



A place where families and businesses thrive.

**City Council Optional Work Session Minutes
Homelessness**

**Monday, July 19, 2021
5:00 p.m., Zoom Community Auditorium**

***Minutes are unofficial until approved by Council.
Council approved minutes as presented August 9, 2021.***

1. ROLL CALL:

Council President Wenzl called the optional work session to order at 5:02 p.m. via Zoom Webinar Video Conference.

The Council conducted the optional work session in a “hybrid” format allowing the public to attend virtually via **Zoom Webinar** and in-person in the Community Auditorium. Members of the public could observe the work session **LIVE on Zoom Webinar** or on television on Tualatin Valley Community Television (TVCTV) Government Access Programming.

COUNCIL PRESENT ATTENDED BY ZOOM WEBINAR: Donna Gustafson; Kristy Kottkey; Timothy Rippe (disconnected at 5:55 pm); Mariana Valenzuela (disconnected at 6:21 pm); and Malynda Wenzl, Council President. **COUNCIL NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Elena Uhing and Mayor Peter Truax.

STAFF PRESENT ATTENDED BY ZOOM WEBINAR: Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager; Paul Downey, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director; Bryan Pohl, Community Development Director; Henry Reimann, Police Chief; and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

2. OPTIONAL WORK SESSION: HOMELESSNESS

VanderZanden facilitated the work session, noting at the Council Meeting of May 24, 2021, the Council approved a motion to hold an optional attendance work session with the Anti-Poverty Task Force, Forest Grove Foundation and Chamber Director to brainstorm and answer questions pertaining to homelessness in the City of Forest Grove.” After a Doodle poll of multiple dates, July 19, 5:00-6:30 pm, was selected as the date/time for the optional work session. VanderZanden gave an overview of the staff report and referenced Council Goal 2.2, “Partner with other agencies and non-profits to address homelessness needs and access to wraparound services in Forest Grove”. VanderZanden introduced the invited panelists who were in attendance:

- Shawn Cardwell, Forest Grove Foundation,
- Brian Schimmel, Chair of Anti-Poverty Task Force, Forest Grove Foundation, Centro Cultural de Washington County (Centro) Housing Director, and
- Juanita Lint, Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

Shawn Cardwell presented a PowerPoint Presentation overview. The topic of discussion focused on the Forest Grove Foundation’s proposal of establishing an essential services hub for homeless services and housing advocacy for individuals, families and youth to serve Forest Grove and surrounding areas.

Discussion:

Council President Wenzl opened the floor as each of the councilors offered their visions for addressing homelessness as a full-service City and providing accessibility to wraparound services in Forest Grove, i.e., the City's support, role and responsibilities to establish a services hub in Forest Grove. Schimmel and Cardwell addressed various inquiries pertaining to Forest Grove Foundation's proposal of establishing an essential services hub for homeless services and housing advocacy for individuals, families and youth to serve Forest Grove and surrounding areas, noting the Foundation is happy to receive funding and is thankful for the partnerships. The services hub is a priority for the Foundation's commitment to end homelessness in Forest Grove. The Foundation currently has \$60k available in funding and will continue to seek more funding. Lint supported a services hub for youth services, noting the other services are already being provided and instead fix how to get people to the existing services. In addition, Lint voiced concerns that the Chamber experienced a loss \$16,000 in local Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue because of the purchase and conversion of the Forest Grove Hotel as a transitional housing facility, to which Schimmel addressed. Roundtable discussion focused on the need of providing all essential services in Forest Grove, creating a City task force to develop a strategic plan/living document that identifies how the City is going to address housing and security, a document that can be utilized by Council and partnerships as a team, and which identifies funding priorities, i.e., matching funds, Local Implementation Plan and ARP funds. In conclusion of the above-noted discussion and debriefing, there was support of the City's partnership with the Foundation to establish an essential services hub in Forest Grove and working collaboratively to identify funding support. In addition, VanderZanden provided an update on county funding, noting Washington County is scheduled to make a presentation pertaining to supportive housing at the next regular Council meeting on August 9, 2021.

No formal action nor formal decisions were made during the work session.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Council President Wenzl adjourned the work session at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder