



MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:00 PM

COUNCIL PRESENT: Stan Pulliam, Mayor, Jeremy Pietzold, Council President, Laurie Smallwood, Councilor, Richard Sheldon, Councilor, Kathleen Walker, Councilor, Carl Exner, Councilor, and Don Hokanson, Councilor

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Jordan Wheeler, City Manager, Jeff Aprati, City Recorder, Ernie Roberts, Police Chief, Sarah Richardson, Community Services, David Doughman, City Attorney, Angie Welty, HR Manager, Tyler Deems, Deputy City Manager / Finance Director, and Greg Brewster, IT/SandyNet Director

MEDIA PRESENT: Sandy Post

1. MEETING FORMAT NOTE

The City Council conducted this meeting electronically using the Zoom video conference platform. A video recording of the meeting is available on the City's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbYEclgC6VW_mV2UJGyvYfg

2. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION - 6:00 PM

2.1. Council Position Regarding the COVID-19 Restrictions Issued by the Governor

Staff Report - 0362

The **City Manager** stated that the staff report only attempted to summarize some of the feedback received from the Council in recent days, but that the Council could now discuss the matter and determine how it would like to proceed.

Mayor Pulliam stated that he supports all the themes listed on the staff report, including calling on the Governor to consider the totality of the restrictions and loosen them, and stating that the city government will abide by the restrictions. He suggested that a Council statement should refrain from commenting on individual businesses' decisions on whether to comply with the restrictions.

Councilor Exner suggested the Council should develop a letter to the

Governor's Office on this issue. He stated that the letter should refrain from taking a specific position on whether or not businesses should comply with the restrictions. He urged that the statement should focus on the psychological impacts of the pandemic, that it should stress safety and law and order, that it should emphasize fairness and even-handedness, that decisions should be fact-based, that the views and needs of Sandy residents should be paramount, and that mutual respect must be maintained even when views differ. He stated that the letter should urge the Governor to amend the restrictions to allow more flexibility.

Councilor Hokanson emphasized that the strains created by the COVID-19 restrictions are not limited to businesses, and that factors such as family, mental health, and social cohesion should be considered in the Governor's decision making. He stated that decisions should be made with equity in mind, and that winners and losers should not be chosen by the government. He stressed the need to allow for innovation - certain businesses may be able to employ tailored precautionary measures to operate in a safe manner. He also underlined the importance of mental health.

Councilor Sheldon stated that people want leadership to protect residents and businesses in a constitutional manner. He shared observations on the elements of effective leadership, and stated his concern that the Governor has not sufficiently communicated the purpose and motivation of some of the COVID-19 restrictions. He emphasized the importance of equity, and raised concern regarding the City's provision of services for senior citizens. He noted that the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the legality of the restrictions, but stated the City could advocate for modifications. He called for more transparency to show local leaders how the restrictions are working.

Council President Pietzold emphasized the importance of law and order. He pointed to the effectiveness of the brevity of the letter from the City of Molalla. He urged that Sandy's letter should not delve into questioning scientific particulars, or promote breaking the law. He also noted the impact of the pandemic on suicide rates.

Councilor Walker noted that Sandy has a high number of visitors from outside the area given its location on Highway 26. She stated that she reached out to members of the County Commission, and stated that the County could do more to advocate for local needs at the State level. She stated that securing financial assistance for businesses would be the fastest way to make a positive impact. She stated that local business owners she has spoken with do not support breaking the COVID-19 restrictions. She urged that the tone of

Sandy's letter should be respectful, acknowledging good intent and that the science has been evolving quickly. She stated her desire to explicitly encourage everyone to abide by the restrictions, and advocate for amending the restrictions if necessary.

Councilor Smallwood concurred with the observation that the County could do more to advocate for local needs. She questioned the reliability of some of the scientific metrics being used. She drew a distinction between laws and mandates, and stated that she could not support a letter that does not allow businesses to choose not to follow the restrictions, which is their right.

Mayor Pulliam concurred regarding the choices of individual businesses, but stressed that there is ample room for consensus in a collective position. He asked Councilors to agree on general broad themes that could be incorporated into a letter.

Councilor Hokanson suggested that staff should draft a letter that could then be reviewed by the Council.

Council President Pietzold urged that the letter should highlight the innovative measures the City has taken; including financing for outdoor seating, relief grants, and hotspots; and that it should not advocate for disobeying the restrictions. He underlined the power that the Council has when speaking with one voice.

Mayor Pulliam recapped what appeared to be points on consensus, including that the restrictions are burdensome on small businesses, that the City respects the authority of the restrictions, that the restrictions should be amended to allow businesses to reopen, that the state should leverage all possible opportunities to provide assistance and relief for businesses, and that the mental health impacts of the restrictions should factor into decision making.

Councilor Walker expressed hesitancy regarding the last point, stating that it would be difficult to loosen restrictions regarding restaurants due to the inability of people to wear masks while eating. **Councilor Hokanson** suggested that flexibility could be maintained by calling for businesses to be able to reopen "in a safe manner" using innovative approaches.

Councilor Sheldon emphasized the importance of equity, noting that some businesses appear to be operating currently in a manner that is not consistent with distancing guidelines.

Councilor Exner stated he concurred with the suggested edits. He agreed with the importance of considering mental health impacts, and suggested the idea of hosting fun events, such as a fireworks display, in a safe manner.

Council President Pietzold again urged that the letter should highlight the innovative measures the City has taken to provide relief.

Councilor Walker suggested communicating with the County Commission and other higher levels of government to try to secure funding assistance for the community.

The consensus of the Council was that staff would produce a draft letter, to be reviewed by **Councilors Smallwood, Walker, and Hokanson** before further discussion at the February 1st council meeting.

3. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Roll Call

6. Changes to the Agenda
(none)

7. Public Comment
(none)

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. City Council Minutes - 4 Jan 2021

8.2. Parks & Trails Advisory Board Appointment

Staff Report - 0361

Moved by Carl Exner, seconded by Kathleen Walker

Approve the consent agenda.

CARRIED. 7-0

Ayes: Stan Pulliam, Jeremy Pietzold, Laurie Smallwood,
Richard Sheldon, Kathleen Walker, Carl Exner, and Don
Hokanson

9. New Business

9.1. Budget Committee Appointments

Staff Report - 0360

The **City Manager** noted that appointments to the Budget Committee differ from those to other City boards and commissions, in that applicants who meet the requirements are required under law to be appointed to any vacancies. The **Deputy City Manager** explained that only one member of the Budget Committee remains from the previous biennium.

Mayor Pulliam asked whether the appointments have to be made by a certain deadline. The **Deputy City Manager** responded that the City is required to make a reasonable effort to appoint members within a reasonable timeframe. He anticipates budget hearings beginning in April. **Mayor Pulliam** asked how the vacancies were advertised. The **Deputy City Manager** stated they were advertised on the City website, the Sandy Source newsletter, and on Facebook. **Mayor Pulliam** emphasized the importance of advertising vacancies widely and attracting new applicants.

Councilor Walker noted a typo on the staff report in the spelling of Mr. Huber's name.

Moved by Jeremy Pietzold, seconded by Richard Sheldon

Appoint six new members to the Budget Committee, as identified in the staff report.

CARRIED. 7-0

Ayes: Stan Pulliam, Jeremy Pietzold, Laurie Smallwood,
Richard Sheldon, Kathleen Walker, Carl Exner, and Don
Hokanson

10. Report from the City Manager

The **City Manager** noted the launch of the new City website, and thanked the **City Recorder**, the **Deputy City Manager**, the **IT Director**, and other staff for their efforts. He raised the issue of public input intended for the Council, and suggested the Council could consider its preferences for how to receive, process, and share such input. He referred to the current process to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission, and suggested that the Council select one additional member to serve on the interview panel. The consensus of the Council was to select **Councilor Walker**. The **City**

Manager also noted the multiple dates for the upcoming goal setting process.

11. Committee /Council Reports

Councilor Sheldon: none

Councilor Exner raised concerns about pavement conditions at the intersection of Pioneer and Meinig, as well as Hwy 26 and Wolf. He noted the recent National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and expressed thanks for their service. He underlined the importance of providing community activities (with appropriate safety measures in pace), and encouraged the City to plan movies in the park and similar events (including a potential fireworks display) for the upcoming summer.

Councilor Walker expressed optimism about the new covered seating program. She inquired about the review procedures for the program, and emphasized the importance of administering the program in an equitable and fair manner. She raised the issue of advertising the opportunity, given that funding is being provided on a first come first served basis. **Mayor Pulliam** concurred on the importance of fairness, and emphasized the importance of disbursing funding quickly given the economic concerns presented by the pandemic.

Councilor Hokanson noted the length of experience of the recently departed Parks Board members. He also noted the volume of public input recently received about COVID-19, and stressed the importance of providing easy ways for the public to communicate with the City and Council. He suggested a future work session on the issue of homelessness and possible responses and strategies the City could employ. Mayor Pulliam suggested the Council should consider all the topics that should be discussed during work sessions over the coming year.

Councilor Smallwood noted the recent celebration for the outgoing Parks Board members and expressed appreciation for their service. She also thanked Mt. Hood Jiu Jitsu for their recent cleanup of the Tickle Creek Trail, and praised the recent cleanup efforts along the walking path near Industrial Way and Hwy 26. She concurred with the suggestion of increasing focus on addressing homelessness.

Council President Pietzold expressed praise for Tickle Creek Trail. He noted the large number of people patronizing local businesses in recent days. He referred to a recent car accident on Hwy 26 and thanked first responders. He expressed excitement for the outdoor covered structures program and emphasized the importance of disbursing funds quickly. He stated there is substantial interest in the program from the local business community. He expressed concerns about traffic on Langensand and Dubarko, including large trucks, and suggested the idea of installing speed humps or other traffic calming measures. **Councilor Exner** echoed his concerns. **Council**

President Pietzold also noted the availability of more broadband grants given the new federal administration. He expressed praise and appreciation for SandyNet.

Mayor Pulliam thanked the Council for the thoughtful discussion on COVID-19, and for the feedback received from the public. He noted the recent invitation from the EPA for the City to apply for WIFIA financing for the wastewater improvement project, and thanked everyone involved in preparing and advocating for the City's proposal. He stated he is looking forward to the upcoming goal setting process. He suggested inviting state representatives to a future council meeting to discuss the City's legislative agenda for the upcoming session of the State Legislature. He also emphasized the need for respectful political discourse and rejection of extremism, particularly given the violence seen at the Capitol on January 6th.

12. Staff updates

12.1. [Monthly Reports](#)

13. Adjourn



Mayor, Stan Pulliam



City Recorder, Jeff Aprati