



22500 Salamo Road
West Linn, Oregon 97068
<http://westlinnoregon.gov>

WEST LINN CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NOTES May 17, 2021

Call to Order Special Meeting

Council Present:

Mayor Jules Walters, Council President Bill Relyea, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Rory Bialostosky, and Councilor Todd Jones.

Citizens' Budget Committee Present:

Abby Farber, Ann Frazier, Perrin Lim, Ed Schwarz, and Sheila Waldron

Staff Present:

City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos, City Recorder Kathy Mollusky, Public Works Director Lance Calvert, and City Attorney Tim Ramis.

Approval of Agenda

Council President Bill Relyea moved to approve the agenda for the Monday, May 17, 2021 City Council Special Meeting and Citizens' Budget Committee Meeting with the addition of a report by the IT Department. Councilor Rory Bialostosky seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Jules Walters, Council President Bill Relyea, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Rory Bialostosky, Councilor Todd Jones, Abby Farber, Ann Frazier, Perrin Lim, Ed Schwarz, and Sheila Waldron.

Nays: None.

The motion carried 10 - 0

Wood Chips Removal Contract Approval

Public Works Director Calvert stated the goal for tonight was to move ahead with Council's award of the wood chip removal contract. After the ice storm, an emergency was declared and the City hired multiple contractors to assist in removing the debris from the City's right-of-way. The public works facilities are not capable of handling that volume of debris so it was stored at Mary S. Young Park and Wilderness Park. The contract before you was to dispose of the wood chips, previously shredded and chipped, at Mary S. Young Park. Not all of the material has been shredded because there is not enough storage space for that operation until the existing wood chips are removed.

Following Clackamas County's recommendation, the City went out to solicit a general contractor to do the removal following FEMA Contract Guidelines that the City has to follow to get reimbursed. Certain activities the City conducts that meet FEMA approval are eligible for reimbursement; wood chip removal is one of those projects that are eligible for up to 75 percent reimbursement. The City still has to pay for a minimum of 25 percent of those costs.

The City received two bids. The lowest bid was \$640,000; the other bid was over \$1 million. The City estimated around \$160,000 for the debris removal. The bids received were exceedingly high. We believe there are better ways to remove that material and there is a lot of competition right now and a lack of interest in this kind of work so we are looking at alternative means to remove those materials.

Council has the bids for formal review. Staff is recommending, due to the high cost of the removals and the cost relative to the cost estimate, that Council reject all the bids that were submitted and to direct staff to find alternate means for cost effective removal.

Mayor Walters thanked Director Calvert for all the City's work to clear all the debris. It is urgent to get that debris removed, she appreciates how swiftly the City has been working to get that done, and is cognizant of how high the bids are.

Council President Relyea heard the costs of the proposals the City received were too high and that they were going to go back out to bid on this. He asked Director Calvert what it is he is asking Council to do.

Director Calvert stated following the City's purchasing rules and policies, anything of this magnitude needs to go before Council and it is up to Council to reward or reject the bids. In this case, because of the high cost estimate, staff recommendation and the potential motion

could be to reject all the submitted bids for the debris removal contract and direct staff to research alternative means for cost effective debris removal.

The City has been working with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the County to identify other alternatives as well as contacting some local vendors and will continue to work in that regard to find more cost effective means to either utilize or remove the material.

Council President Relyea moved to direct staff to reject the bids and look for alternative solutions and allow debris removal to be considered in a more equitable and cost effective manner. Councilor Mary Baumgardner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor Jules Walters, Council President Bill Relyea, Councilor Mary Baumgardner, Councilor Rory Bialostosky, and Councilor Todd Jones.

Nays: None.

The motion carried 5 - 0

Director Calvert stated hopefully they will have a future work session to give an update on where the City is currently at in response to this and on other things people have been asking about.

Adjourn

Notes approved 6-14-21.