



**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, May 4, 2020 City Hall- Council Chambers, 39250 Pioneer Blvd., Sandy, Oregon 97055 6:00 PM**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Stan Pulliam, Mayor, Jeremy Pietzold, Council President, John Hamblin, Councilor, Laurie Smallwood, Councilor, Jan Lee, Councilor, Carl Exner, Councilor, and Bethany Shultz, Councilor

**COUNCIL ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jordan Wheeler, City Manager, David Doughman, City Attorney, Tanya Richardson, Community Services Director, Sarah McIntyre, Library Director, Pamela Smithsted, Commissioner, Jeff Aprati, City Recorder, Greg Brewster, IT/SandyNet Director, Ernie Roberts, Police Chief, and Becky Hawley, Commissioner

**MEDIA PRESENT:** Sandy Post

**1. MEETING FORMAT NOTE**

The Council conducted this meeting electronically using the Zoom video conference platform. A recording of the meeting is available on the City's YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbYEclgC6VW\\_mV2UJGyvYfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbYEclgC6VW_mV2UJGyvYfg)

**2. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION - 6:00 PM**

**2.1. Next Steps: Sandy Community Campus / Special District Formation**

The **City Manager** recapped the recent public polling commissioned by the City regarding the aquatics and recreation special district formation concept, the results of which were not favorable. He highlighted particular takeaways from the polling consultants, including that delaying any such effort until 2022 may be prudent, and that the specific proposed tax rate does make a difference to voters, thus implying that an aquatics-only district may have a better chance of electoral success. He stated that staff can continue to develop strategies to improve the Community Campus site through urban renewal, and that the parks master planning process is continuing, which will provide useful public input.

**Mayor Pulliam** stated that the City needs to be able to pivot given the realities of the COVID-19 crisis and the change in voter sentiments. He stressed the importance of community engagement in building support for future plans.

**Council President Pietzold** pointed to actions that could be taken in the short to medium term, including removal of the old middle school building at the front of the property. This interim time can be used to prepare the site for future development.

**Councilor Lee** mentioned the possibility of engaging professional consultants to help develop further options for the site.

**Councilor Exner** highlighted the opportunity to redirect funds that are currently being used to maintain the pool (utilities, etc) to other uses. He also stated a desire to see some progress being made on the site, possibly including landscaping, safety improvements, and opening the gym facility, to demonstrate to the public that efforts are moving forward.

The **Community Services Director** discussed options for cost savings and commensurate risks regarding changing pool maintenance practices.

**Councilor Shultz** asked for a precise cost savings figure if all utilities are shut off to the pool. It was stated this figure is on the order of \$100,000 per year.

**Councilor Smallwood** expressed her stance that the Council should not leave this decision for a future council. She would like to revisit the topic in 4 months and make a final decision on a path forward.

The Council was supportive of the idea of saving approximately \$100,000 per month on pool utilities, which could potentially be redirected to a reserve fund. The consensus of the Council was to revisit the topic in 4 months, when the economic trajectory in the context of COVID-19 may be clearer. In the intervening period, staff will analyze options for reducing utility usage for the pool and removing the old middle school building

## 2.2. "Growing Together" Mural

Staff Report - 0258

**Arts Commissioner Smithsted** introduced the concept of the Growing Together mural, proposed to be located on Hoffman Street adjacent to Centennial Plaza. A link to a rendering of the mural is included in the meeting agenda packet. Becky Hawley would be the mural artist.

The Arts Commission recommended Council approval of the mural project at its April 15 meeting. Their intention is to seeking financial underwriting of the

project from the Urban Renewal Board at a future meeting. The project also envisions a community fundraising campaign to defray some of the cost.

**Ms. Hawley** explained the artistic vision of the mural is to create an inviting atmosphere for Sandy's main gathering space, to inspire thought and conversation, and to bring the community together. Individual features within the mural are explained in the proposal included in the meeting agenda packet.

Members of the Council were generally supportive of the mural proposal. **Mayor Pulliam** commended the Arts Commission, and raised the concept of urban renewal funds being used to match community donations. He also stressed the importance of developing a strategic plan for spending urban renewal funds. **Councilor Lee** proposed publicizing the mural and fundraising campaign on the City website. **Council President Peitzold** agreed with the **Mayor** that urban renewal funds need to be spent judiciously.

The consensus of the Council was that the mural project should proceed as proposed, though a funding decision from the Urban Renewal Board is still pending. The Council was also supportive of the idea of creating a broader master plan for arts in the city.

**3. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM**

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

**5. Roll Call**

**6. Changes to the Agenda**

**Council President Peitzold** requested the addition of Agenda Item 10.2 "Council Discussion Regarding Group Communication"

**7. Public Comment**

(none)

**8. Presentation**

8.1. Friends of the Library: Fundraiser Follow-Up from Jack Frick

**Mr. Frick** reported that the recent efforts of the Friends of the Library to raise funds to replace library computers have been very successful, despite the challenges created by COVID-19. The group collected \$21,205. Expenses for the campaign totaled \$337.92. 22 businesses donated \$8,950 and 75

individuals/families donated \$12,255. \$16,000 was received in matching funds, resulting in a grand total of \$36,867.08.

**Mayor Pulliam** thanked the Friends of the Library for their impressive and generous effort. **Councilor Exner** expressed a desire to celebrate this and the other great things being accomplished in Sandy. **Councilor Shultz** expressed her gratitude for the successful campaign.

## 9. Consent Agenda

### 9.1. City Council Minutes

**Council President Pietzold** questioned an apparent redaction on page 7 of the minutes. The **City Recorder** stated this redaction was inadvertent.

Moved by Jeremy Pietzold, seconded by Jan Lee

*Add the text "Jarrett Walker and Associates" in place of the redaction on page 7 of the minutes, and approve the consent agenda as amended.*

CARRIED. 7-0

Ayes: Stan Pulliam, Jeremy Pietzold, John Hamblin, Laurie Smallwood, Jan Lee, Carl Exner, and Bethany Shultz

## 10. New Business

### 10.1. COVID-19 Discussion: "Reopening Oregon Plan" and "Clackamas County Recovery Plan"

The **City Manager** provided an overview of the City's COVID-19 response and the Governor's framework for reopening the state, including the graduated phases and gating criteria. The Governor's plan is available online at <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>. He also highlighted the County's draft plan, which is currently focused on long-term disaster recovery. He stated that the City is focused on doing everything possible to be ready to open when allowed under the framework announced by the Governor, with an emphasis on protecting staff and members of the public.

**Mayor Pulliam** stated that it had been important to be aggressive in responding to the virus in the initial stages, and that he agreed with the Governor's stay at home order to flatten the curve and allow time to increase capacity to respond to the threat. He is increasingly focused on the importance of reopening businesses, given the dramatic and serious impact the closure is having on the economy and people's livelihoods. Other mayors

in the area share his concerns. **The Mayor** stated that COVID-19's effect on Oregon had not been as bad as initially feared. He stated that despite certain media reports, he has no intention of defying the Governor's orders and acknowledged that he is only one of seven voices on the Council. **The Mayor** asserted his First Amendment right to state his opinions publicly and that voters knew his views when they elected him. He acknowledged the importance of indicating when he is speaking only for himself in public, rather than stating the official position of the Council.

**Council President Pietzold** expressed concern that some of the **Mayor's** comments could have been interpreted as the position of the Council as a whole. He concurred with the importance of reopening, but underlined the need to follow the law. He stated that the Council should make any lobbying/advocacy decisions together as a group.

**Councilor Exner** expressed his full support for following the law and he takes the threat seriously, though he is concerned about the impact the quarantine is having on the community.

**Councilor Hamblin** stated that the lower incidence of COVID-19 in Oregon constitutes proof of the importance and success of social distancing. He commended the initial decision to shut down the state, and pointed to states like Oklahoma that are experiencing more serious impacts. He expressed concern that if Sandy businesses open, they will attract a wave of customers from out of town that could spread new infections. He stated that lobbying the Governor on this topic would lead to politicization of a health issue that should remain non-political. He stated that the **Mayor** represents the Council and City publicly and should not take stands that are not necessarily supported by the Council as a whole.

**Councilor Lee** agreed that safety is the highest priority. She stated that the idea of reopening being the purview of individual cities is not the consensus of the Council.

**Councilor Shultz** agreed with **Councilors Lee** and **Hamblin**, stating that City Councilors are not medical experts and it is not appropriate for cities to push to reopen faster. She stated this is not an appropriate time to be political.

**Councilor Smallwood** stated that Councilors are elected to represent and advocate for the interests of local people, whose livelihoods are currently under threat. She stated that many COVID deaths have involved underlying health conditions, and that society needs to learn how to move forward given

that the virus is not going away. She stated she is confident that businesses can operate responsibly and implement social distancing practices. She also underlined the importance of mental health.

**Councilor Lee** responded that Oregon has relatively low rates of COVID testing, which may be affecting the statistics. She expressed her concern that if Sandy opens earlier than other places, people will be attracted to the area and potentially spread the virus.

**Councilor Exner** encouraged the Council to focus on areas of common ground and develop strategies to facilitate success once reopening is allowed, such as procuring masks and establishing operational plans. **Councilor Hamblin** encouraged staff to carefully consider how the City is positioned for reopening.

The **City Manager** reiterated that the City is focused on doing everything possible to be ready to open when allowed under the framework announced by the Governor, with an emphasis on protecting staff and members of the public.

**Council President Pietzold** expressed appreciation for the Council's ability to conduct constructive dialogue even through disagreement.

**Mayor Pulliam** emphasized that the City's elected leaders need to advocate for the interests of the local community and businesses. If Sandy is grouped with more urban areas with respect to reopening timelines, it will be to the city's detriment. He also expressed concerns that local businesses may choose to reopen on their own initiative, contrary to emergency orders, and asked how local law enforcement would respond. **Councilor Smallwood** shared the **Mayor's** concerns.

**Council President Pietzold** cautioned the Council against sending a message that could be interpreted as encouraging businesses to open without authorization, and stated that police officers are commissioned by the State.

**Councilor Shultz** expressed concern that childcare providers would not be able to survive if not allowed to operate at full capacity, and encouraged staff to find ways to assist them.

**Mayor Pulliam** stated he will endeavor to more clearly differentiate when he is expressing his own personal views in public rather than positions of the Council as a whole, but he does not intend to stop advocating for his views.

The **City Attorney** emphasized the importance of elected officials being clear when they are only speaking for themselves. He commended the Council for their ability to disagree in a civil and respectful manner.

10.2. Council Discussion Regarding Group Communication

Discussion combined with item 10.1 above

**11. Report from the City Manager**

The **City Manager** discussed a recent request from the owner of the Best Western hotel in Sandy, asking for authorization to temporarily retain lodging tax funds during the COVID-19 emergency, rather than remit them to the City. The Council expressed understanding of the difficulties being faced by the hotel, but raised concerns about equity, precedent-setting, and the impact on a city budget that may experience revenue pressures in the months to come. The Council asked staff to gather additional information for further consideration.

The **City Manager** also shared that a local resident who is a public administration master's degree candidate is pursuing a project to develop a social services master plan for the City, with the cooperation of the **City Manager** and **Councilor Lee**. Members of the Council are encouraged to respond to the student's recent survey. Public comments received for the Bailey Meadows subdivision appeal have been posted to the City's website.

**12. Committee /Council Reports**

**Councilor Exner:** the Arts Commission is pursuing an idea to document COVID-19's impact on the community in visual terms. An Arts Commission vacancy is currently being advertised.

**Councilor Lee:** the Resiliency Planning Committee has begun operating, and staff are gathering information on the work already being done by the City to promote resilience as well as ideas for future enhancements.

**Councilor Smallwood:** the Gift Cards for Good program has been successful thus far, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Public safety agencies have participated in birthday parades for local children, which have been well received.

**Council President Pietzold:** commended everyone involved with the Emergency Small Business Assistance Program. SandyNet staff have been assisting area efforts to increase WiFi availability in rural areas. Sandy's trails remain open and are an excellent place to recreate, especially during COVID-19.

**Mayor Pulliam:** the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) will meet remotely on Thursday. Sandy Connect continues to make meaningful impacts with local community service organizations. The volume of applications for the Emergency Small Business Assistance Program highlights the pressures facing local businesses. He thanked staff for their efforts during the crisis, and he expressed his appreciation and respect for members of the Council.

**13. Staff updates**

13.1. [Monthly Reports](#)

**14. Adjourn**



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Mayor, Stan Pulliam



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City Recorder, Jeff Aprati