

April 15, 2014

A. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Mayor Bemis called the Gresham City Council meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 in Council Chambers located in the Gresham Public Safety and Schools Building, 1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Shane T. Bemis
Council President Lori Stegmann (arrived at 3:27 p.m.)
Councilor Kirk French
Councilor Karylenn Echols
Councilor Mario Palmero
Councilor Mike McCormick

COUNCIL ABSENT: Councilor Jerry Hinton

STAFF PRESENT: Erik Kvarsten, City Manager
David Ris, City Attorney
Rachael Fuller, Assistant City Manager
Robin Franzen-Parker, Director Public Affairs
Eric Chambers, Senior Manager
Jessica Harper, Assistant to Mayor Bemis
Pat Hartley, Director Information Technology
Aaron Abrams, Manager Office of Neighborhoods and Engagement
Ron Papsdorf, Manager Governmental Affairs
Craig Junginger, Police Chief
Scott Lewis, Administrative Chief
Sharron Monohon, Director Budget and Financial Planning
Bernard Seeger, Director Finance and Management Services
Eric Schmidt, Director Community Development
Steve Fancher, Director Environmental Services
Susanjoy Baskoro, City Recorder

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bemis led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO CITIZENS ON SIGNING UP FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilor Echols read instructions to citizens wishing to testify before Council.

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B. CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY GROUP COMMENTS FOR AGENDA (EXCEPT PUBLIC HEARING) AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY GROUP COMMENTS

C. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bemis read the Consent Agenda.

1. REAPPOINTMENT: GRESHAM ART COMMITTEE

2. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 18, 2014

3. ENACTMENT READING: MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITY MORATORIUM - COUNCIL BILL NO. 02-14, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRESHAM DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Councilor Karylinn Echols, second by Councilor Kirk French, **TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS C-1 THROUGH C-3**. The motion passed as follows:

Mayor Shane T. Bemis	YES
Councilor Kirk French	YES
Councilor Karylinn Echols	YES
Councilor Mario Palmero	YES
Councilor Mike McCormick	YES

ABSENT: Council President Lori Stegmann and Councilor Jerry Hinton

D. PUBLIC HEARING

E. COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. COMMUNITY HORIZONS AND TECHNOLOGY (CHAT)

Rachael Fuller, Assistant City Manager introduced **Robin Franzen-Parker**, Public Affairs Director and **Aaron Abrams**, Manager of the Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement. She provided an introduction to the agenda item, stating staff will update the

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Council on recent community engagement efforts and the way in which digital technology is transforming the relationship between local governments and the communities they serve.

Ms. Franzen Parker presented the staff report (PowerPoint Presentation Exhibit A).

Mr. Abrams provided information on new projects that staff is working on as part of the CHAT project.

Ms. Franzen-Parker finalized the presentation by providing information on digital inclusions, making certain all citizens have access to the internet and technological hardware and the training needed to engage with local government on line. She also discussed the next steps for the Community Horizons and Technology project.

Councilor French asked where the City of Gresham stands compared to other Oregon cities in terms of getting this project completed.

Ms. Franzen-Parker responded Gresham is just about where a lot of communities are. However, with 'mobile apps' Gresham stands out in front of other cities. The RAD project is a good example of where Gresham is quickly moving into technological areas. She noted she does not have a complete sense of the landscape, but feels Gresham is "getting right out there."

Councilor French asked if folks can make appointments to visit regarding economic development concerns.

Ms. Franzen-Parker replied yes. The app allows a direct link to our staff providing citizens the opportunity to make an appointment to discuss a small business opportunity or economic opportunity with staff.

Councilor French said he feels this is a great tool for citizens to use to report concerns to the Police, Fire, and Stormwater Departments. He feels this project has great potential.

Councilor Palmero said he is happy that our City is looking toward the future and getting citizens involved and using all the tools available by not reinventing the wheel but looking at other agencies or partners to help teach people how to use this technology. He is pleased to see staff partnering with other companies to offer access to the internet. He feels it is important to bridge the internet divide.

Councilor McCormick said in his neighborhood at least fifty people have signed up for social media. It is an excellent project.

Councilor Echols noted how quickly technology changes. It is clear that technology changes every day. She expressed her concern that if we don't have a specific timeline target on some of these proposals and goals, we aren't inter-relating with the fact that technology is changing so

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fast. She feels there should be targets and dates and an understanding of how to stay on top of the changing technologies.

Ms. Fuller said staff has acknowledged that the entire model is shifting and we are moving away from building our own programs to using other products in an effort to be more nimble. It is the very fundamental shift that staff is reviewing. The purpose of this strategic technology initiative is to take stock of our existing infrastructure and adapt it so we can be responsive and so we can be up to date with the rapid changes in technology. This project will be complete by August 1, 2014. Staff will be coming back to Council in the fall of 2014 with specific timelines.

Councilor Echols asked if a part of the specific feedback could be timelines and targets. She understands that it can feel vague and that we are doing research, but at some point we have to put a period at the end of the sentence. She asked what the plan is for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the technology, and whether it is accomplishing what we anticipate it will accomplish, and at what cost, so we are not chasing everything that sounds interesting to us.

Ms. Franzen-Parker said that is the goal. This is the first wave of things we plan to look at. The goal is to use these as opportunities to see how they work, and develop a framework for how we assess these new technologies as they come down the pike. We know they will keep coming. When we return to Council later this year our goal is to report specifically how this has worked.

Councilor Echols asked how the youth are being involved and if we are capitalizing on a partnership with the school district and the schools.

Mr. Abrams said the Youth Advisory Committee has already been engaged in this effort. We asked them what the best way is to reach out to them. Their response was texting and Instagram. By implementing the hack-a-thon with the school district we hope to have an ongoing relationship to discuss technology with schools and students.

Councilor Echols said as we come up with new technology and put it out in the community, it is important to manage the expectations by our community. The examples of other agencies and states are great tools for their communities, but we need to be careful that we are not setting unrealistic expectations. Asking citizens what they would like to see in Gresham in some ways provides for a natural expectation that we will do what they request. We must manage the expectation as we have limited ability to say what will happen when using the apps. We don't want to frustrate our citizens instead of engaging them.

Mayor Bemis asked if we agreed upon an app for potholes that requests citizens to take a picture of the potholes and send it in, what would the expectation be in terms of the timeframe for getting that app established and rolled out.

Pat Hartley, Information Technology Director, said rolling an app out is not a big deal. However, connecting it back to the rest of the system so we are not just emailing something from

a mobile phone is the tricky part. We must make sure we have the resources in the back end to deal with those sorts of things. The technology is the easy part and the people are the difficult part.

Mayor Bemis feels the City is behind on this project. Some cities across the country are doing great work, and it seems that some of that stuff would be easily transferable in terms of the app or the process or the general idea of how they are engaging their citizens. But when we talk about it here in Gresham, we state we are two to three years out. He feels we are losing ground every second we are not into the twenty-first century. He asked what the constraints are in our current system that inhibit us from delivering expeditiously on this.

Mr. Hartley said the majority of our core system was built before there was an internet system. We have older systems that we are trying to bring up to speed in which the original inventors had no idea there would be this sort of connection back to the community for looking up water usage on line or paying bills. The biggest challenge we have is trying to integrate those older systems. Our work order system in which we need to connect the pothole app to a work order needs to be written and integrated either in-house or with some expense to the City with the original builder of the system. The app would be very easy, but it is the background and how deeply we want to connect it to the city that takes time.

Mayor Bemis asked what the timeframe would be and how much it would cost. We can sit here and say we are going to do these things but if we don't have a definitive length of time we are really just chatting about a couple of nice apps and not really getting something done. He asked if there are investments to be made into the overall total system and if that cost is prohibitive.

Ms. Fuller stated we are in the middle of an operational assessment that will help determine definitive answers to those questions. We anticipate having those answers by August.

Mayor Bemis asked between now and August how will staff be working. He feels it is important to do some work with peer cities in terms of apps and engagement processes and bringing those back to our community to see where they fit. Then staff could engage with our community to find out what works and what doesn't. There is so much good stuff out there that other communities are doing that would not involve reinventing the wheel that seems to be easily transferable into our processes.

Ms. Fuller said staff will certainly take another look at what is out there and bring those back to Council. We will also be looking at our core systems to determine how to integrate the apps with our GIS system and do some of that work at the same time.

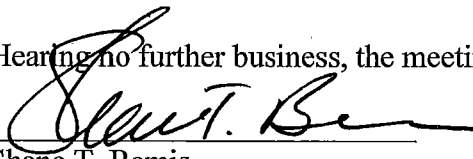
Mayor Bemis said he saw a great quote to end the meeting with: *"Quotes found on the internet are not always accurate,"* by Abe Lincoln.

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F. COUNCIL MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

G. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.


Shane T. Bemis,
Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,


Susanjoy Baskoro
City Recorder