



**TALENT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL
May 2, 2018 — 6:45 p.m.**

Study Session, Regular Council & TURA meetings are being digitally recorded and will be available on the City website: www.cityoftalent.org.

The City Council of the City of Talent will meet in a Regular Council session at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, in Town Hall, 206 E. Main Street. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to the City Recorder at 541-535-1566, ext. 1012.

The City Council reserves the right to add or delete items as needed, change the order of the agenda, and discuss any other business deemed necessary at the time of the study session and/or meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING — 6:45 p.m.

Anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item should complete a Speaker Request Form and give it to the City Recorder. Speaker Request Forms are located at the entrance to the meeting place. Anyone commenting on a subject *not* on the agenda will be called upon during the “Citizens Heard on Non-Agenda Items” section of the agenda. Comments pertaining to *specific* agenda items will be taken at the time the matter is discussed by the City Council.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 7:03 p.m.

Councilors Present:	Councilors Absent:
Mayor Ayers-Flood Councilor Dolan Councilor Berlant Councilor Harrison Councilor Pederson Councilor Baker Councilor Land	
Also Present:	
Zac Moody, Community Development Director Ryan Martin, Interim City Manager/Finance Director Chief Curtis Whipple, Talent PD Savannah Edson, City Recorder	

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Community Announcements (0:55)

- Wed., May 30, 6 p.m. Martin said there will be a Town Hall meeting regarding the use of smart meters in Talent. He will be posting the event on the website and have the agenda up as well.
 - Mayor Ayers-Flood clarified that the City is trying to find somebody to speak against smart meters in addition to the person from Pacific Power in order to give equal time to both sides.
- Wed., May 9, Councilor Dolan said there will be a joint study session with the Parks Commission and Together for Talent to discuss integrated pest management. They have been working with Public Works, Pollination Place, and Beyond Toxics in preparation and there will be several speakers there.
- Thur., May 10, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Councilor Berlant mentioned that Rogue Climate’s monthly community meeting will take place at the Talent Community Center. During the meeting, titled “Take Part in Talent’s Energy Revolution Today,” residents will learn about how to make effective energy-saving choices and behavior changes at home.
- Sat. May 12, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Councilor Harrison reminded everyone of the Pancake Breakfast Benefit for the Firehouse Five Foundation. Mayor Ayers-Flood said she will be there.
- Sat. May 12, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Councilor Land mentioned the City-wide Yard Sale happening as part of the ACCENT on Talent Day.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood took a moment to address an article that had come out in the paper about a settlement made with the former City Manager, which she said contained misleading information. In order to show the great lengths the Council went to protect the community from undue financial liability, she then read aloud a letter from the City’s insurance company detailing the nature of the complaint and how it was settled.
 - She said was extremely proud of the way that the city dealt with such a difficult and emotionally charged situation. They took great steps to ensure the City’ liability was as low as possible.

4. Public Presentations

None.

5. Public Hearings

None.

6. Citizens Heard on Non-Agenda Items (8:55)

Josephine Warden
 255 Colver Rd. # 88
 Talent, OR 97540

- Spoke on behalf of Bee City Talent, as a request had been made on Apr. 11 to bring certain information to Council regarding the use of milkweed in pollinator gardens.
- Discussed the recent debate within the City and affiliated groups on whether or not to plant milkweed in the proposed pollinator gardens in Joseph Park, as the plant can be potentially dangerous to dogs.
- The Council decided to add a discussion on the topic to the agenda for later in the meeting.

Bridget Krause
100 N Pacific Hwy. #44
Talent, OR 97540

- Thanked everyone at the City for scheduling the Apr. 30 Town Hall meeting on smart meters.
- Said she was looking forward to hearing more about health and safety concerns.
- Asked if there would be Wi-Fi access at the meeting.

Aleksandra Zurek
100 N Pacific Hwy. #149
Talent, OR 97540

- Expressed concerns about affordable housing. Said 60 percent of her income goes to housing.

Tina DeCorte
233 Eva Way Apt. #40
Talent, OR 97540

- Stressed the tremendous need for affordable housing in Talent.
- Expressed gratitude for the affordable housing that is in Talent, but said the City still doesn't have enough to accommodate their residents with disabilities.
- Asked the Council to take into consideration the people who would like to be a part of this community but cannot afford it.

Michelle Glass
385 Blackberry Ct.
Talent, OR 97540

- Came to Council in honor of National Housing Week of Action and commended the steps the City and certain commissions have taken to prioritize affordable housing in Talent.
- Asked that Laz Ayala and Charlie Hamilton not be appointed to the UGB Citizen Advisory Committee, as they stand to make a significant profit from the RPS amendments. Said these developers already have seats on the table as stakeholders; non-landowners do not have that privilege.

7. Consent Agenda (31:35)

7.1 Approval of Apr. 18, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Harrison moved to approve the Apr. 18 City Council Meeting minutes. Councilor Land seconded.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Regular Agenda (32:30)

8.1 Continuum of Care Update and Request for Funding (32:35)

Staff Report from Interim City Manager Ryan Martin.

- Continuum of Care seeks to end homelessness in southern Oregon by increasing coordination among nonprofits. Martin serves on the board so is informed on the program.

- Funding requests were made to each municipality in the area on a per capita basis, with Talent's portion totaling \$2,900. Staff recommendation is to approve the request for funding.
- Money would go towards salaries for the coordinator and the homeless management information systems coordinator, whose jobs it would be to work towards streamlining the services and efforts of all the nonprofits in southern Oregon that work with the homeless. A database system would also be established so that nonprofits can work together to better track how they are helping the houseless.

Discussion:

- Councilor Baker thanked Ryan for clarifying what the money would specifically be used for.
- Councilor Baker asked how this approach will help prevent people from abusing the system.
 - Martin said organizations are working on putting everybody on the same database so they can see which homeless people are receiving which services in the valley. He added there is also a sub-group working on faith based organizations.
- Councilor Harrison asked for clarification that the funding would go towards two salaries plus benefits and not towards any direct services in the valley. Martin confirmed.
- Councilor Land asked if there was confirmed funding from grants for this upcoming year. Recalled there was around \$253,000 in grant money last year to be dispersed around the valley by Continuum of Care.
 - Ryan said as far as he knows there is a lot of grant funding involved. Does not, however, believe there is any grant funding going towards those salaries.
- Councilor Land asked if there was a willingness from other cities to contribute funding as well.
 - Martin said Medford and Ashland are definitely on board. He had not yet heard from other cities.
- Councilor Berlant asked what happens if Talent offers the money but other cities do not contribute their share.
 - Martin says if the funding falls short, the money would probably go towards funding one position, then nobody at all. Finding somebody to fill this position on a volunteer basis would be near impossible.
- Councilor Baker said he would feel comfortable approving this at the current meeting but asked if Martin could get a stronger feeling for whether other cities will contribute and provide the Council with an update.
- Councilor Harrison asked if the money would be better spent on nonprofits that are already doing good work in the valley rather than being used to fund the salaries of two people.
 - Ryan said he couldn't speak to which one would be better but that Continuum of Care is working with all of the direct service organizations in the valley in order to increase their efficiency, therefore serving more people with less money.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood said she appreciated the report by Martin. Asked if there was a way she and the Council could get a copy of the report that Continuum of Care gives to Jackson County at the end of each year so that the City may continue considering the program in the future.

Motion: Councilor Dolan moved that \$2,900 be added to the fiscal year 2018-19 budget for Continuum of Care funding and to invite representatives from there to give a report as to how that funding has impacted Talent. Councilor Berlant seconded.

Discussion:

- Councilor Pederson said he will be supporting the motion. Said that although it is not a direct allocation to Talent, it is helping to address a problem that affects the entire valley. Pointed out that it is better financially to address root causes like poverty and homelessness because those problems trigger the need for so many other services. The more Talent can help people in emergency situations, the better.
- Councilor Baker said he is conflicted. Doesn't want money to just go to salaries. On the other hand, he will support the motion in the event that Martin brings some feedback to the Budget Committee about the opinions of other cities in the valley.
- Councilor Land said she will support the motion because no nonprofit can function without salaries. Additionally, none of the nonprofits working on these issues with Continuum of Care can do it by themselves. She believes a \$2900 payout for their portion of population is money well spent as long as there is money in the budget.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood said one of the things she values about this proposal is that it seeks to create more efficiencies within the collaborative process. It can actually save money in the end. The upfront investment is a drop in the bucket considering what the benefit could be.
 - Listed many other organizations who have also contributed money to this effort. Mentioned a saying in the hotel industry: "If you're not serving the guest, you should be supporting the ones who are." Talent doesn't have the resources to address these issues by themselves, so they should contribute to funding the people and organizations who are.
- Councilor Harrison said he will support this motion because something needs to be done to address homelessness and poverty in the valley.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

8.2 OLCC Permit Application for The Grotto (52:00)

Staff report from Interim City Manager Ryan Martin.

- The Grotto has recently changed ownership and Talent PD has done a background check on the four new owners. Chief Whipple said that no disqualifying information was found.

Motion: Councilor Baker moved to approve the OLCC permit application for The Grotto. Councilor Land seconded.

Discussion:

- Councilor Land said she knows the Monroes personally; they are excited about investing in The Grotto and taking it in more of a sports bar direction. They are trying to compete with neighboring restaurants that are also serving alcohol.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood said she has also known the Monroes a long time. She is happy they are finding their niche in the market and contributing to a rounded-out downtown.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Information Items

9.1 Parking Study Findings (55:15)

Presentation from Savannah Edson and Connor Shields. (Staff report attached.)

Discussion:

- Councilor Berlant commended Edson and Shields for not only spending hours collecting data, but also for putting together a report that was a joy to read. She asked if they had considered programs that would encourage residents to take the bus more often, in addition to their recommendations to improve walking and biking infrastructure.
 - Shields said they had looked into employee bundle programs that RVTD offers to employers and had concluded that none of the businesses in the downtown were large enough to meet the minimum requirements.
 - Councilor Berlant suggested that maybe the City could strike a deal with RVTD to consider the businesses in the downtown as one large client. She also suggested that businesses could incentivize their employees to commute without cars by paying for things like bus passes.
- Councilor Land asked if Edson and Shields had contacted RVTD to find out how many of their residents and local workers were using the bus services. They had not.
- Councilor Baker said he wondered how the parking situation would compare on a typical Friday night, providing anecdotal evidence that it can become quite congested, and asked if Edson and Shields had considered measuring those dates as well.
 - Edson explained that they had chosen Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays in order to most closely match the ITE Trip Rate data they used to forecast future demand.
- Councilor Berlant asked if there had been any consideration of working with businesses to schedule their employees so that they could carpool with other workers or take the bus more often.
 - Shields said it was not something the study had touched on but a conversation that should be had with business owners in the future.
- Councilor Dolan wondered if there was any opportunity for a PR campaign by the City to encourage people to bike more to the downtown or to park farther away from the core. She noted that the proposed motion included the phrase “business-oriented incentive programs,” yet residents and patrons could be included as well.
- Councilor Pederson asked if it was assumed that the blocks with the projected shortfalls in parking supply (Blocks 9 and 10 in particular) would be isolated incidents or if staff had considered that the problem would spill over into other areas of the downtown.
 - Shields explained that it had been considered but block deficiencies were calculated individually for the purpose of the study.

Motion: Councilor Dolan moved to direct staff to work with the Economic Development Commission, upon its formation, to develop programs that incentivize greater use of alternative transportation modes to and from the downtown area for both businesses and other residents of the City of Talent.

Discussion:

- Councilor Baker asked if the Economic Development Commission has begun meeting yet. Councilor Pederson said that they have a quorum but have not had their first meeting yet.

- Councilor Baker asked how many of the downtown businesses would actually be involved in this process, given that the motion carries.
 - Councilor Pederson said that a good majority would be involved, including the Executive Director of the Camelot Theater and the President of the Board of Talent Maker City.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Councilor Baker moved to direct staff to work with the Planning Commission to review current development codes that pertain to parking standards in the Central Business District zone with the intent of amending said codes to reduce potential future public-parking congestion.

Discussion:

- Councilor Baker asked the Council if they thought the motion needed to be expanded to include areas beyond just the Central Business District, such as parking standards for residential areas.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood asked about exactly how large the Central Business District actually is.
 - Moody noted the map of the study area defined in the report doesn't necessarily reflect the parts of town that are zoned as Central Business District. However, the study area contains all the different types of uses (residential, mixed-use, and commercial) that could happen in the downtown area.
 - Moody said the direction from Council could be two-fold; one avenue would be to focus on addressing parking standards in just the downtown area, while the other approach would be to reconsider parking standards for a wider variety of uses, especially multi-family housing and mixed-use development.
- Councilor Dolan said she didn't get the impression that staff was recommending regulatory action so she wondered why a motion to develop parking standards was being considered.
 - Edson clarified that the standards created as a result of this motion would only apply to future developments. Regulatory action towards already existing infrastructure, such as time limits on vehicle stalls, would come at a much higher cost to the city in terms of implementation, upkeep, and public disapproval and is therefore not recommended as a first course of action.
- Councilor Baker gave an example of a dental office in Medford where it was obvious that the employees were not allowed to park directly outside, resulting in a mostly unused parking lot and an increase in congestion to the surrounding residential area. Explained this is an example of why parking standards need to be looked at holistically.
- Councilor Baker withdrew his motion.

Motion: Councilor Berlant moved to direct staff to work with the Economic Development Commission to review development codes that pertain to parking standards residentially and commercially with the intent of amending said codes to reduce potential future parking congestion.

Discussion:

- Councilor Pederson said he supports considering parking standards in the downtown but has reservations about requiring a minimum number of parking stalls with each development because it would do little to advance the City's goal of becoming more walkable community. Said he supports the motion but would like to see an option for new developments to contribute higher SDCs for shared public parking facilities at a nearby location.

- Councilor Baker said the motion will allow the Planning Commission to begin having those types of conversations and be creative with their solutions.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

- Councilor Berlant asked about staff's recommendation to periodically repeat the study in order to continually reassess parking management needs. Asked if that was something the Council should require through a motion.
- Councilor Baker said he wondered what timeline they would set it to, as changes in parking congestion can occur even without new lot developments.
- Councilor Dolan noted that a parking study done in the summertime would probably provide a different story than the one done in January and February. Suggested another study be done this summer.
- Moody said that parking is a focus that the Community Development Department can continue to work on but that the amount of work needed to complete this study in the summertime would be unrealistic given the amount of staff support.
 - Believes that once the Planning Commission starts talking about parking, then it will become clearer what the appropriate timeline would be. Suggested the direction from Council could be to reevaluate parking as it is deemed necessary.
 - Mayor Ayers-Flood said she would feel comfortable asking the Planning Commission to provide a recommended timeline for reevaluation in the aftermath of their discussion about parking standards. Moody agreed.

10. Other Business (1:42:30)

Continuation of discussion about milkweed:

- Mayor Ayers-Flood said she heard the City may be misinformed about milkweed and its impact to the Joseph Park and she would like to revisit the discussion.
- Councilor Dolan stated that it was the insurance company, CIS, that brought this information to Council. Milkweed is an important habitat plant, particularly for monarch butterflies, yet allegedly it can be harmful to dogs if they eat it.
- Councilor Baker said he gathered that the reluctance to plant milkweed in the pollinator garden was based on the recommendation from CIS.
 - Martin confirmed. They had asked CIS and they came forward with the recommendation that because milkweed can be poisonous to dogs, it could be a potential liability for the City to include in the garden.
- Councilor Dolan said she had though there were potential remedies such as signage or wire fencing to mitigate any potential danger of harming dogs.
 - Martin explained that signage was not an option as it would do nothing to deter dogs. The best option given by the insurance company was to somehow enclose the area. The Parks Commission and Together for Talent worked together to try to come up with another solution in December and January. Hanging bowls aren't an option because milkweed won't grow well in that condition.
- Martin said his recommendation would be to look for enclosure options.
- Councilor Dolan suggested the city go against the advice of insurance company, as milkweed grows all around town and she finds it unlikely that the City would ever actually be sued.

- Mayor Ayers-Flood pointed out that the Council had been presented with little evidence to demonstrate that harming dogs by planting milkweed was a real possibility.
- Councilor Land said lots of things are poisonous to dogs, yet milkweed is one of the only plants where Monarch butterflies lay their larvae.
- Martin said that because the City asked the insurance company, now it is a known liability to plant milkweed. However, it is the prerogative of the Council if they would like to go against the advice from CIS.
- Councilor Dolan says she believes it is a phantom liability.

Motion: Councilor Dolan moved to plant milkweed in pollinator gardens against advice of the City's insurance company.

Discussion:

- Councilor Berlant said she supports the intention but would like to reword the motion.
- Councilor Dolan withdrew her motion.

Motion: Councilor Berlant moved to approve the use of milkweed in Talent pollinator gardens per the recommendations of pollinator garden designers with all relevant and proven safety measures applied. Councilor Dolan seconded.

Discussion:

- Martin asked what the relevant and proven safety measures would be.
- Councilor Pederson said he supports the planting of milkweed in the garden. Says he lives in the area and there is milkweed growing everywhere. However, he is concerned about the language of "all relevant proven safety measures" because an insurance company would have a different idea as to what that means. Asked for an amendment.
- Councilor Berlant was in favor of the amendment.
- Councilor Berlant withdrew her motion.

Motion: Councilor Berlant moved to approve the use of milkweed in pollinator gardens throughout Talent per the recommendations of pollinator garden designers. Councilor Dolan seconded.

- Councilor Pederson said he will support the motion but hopes the entire park does not turn into a pollinator garden.
- Councilor Baker said he will not support a motion that goes directly against the advice of an insurance company.
- Councilor Harrison said he would like to know more from the insurance company about why they had come to the conclusion that milkweed was a liability.

Vote: 4 ayes, 2 nays. (Councilor Harrison and Councilor Baker) Motion passed 4-2.

- Mayor Ayers-Flood said that she believes Councilor Harrison's question is worth considering. Asked if there was consensus among the Council to ask the insurance company for more information.
 - Councilor Dolan said that if the insurance company can truly substantiate the claims, then the Council would reconsider it. Martin said he would look into it.

- Councilor Baker asked that a final assessment be delivered by the end of June. Mayor Ayers-Flood said they can endeavor for that.

Other Business:

- Councilor Pederson said he recently realized that Talent’s residential parking codes currently don’t incorporate enforcements by other agencies. Gave an example of a neighbor who parked in front of a mailbox so often that the Postal Service and resident paid to move it down the street. Pederson explained that these things are hard to enforce if there are no ordinances or code set by the city.
 - Whipple said that in most cases neighbors can work out things like this, except for this particular instance.
 - Councilor Pederson said that these types of things need to be addressed as the City considers parking.
 - Mayor Ayers-Flood asked if Moody could add that concern to the Planning Commission discussion about parking. Moody said it would be more in the realm of the Traffic Safety Commission.
- Councilor Berlant said she has been thinking about the Energy Element CAC and the fact that they have not yet reached a quorum.
 - Moody explained that they had one more member than they had originally calculated, which means they have the four members necessary to reach a quorum.
 - Councilor Land said that she knows of two qualified people who she has encouraged to apply.

Motion: Councilor Berlant moved to direct staff to move forward with the Energy Element CAC committee with four members while still accepting applications. Councilor Dolan seconded.

Vote: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

- Mayor Ayers-Flood asked about a potential update on the Clean Energy Action Plan. Councilor Berlant said that Together for Talent has requested to be on an upcoming agenda.
 - There was a decision to put the presentation on the May 16 agenda.
- Councilor Land asked about website updates and if a list of councilors would be included. Connor Shields confirmed.

11. Reports from the City Manager (2:04:51)

- Martin said the City has received one bid for the construction of the multi-use path over Rapp road. Engineer vetted it and it is even under budget. It will be brought to Council on May 16, as all purchases of over \$25k come to the Council.
- Moody said on May 8 there will be a special session to discuss an update on ADUs. There is also an agenda item to get updates on all of the different projects going on like the RPS amendment, the UGB expansion, and affordable housing policies. The City Council also has a study session with the Planning Commission and the stakeholders directly after the Planning Commission meeting on May 24. Moody invited the Council to come to the meeting on May 8 because there will be useful information on all the different projects happening, expected timelines, and how they overlap. Said the Planning Commission will hopefully be able to get the Council an update by the end of May.

- Martin said that he appreciated Councilor Dolan for working on the potential integrated pest management strategy. He, Bret Marshall, and Beyond Toxic met for several hours in preparation for the joint study session. Councilor Dolan thanked Marshall and Martin. Mayor Ayers-Flood thanked Councilor Dolan for making a big topic seem more manageable.
- Martin met with Ann-Marie from RVCOG to design the job announcement for the City Manager recruitment process. Would like to reconvene the work group within the next ten days so that it can be posted within the next few weeks.
- Whipple would like see a few things on the May 16 agenda. It is national police week so he would like to read a proclamation aloud at the meeting. Would also like to present a certificate of completion to a new employee for passing the academy.

12. Mayor Ayers-Flood and Councilor — Committee Reports and Councilor Comments (2:11:30)

- Councilor Harrison said he was at the an RVCOG meeting recently and something interesting came up. When Phoenix changed their downtown strip of OR-99 from four lanes to two, some issues arose with ODOT around grant separation. Said that the City should consider that as they move forward with their projects.
- Councilor Pederson said there are two new members of the Chamber of Commerce, one of which is Councilor Daria Land.
 - Councilor Land said she is excited to be a part of the Chamber. The president of the chamber would like to change Councilor Land to be the council liaison, as Councilor Pederson is registered as a business member. Councilor Pederson said he was not aware of such a provision but would be willing to discuss it.
 - Councilor Pederson said the next Chamber meeting will be May 22. He is excited to get the group going again.
- Pederson mentioned that the Economic Development Commission has their first meeting on Jun. 14, and although they have reached a quorum, they are still accepting applications.
- Councilor Land said TPAC will be scheduling their first meeting starting next week.
- Councilor Berlant said that Together for Talent would like to clarify that their agenda item for May 16 meeting includes a staff report on the City's side of year one development.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood asked Moody for an update on the CIP. Councilor Harrison said it has been discussed heavily at the Planning Commission and a final draft will be coming out soon.
- Mayor Ayers-Flood is concerned that there is a Comp Plan coming in but also a cancelled meeting. Wants to move it along because it has been a long process. Councilor Baker explained that the reasoning for the cancelled meeting had to do with the public noticing periods required by law.

13. Discuss Agenda Items for the Next Meeting (2:19:05)

- Councilor Pederson said he would like to discuss staff support for the Economic Development Commission because right now it is unconfirmed.
 - Mayor Ayers-Flood wants to have a discussion about staff support for commissions. Councilor Baker said we should get some feedback from the commissions first. Martin said it would have to be the first meeting in June.
- Councilor Harrison said the recent Arbor Day celebration was excellent and commended the mayor's speech.

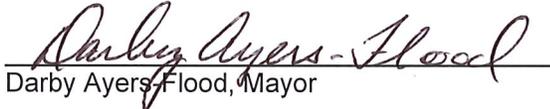
14. . Adjournment at 9:25 p.m. (2:23:00)

Respectfully submitted by:



Savannah Edson, City Recorder

Attest:



Darby Ayers-Flood, Mayor

The City of Talent is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Note: This agenda and the entire agenda packet, including staff reports, referenced documents, resolutions and ordinances are posted on the City of Talent website (www.cityoftalent.org) in advance of each meeting.

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