

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Preedin Mayor
Andrea Blum Council President
Gary Ross Councilor
Jennifer Letz Councilor
Susan Cobb Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe O'Neill Interim City Manager
Paul Bertagna Public Works Director
Scott Woodford CDD Director
Kerry Prosser City Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Tony DeBone Chair
Patti Adair Commissioner
Phil Chang Commissioner

COUNTY STAFF:

Nick Lelack Administrator
Chad Centola Director of Solid Waste
Tim Brownell Director of Solid Waste

GUESTS:

Scott Humpert Explore Sisters, Executive Director
Nancy Connolly Explore Sisters, Board Member
Cheyanne Purrington Coordinated Houseless Response Office, Executive Director

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Joint meeting was called to order by Mayor Preedin at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Preedin took roll call and established a quorum of the City Council were present. Chair Debone took roll call and established a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) were present.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Preedin welcomed County Commissioners and staff.

4. UPDATES

A. Update on Explore Sisters

Scott Humpert, Executive Director of Explore Sisters (ES), introduced himself and briefly explained where the Destination Management Organization (DMO) was heading. Board Member Nancy Connolly explained the ES Board makeup would be critical to its success; they were a group of residents and business owners who valued livability.

Chair Debone asked if ES was membership-based and how you would coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce. Director Humpert replied they were not members based, and they had met with the Chamber and were open to collaborating for the good of the community, and so efforts were not duplicated.

Councilor Letz explained the Council had heard from the citizens, and they did not want our community and resources overrun by tourists. We wanted an organization that could take a big-picture view of tourism and its impact; we were cognizant of other community's mistakes.

Commissioner Chang asked Director Humpert for his initial thoughts on growing the shoulder season and reacting to emergencies like wildfires. Director Humpert replied ES would use intentional marketing to affect the shoulder seasons and move into a communication mode to help support the community during emergencies.

Councilor Ross noted that Director Humpert had come on board with the essential skills needed to stand up the DMO, and it was important to the Council that ES was set-up well, and then we let them go out on their own.

B. Landfill Siting and Recycle Modernization Act Update

Chad Centola and Tim Brownell, Directors of Solid Waste for Deschutes County, reviewed the siting of the landfill and the Recycle Modernization Act (RMA) and presented the following slides:

- Deschutes County Solid Waste Department Updates
- Topics: New Solid Waste Management Facility Siting, Oregon RMA
- County 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan Update
- General Design Criteria
- Initial Areas Identified by Deschutes County
- Exclusionary Area Mapping
- Broad Screen Sites Identified
- Broad Screen Sites Removed due to Fatal or Practical Flaws
- Possible Addition of BLM Parcels
- Next Steps
- RMA: Impacts on Sister's Recycling Program
- RMA Implementation Timeline
- RMA Implementation Timeline

Chair Debone summarized they were looking for a location that was cost-effective to keep the landfill in Deschutes County. Commissioner Adair noted that most of the final locations were on private property.

Councilor Letz asked if Knott Landfill would stay operational and, if so, what was the long-term plan for the facility. Director Centola replied it would stay operational; the residents of Bend would not have to drive to the new location, and he thought the location could become a passive park in the future.

Commissioner Chang asked how you dealt with the defensible space materials brought to the landfill. Director Centola explained the debris was used as cover for the Knott landfill, and they ground all of the material taken to the transfer stations.

C. Affordable Housing Project Update

Director Woodford reviewed that Northwest Housing Alternative (NHA) was negotiating for a piece of property to build a 40-unit affordable housing project. In addition, the City was in the process of rezoning the area under consideration to Multi-Family Residential (MFR) and should have that completed by early spring.

Administrator Lelack requested an update on the Housing Needs Analysis (HNA) and the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion. Director Woodford replied the HNA was completed with the Comprehensive Plan update. Before looking at a UGB expansion, the City had to consider efficiency measures and in late 2022 the City Council passed amendments that increased density; they were trying to balance Sisters' character with needed infill. The next step would be an updated Buildable Lands Inventory (BLI) to determine whether the City should move forward with a UGB expansion.

Councilor Letz said the Council would keep moving forward with efficiency measures. Mayor Preedin noted with the level of growth in Sisters; we would also need to keep checking in on livability.

D. Houseless Strategies in Response to Governor's Executive Order

Cheyenne Purrington, Executive Director of the Coordinated Houseless Response Office, gave an update on the Governor's Executive Order in response to homelessness. She reviewed that because of Central Oregon's high unsheltered rate, the area was set to receive 14 million dedicated to 81-83 new shelter beds and to rehouse 157-162 people; this funding was a one-time allotment. Director Purrington explained this would be a fast-funding process and that Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) was coordinating the effort. An executive team would be looking at the criteria and screening potential projects. The funds would need to be spent by January of 2024, and she was currently working with cities and counties on what projects they would like to submit.

E. CORE3 Update

Chair DeBone reviewed that CORE3 would be a dedicated, multi-agency coordination center for emergency operations and a training facility for local, state, and federal personnel. He thought this was an exciting opportunity for the community. Commissioner Adair noted that the County had allocated 300 acres for the facility at a value of 16.4 million, and she thought other entities should step up for funding.

Councilor Letz asked if dormitories would be available on site as they would be a valuable option for entities with a small budget. Chair DeBone said housing was not included in Phase One of the project.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Chang said the Board had approved a land use application today for a meadery at the privately owned portion of the Lazy Z located just outside of Sisters.

6. ADJOURN: 6:36 p.m.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Michael Preedin, Mayor