the Phase 2 Questions. She also explained that she did invite Sheriff Pixley to join us today, and he did intend to join us, and he did give her permission to discuss why he is not able to join us. He actually had a doctor's appointment that fell much later in the day, so he could get treatment for an injury that he had sustained unfortunately back in December when they were working to apprehend a murder suspect. So, he was not able to join us today, but she will go ahead and capture any questions that we have for him and forward those on to him. So do keep that in mind.

Sheriff's answers in [blue](#) below.

1. Equipment and services

- 1.1 Through the initial discovery phase, some have expressed concern the city's current equipment will be absorbed by the CCSO if contracting were to occur, with no compensation to the city for that equipment. I believe this is incorrect. Please explain how the city would be compensated for all vehicles and equipment that is transferred to the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's response: The items the City owns will be transferred into the care of CCSO for City Deputy use. Transferring these assets reduces the costs to the City for initial vehicles and equipment. If the City chooses not to transfer the assets, new assets would need to be purchased by the City.

- 1.2 Would CCSO charge the city for other services if other services were needed on a temporary/support basis, such as K9, detective, search and rescue, etc.?

Sheriff's response: No, the City would not be charged for extra services provide by the County.

2. Staffing

- 2.1 Is CCSO currently fully staffed, including all the positions funded through the 2023 local option levy for increased CCSO enforcement personnel?
- a. If so, when was full staffing accomplished.
 - b. If so, does that mean there is at least one on duty patrol deputy patrolling and responding to calls for service 24/7/365?
 - c. If so, From the time CCSO began recruiting to fill the position the levy funded, to full staffing, what was the time frame?

- d. If no, please explain why the coverage has not yet been accomplished.
 - i. Recruiting in training/academy, etc.? (position is filled it's just a time it takes to train a recruit/entry level deputy?)

Sheriff's response: CCSO has four open positions, with some applicants in the hiring process and two Deputies who will transfer back into patrol after a grant ends in 2024. This leaves two open positions with applicants in the pipeline. CCSO currently has 2 Deputies on duty 24/7/365. We currently have 2 Deputies in the basic academy and 2 Deputies on a modified duty status.

- 2.2 Is CCSO willing to adjust patrol schedules to ensure shift overlap (double coverage/4 deputies on duty) during school drop off and pick up? For example, 7:00am to 9am and 2pm to 4pm? This is to allow deputies to focus on aggressive traffic safety enforcement in and around school routes/zones on a daily basis (presence and traffic stops).

Sheriff's response: There is no schedule that would allow four Deputies during both of these times. When possible we will overlap shifts during one or more of those times, however we cannot guarantee there will be overlap.

- 2.3 During the meeting on 2/5, questions were raised around the security of any SPD officer's position after the 1 year once transferred over to CCSO. Can you speak to what retention beyond that period might look like, union influence over retention, etc.

Sheriff's response: Deputies are protected by union rules as part of the CBA. We could not legally release anyone without cause. The 1-year protection does not absolve the County of the right to dismiss employees for cause, no matter their tenure or seniority level.

- 2.4 Will CCSO agree to a rotation plan that doesn't allow 50% of the positions to rotate out within the same year? For example no more than 5 patrol deputies can change in the same 12-months. Only one sergeant may change every two years and the assigned lieutenant must stay assigned at least 3 years.

Sheriff's response: Having a stable police force is important. This will be a balance and may provide difficulty with the timelines you provide. Currently, Clatskanie Deputies are on a 6 month rotation schedule based on the shift bid process provided in the CBA. Scappoose would be handled similarly. Sergeants and Lieutenants are not part of the CBA and can be scheduled for a longer duration for consistency.

- 2.5 Will CCSO agree that the City of Scappoose contract would not be a training ground? In other words, we want assurance that we won't have all new officers with little experience assigned to the contract. We'd want to see some sort of plan that ensures a mix of experienced deputies and newer deputies. We consider new deputies any deputy with less than 3 years of consecutive law enforcement experience within the last year.

Sheriff's response: CCSO can't assure any duration of time for Deputies. This is contingent on the rules of the CBA. CCSO offers a 2% resident Deputy incentive pay for working within the city where the Deputy resides. CCSO has several tenured Deputies who live within the city limits who may take advantage of this offer. Leadership staff can be assigned to a longer duration. It is not our intention to put new leaders within the City.

3. Community Engagement

3.1 We've seen some comments by Clatskanie residents claiming they are unhappy with the sheriff's office's performance in Clatskanie. Can CCSO provide insight into the concerns expressed from Clatskanie residents and if CCSO is meeting its contractual obligations with the City of Clatskanie?

Sheriff response: CCSO is absolutely meeting our contracted obligations to the City of Clatskanie. I believe this problem may be due in large part to the citizens not understanding what the contractual obligations are. The City of Clatskanie currently pay for 2.7 FTE for patrol staff and .25FTE for supervisory oversight. That equates to just over 15 hours per day of staffed time. Residents expect more coverage, even though the City does not pay for it.

I have a good working relationship with the Mayor and City Manager in Clatskanie. The City Manager and I try to meet at least quarterly to discuss concerns that may arise and then work collaboratively to ensure they are addressed in the best way possible. My Lieutenant attends weekly / bi-weekly meetings with the City Manager and both he and my Chief Deputy regularly attend the monthly City Council meetings to address problems brought forward by the citizens.

3.2 We would like to further explore any complaints that those in county may have filed with CCSO relating to policing services. Would it be possible to get some high level information about the nature of the complaints that have been raised and the disposition of those complaints (omitting names of community members or officers involved in those complaints).

Sheriff's response: Yes, I would have to work with my County Counsel and HR Director to ensure we adhere to privacy rules as they relate to personnel issues. I reviewed my files and located 15 complaints files since 2021, resulting in 3 formal disciplines, 3 verbal counseling sessions and 9 unfounded complaints. There were several instances where the same citizen made the same complaint of the same employee for the same reasons. In these cases I counted them as 1 complaint.

4. Community Visibility and Branding

4.1 Is CCSO willing to implement the branding theme for equipment/uniforms that the city council requests? This includes specifications such as car design (black and white), specific graphics with "Serving Scappoose" (for example), uniform color (black, for example), patches, badges

and other requirements for uniforms and equipment to ensure professional appearance/professional standards?

Sheriff's response: I believe the best opportunity is to streamline branding. All cars, as replaced, will transition to CCSO branding with an additional line saying "Serving the Cities of Scappoose and Clatskanie". This ensures continuity as Deputies move in and out of the City. I'm willing to negotiate on a Scappoose uniform while Deputies are assigned to the City, but the City would be responsible for those additional uniform costs.

4.2 Is CCSO willing to follow a social media plan prescribed by the city/city council? For example, the sheriff's office would use either the city's social media as the police department does now to post information or create a "Columbia County Sheriff's – Serving Scappoose" page (specifics TBD). I can envision the city council wanting informational posts about all attempt to locates for persons of interest in incidents, missing persons, missing pets, found pets, monthly stats, staffing updates, awards and achievements of staff, recognizing citizens for their involvement in certain cases, solved cases, etc. and within a certain timeframe of when the incident is reported.

Sheriff's response: CCSO currently has several social media pages and could add an additional page for Scappoose-centric issues. Providing content for this page would fall to the assigned Lieutenant and would be subject to their availability and workload.

5. Use of Technology for Public Safety

5.1 Would CCSO agree to license and ensure implementation and use of SPIDR Tech (www.spidrtch.com)? SPIDR Tech would allow the city to ensure our citizens are receiving quality law enforcement/customer service from the sheriff's office contract and allow the city a method to continuously evaluate the public's option of the contract with the sheriff's office. Oregon cities like Bend have implemented this tool for their PD. This of course would require collaboration with and cooperation from C911CD.

Sheriff's response: I would need more information before I could agree to this point. I am open to utilizing new technology, however since this is for the benefit of the City, they would be responsible for paying for it.

5.2 Would CCSO be willing to manage and utilize to its fullest extent the Flock Safety Camera system throughout the city, should the city council move forward with that project and have the cameras installed throughout the city? We assume the city would be billed and pay for the actual costs of the system.

Sheriff's response: I am unaware of this system so would need further information before I could agree.

5.3 Would CCSO be willing to equip all vehicles with moving radar and ensure all deputies are radar and lidar certified in order to conduct consistent traffic safety enforcement throughout the city?

Sheriff's response: The costs above for vehicle purchase or lease include radar. All Deputies will be trained and certified in both radar and lidar.

5.4 Would CCSO be willing to equip at least 3 of the patrol vehicles used by patrol deputies (assigned to different shifts) with LPR to notify deputies instantly of passing stolen vehicles?

Sheriff's response: This would have to be negotiated in the contract to ensure the City would be taking on the cost of this new tech. This is not currently in the County budget.

6. Focus on Public Safety Priorities

6.1 If the Council prioritized traffic safety enforcement and wanted to see speeds enforced, can Scappoose write that priority into the contract? How could the impact of creating that priority be measured?

Sheriff's response: It is illegal to create performance standards around things such as traffic citations. However, I understand and fully expect to work with the City Council to address safety concerns within the city. I believe most of these things can be tracked through CAD.

6.2 If the city installs throughout the city speed radar signs that indicate to drivers how fast they are going, and provides data wirelessly about stats for each location, will CCSO agree to review the data at least once weekly and direct deputies to those areas for speed enforcement campaigns as the data from each sign suggests is needed?

Sheriff's response: CCSO would be willing to consistently review the data, however cannot promise weekly review. This would fall to supervisors and is subject to their schedules and workloads.

6.3 Will CCSO agree to timely and professionally handle (write tickets when necessary) for city code compliance violations?

Sheriff's response: We currently work with the City of Clatskanie Code Enforcement person and issue citations as needed. Deputies can provide support to a City-funded code enforcement person but will not provide a code enforcement officer unless specifically requested and paid for by the City.

6.4 Will CCSO agree to ensure deputies conduct professional, timely follow up on all reported incidents they are dispatched to, write reports in a timely and professional manner as expected

by the city council and district attorney, and take proper professional enforcement action on violations and crimes? The city council expects timely, professional follow-up to actually solve crimes and hold accountable those who commit crimes. Thorough follow up such as searching for and reviewing neighbor's security cameras, etc. is the type of detailed, professional follow up the city will expect to solve crimes. This is an example only.

Sheriff's response: CCSO will provide timely follow-up on crimes and reports within the allocated staffing hours provided by the City. If follow ups require overtime, this will be provided at a cost to the City.

6.5 Is CCSO willing to respond to all residential and business silent and audible alarms?

Sheriff's response: Yes. The on-duty staff will be expected to respond to alarms within the City. Please note that calls are prioritized and the higher priority calls will always be addressed first.

6.6 Is CCSO willing to consistently (daily) conduct "business checks" (premise check) when businesses are known to be closed, especially during night hours, to foster community policing and relations with business owners? This is the traditional practice that has went away that should come back, where officers get out of their car and check doors to make sure they're locked and walk around the perimeter of the business.

Sheriff's response: If the Deputies assigned to the City are working priority calls or a major crime, they will not be expected to perform premise checks while actively engaged. But as a matter of general duty / service, yes, they would be expected to complete premise checks.

6.7 To foster improved community policing/community relations, is CCSO willing to conduct "vacation" checks, when requested by residents out of town?

Sheriff's response: See 6.6

6.8 Is CCSO willing to provide monthly reports in the format prescribed by council? These reports may include stats on all incident types (TBD) per month, dispatch and arrival time for dispatched incidents, categorized by call priority (TBD), daily stats for on duty, on patrol in city limits, staffing levels, broken down by hour per day (format could be determined later).

Sheriff's response: The form of these reports would have to be worked on collaboratively to ensure the data is easily accessible, and that the reporting is completed in the best way without being time prohibitive.

7. Interagency engagement

7.1 The City Council has taken a stance on the 911 process, passing a resolution in support of an RFP process. Is CCSO willing to help the city advocate for this position to drive improvements with the 9-1-1 system, as needed? Concerns with the current process include operational and safety needs of first responders, consideration of school system needs, potential dependence on a system managed by another jurisdiction, and unreliability of the CAD system. Is CCSO championing change that would address these concerns?

Sheriff's response: Yes, CCSO is currently working with the Cities of Scappoose, Vernonia and Columbia City to ensure the County receives the best radio / CAD available and will push for as much collaboration as we are able.

Councilor Holmes explained the final piece of information that she will share is that in the meeting with our staff, Brian Jensen, who's our acting Safety Director, did raise the concern that the uncertainty of the investigation, is creating uncertainty within the department and asked when we might be working to arrive at a decision on this and so they talked and they think they would like to be able to conclude this investigation one way or another by the May 6th meeting. She explained Brian agreed that that would be reasonable, and he would communicate that back to the Officers and really out of respect for our Officers, that is the goal is to get this wrapped up to the best extent possible by May 6th. She stated she puts before you a couple of recommendations. She stated she wants to commend our staff as they always do such a nice job with the staff report and she did her best to emulate but she is not sure she hit the mark, but she tried to put before Council kind of three options for consideration.

Options:

1. Continue exploration and ask staff to develop the long-term funding strategy, anticipating the SPD budget to reach \$3.7 million to \$4 million annually (if we can recruit laterals that may come in at a higher pay grade than new recruits). We need to understand:
 - What would this look like if it were paid for through the general fund? How would other departments be impacted? Would all new revenue dollars need to be allocated to the Police Department?
 - If the city could not sustain SPD costs through general tax revenue, what are the options in terms of going out for a levy?
 - How much would that levy need to be? How would that translate to cost per \$1000 of assessed value for residents? How long could that levy be in place?
 - When would the levy need to take effect?
2. Survey residents who live within the city limits (no participation from residents outside of the city who would not be paying the levy) to determine:
 - Is 24/7/365 on-duty coverage with two officers on duty at all times the right goal?
 - Willingness to support a tax option levy if that is the funding option necessary to supplement the city's general fund for city law enforcement services.

- Or, desire to see cost savings through contracted services, freeing up funds for other public services like parks development. As noted above, the cost difference between and internal PD and contracting with CCSO for the same levels of converge, is estimated at \$700,000.00, annually.

3. End exploration of public safety options. Maintain the internal police department and right size the level of service to match current budget levels, recognizing this will fall short of the 24/7 on duty goal which many may find concerning given the uptick in violent crime to property crimes we are seeing

Finance Administrator Carol Almer explained we're very early in the budget process at this point, but looking at what we've got as far as the General Fund our General fund is in where it's in good shape at this point. She explained we do have good reserves in the General fund. She explained she would feel very comfortable now we know that we have new houses being developed and the Assessor give us an estimate of what the houses that we have and in the works now looking at potentially another almost \$90,000 tax revenue probably 18 months down the road and we obviously can look at other patrol funding mechanisms, but she would be comfortable saying that we could run on reserves three years comfortably and fund our Police Department. She stated right now we're so low understaffed that we have extra money. She explained currently we're budgeting for more excess of money in our ending fund balance to get us through November tax season and she like calculated how much money we need, and we don't need that much. She does believe we have extra reserves that she feels comfortable saying that we could fund the additional money we'd need to keep the police here in Scappoose for up to three years without putting us in any jeopardy. She explained we are trying to budget very conservatively.

Council President Miller replied the word reserves scare him.

Councilor Lafrenz moved, and Councilor Santiago moved to extend the meeting past 9:00pm. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

There was a discussion regarding the numbers on the spread sheet possibly not being accurate, and making sure they are accurate before doing a survey. There was also a discussion on the survey questions.

Councilor Holmes wants to very much see if Finance Administrator Carol Almer feels the numbers are reflected in the spreadsheet are not accurate. She stated certainly if there's an opportunity please go ahead and revise them further so that they accurately reflect kind of what you think we've got budgeted for this year, but she really does want to see for five years because this is not a decision that this community wants to revisit within five years. She feels if we take the step of hiring a police chief, we want to assure them the opportunity to really grow

the department and all of our officers as well. She wants to make sure that we can sustainably fund this department for at least five years.

Councilor Lafrenz explained he feels we have focused so much on the financial aspect, and he feels we need to look at a different perspective. He has gathered something on his own that he thinks would be helpful. "First, I would like to say I have nothing but respect for the CCSO. They do tremendous work keeping our communities safe. Thank you Councilor Holmes and Councilor Miller for putting in all this work exploring this option. As a college professor, data scientist and data analyst for the county, it is in my nature to understand and dissect an issue from all aspects. Since this is a decision that would be very difficult to ever reverse, I focused on investigating what the potential consequences of contracting out would be. I'll start by saying that I believe that more direct feedback from the SPD officers and staff should have been included from the beginning of this process. I think it's fair to say that they are the real experts on public safety and law enforcement in Scappoose and their thoughts on how to best keep our local community safe should be highly valued. Over the past 2 weeks I interviewed over half of the Scappoose PD and want to highlight a few important issues related to this decision. The main points proposed for contracting out are that it would allow the city to achieve 24/7 coverage with always having 2 officers on duty in Scappoose proper. I don't discount the significant amount of work that was put into the financial comparisons. However, I think it is clear that there are still a lot of unknowns in the proposed budgets and a lot of work and negotiations would be needed to get to a more confident financial picture of what cost savings there potentially would be. There are too many unknowns to put too much weight on how much contracting out would save the city of Scappoose. In addressing the 24/7 coverage, there wasn't one officer or staff I interviewed that stated that 2 officers in Scappoose 24/7 should be the priority. Statistically there are just very few calls in the middle of the night and it is not the best use of resources. All of the feedback I received centered around the actual priority being ensuring that we are fully staffed during the hours that there is high call volume. From the morning to the late evening. It should also be stated once again, that we already do have 24/7 coverage as the CCSO provides service during gaps in Scappoose staffing. Another significant consequence of this decision is what are the implications of losing local control of our police department. While I have no doubt the CCSO would do an effective job serving Scappoose there are tradeoffs when a city is served by an outside organization that has to adhere to their own important priorities (as they should).

Some of the feedback I received around losing local control is:

- Losing some of our officers that prefer the type of policing that is done at the city level compared to the county level
- A loss of community involvement and engagement with the police
- Challenges with the city, community and schools providing the same level of involvement and input
- Uncertainty of the future direction of CCSO when leadership transitions at some point
- I recently met with the county director of emergency management and asked for his feedback on any challenges that contracting out would create. He stated that the local

police chief and fire chief are the main and most important point of contact for local communities in an emergency response. Losing our main connection for coordinating an emergency response is a significant concern we should consider.

- I've worked for the federal government, the state government, and still work for the county government and now the city government and I believe most would agree with me when I say...local communities generally know what is best for them.
- We need to be careful with some of the comparison cities that have had success contracting out as well. For example, Happy Valley and Wilsonville began contracting out in the 90's when they are a fraction the size that they are. It's all they pretty much have had and had the benefit of the County Sherriff Office growing their resources to serve them as those communities grew themselves. The ability for the much larger Washington and Clackamas County Sheriff offices to serve small communities is not the same for Columbia county that simply does not have nearly the same number of officers or resources.

Lastly, I believe that this decisions is trying to correct issues that are primarily in the past. While Scappoose does have a recent history of officer and leadership turnover, the current city council should not make a drastic decision due to the past discretions and missteps of former leadership. We truly have a unique opportunity in front of us. We can work together to bring in a strong city manager and a highly qualified police chief and build on the great core of officers we currently have and the Lieutenant as well. The points that I have brought up are just a few of the many potential consequences of this decision and I believe that most would agree that all these reasons far outweigh the potential cost savings that this would create. I finish by saying, I believe in our current SPD, I believe in our great city staff, and I believe that this current Council can support manageable and responsible growth of our Police Department to best suit the needs of Scappoose now and into the future". (end of Councilor Lafrenz's statement).

Mayor Backus asked Councilor Holmes if she feels she could draft some questions for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting and then try to get the survey out.

Councilor Holmes replied she can draft some questions, but she would like Councilor LaFrenz's help with the survey questions. She explained that they also have to ensure the quality of the data. She explained at the Town Hall we have to have some way of capturing their information to verify that they live within the City or operate a business within the City, that they are somehow part of the tax base that would be shouldering the burden if we did have to raise some additional revenues.

Councilor Santiago explained she would love to hear from the current Police Officers and what their thoughts are on this without them feeling like they are going to be reprimanded or anything like that. She is in favor of surveying residents to find out their thoughts on this.

Mayor Backus explained if we decide to stay with the local department, he hopes we can address what the issues have been and are.

Steve Barnes explained he doesn't know if it is even possible to get true numbers for this Police Department to show what it is going to take. He would like the Council to keep in mind that true numbers are very difficult to get.

Council President Miller explained he thinks their priority is very authentic and that they want to make sure the people in this community are safe and that there is a reasonable response time to get to emergencies. He stated the only way that we're going to be able to do that is to assure that we have on duty officers in the City.

Mayor Backus explained his whole thing was really thinking of the officers because he thinks the officers, we have now are good officers and he wanted to protect and help them and get more ability to retain them. He explained that was kind of the thought which was to get them support and help and he knows it didn't necessarily seem like that and it may not because they came to Scappoose because they wanted to be in Scappoose and now, he sees that, and he hears that and it's important to him as well. He stated a big part of this was to help out the officers that we have going forward.

Teresa Keller explained putting the survey into the water bill is not a good idea, since people might just toss the flyers so an individual mailer would be better.

Darlene Marquardt explained she would like to see the option of the survey being able to be dropped off in the drop box.

Interim City Manager Larry Lehman asked if there is anyone at one of the Colleges who does surveys?

Councilor Lafrenz explained he does surveys.

Council President Miller asked if someone could look into this right away, maybe see if PCC or PSU would do it within our time frame.

There was a discussion on direct mailers/surveys within the City limits.

Option 2 ~ surveying residents.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Council President Miller seconded the motion to have staff to send out a survey for the law enforcement services within the City of Scappoose. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

Updates: City Manager, Police Department, Councilors, and Mayor

Interim City Manager Larry Lehman explained the search for a new City Manager is underway.

Lieutenant Chris Fluellen thanked Mayor and Council for their time, along with the citizens for being participants in their local government. He thanked everyone for the personal comments today, but he is part of a team. He stated he believes being a leader is a privilege, and it is not something he takes very lightly.

Councilor Jacobs stated to Lt. Fluellen that he is such a professional. She explained every interaction and every time she sees Lt. Fluellen, he brings a smile to her face because he is the standard, and she just appreciates everything he does. She explained she is the new liaison for the Parks & Rec Committee. She invited everyone to Earth Day on April 20, which starts at 8am and goes until 3pm. She explained June 8 is the day for the Summer Festival. This will be a great event and a nice way to kick off summer.

Councilor Lafrenz thanked the Scappoose Police Department. He explained after speaking with the staff at the Police Department it is really apparent that Scappoose is a desirable place to be a police officer, especially after we get the salary up to where it should be. He explained just hearing that they could work somewhere else for quite a bit higher pay is a testament to what we have going on in the City and so he would like to keep that momentum going. He is really looking forward to engaging in our community at the Town meeting.

Councilor Santiago explained there were several flyers in the last water bill which she hopes people look at them and don't just throw them in the trash. She gave an update on the Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Backus thanked Carol and Lt. Fluellen for attending tonight. He explained Senator Merkley is in St. Helens this Saturday. He explained the solar panel company is not coming to St. Helens so that means there is still power available in the area, even though we are still in need of more power.

Council President Miller talked about the Annual Grant Watts Spring Auction being held April 20. He talked about the facility tour on April 24. He asked in regard to the survey that will be going out if Councilor Holmes and Councilor Lafrenz could consider putting in a factual second

page with facts bullet points that people could read to learn more because he thinks it's going to be really difficult if you do four or five survey questions without context and we need to make sure the information that's put out is factual and they're not getting information from potentially misleading social media posts. He thanked Lt. Fluellen for all of his leadership, it is very apparent.

Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC