

**CITY OF SILVERTON
TOWN HALL MINUTES**

Silverton High School – Auditorium – 1456 Pine Street, Silverton, OR 97381

April 29, 2019, 1:15 p.m.

I. OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Palmer welcomed attendees to the Town Hall and introductions were made. He thanked the Mayor’s Youth Council for hosting the Town Hall and developing the topics that will be discussed.

Present	Absent	
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Mayor Kyle Palmer
<u> </u>	<u>Excused</u>	Council President Jason Freilinger
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Jim Sears
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Matt Plummer
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Dana Smith
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Laurie Carter
<u> </u>	<u>Excused</u>	Crystal Neideigh

Staff Present: City Manager, Christy Wurster; Public Works Director, Petra Schuetz; Finance Director, Kathleen Zaragoza; Community Development Director, Jason Gottgetreu; Chief of Police, Jeff Fossholm; Water Quality Division Supervisor, Steve Starner; Assistant to the City Manager/HR Coordinator, Elizabeth Gray; and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 Platforms for student involvement in local government

Mayor Palmer explained that one of the City Council Goals for this fiscal year was to explore the feasibility of creating and supporting a Youth Advisory Council. City Council passed a resolution this fall supporting the establishment of a Mayor’s Youth Council comprised of the members of the Silverton High School Government and Politics Club. He urged students to participate in the Annual If I were Mayor Contest and to serve on various City Boards and Committees. Currently a Silverton High School student serves on the City’s Environmental Management Committee. An audience member asked if internships were available. Mayor Palmer explained a program the City Council used to have called Shadow a Councilor and said that he hopes that the Youth Council will become more structured and come to City Council with their input on Council topics.

2.2 Transportation in Silverton

Public Works Director Petra Schuetz described a number of transportation projects that the City is working on, including, a circulation study and sidewalk infill projects. The City is also partnering with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on intersection upgrades to the intersection at Jefferson and N 1st Street, as well as a sidewalk infill project on South Water Street that will extend to the urban growth boundary. She explained how to report a pothole through the City’s website.

An audience member asked if there are sidewalk projects planned for the Mill Town area. Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu explained the process the City is going through currently to

update the Transportation System Plan (TSP). One of the items in the plan is to connect outer neighborhoods to schools and downtown through multimodal transportation. The TSP helps the Budget Committee prioritize funding for capital projects. Councilor Sears explained the idea of using Mill Town as a model to perform a comprehensive analysis on all the infrastructure improvements that need to occur in that area which will allow the City to develop a cost estimate and put together a schedule for improvements. Discussion ensued about how the neighborhood could form a Local Improvement District (LID). Councilor Plummer explained that Mill Town was developed when transportation was vehicle centric, but it is becoming people focused and the TSP will be looking at more active transportation projects. These projects will focus on moving people through walking and biking in a safe manner, but citizen input will be crucial in that effort. The City is also exploring the formation of neighborhood associations which could be a good way for a neighborhood to approach City Council with project ideas.

2.3 Parks and Recreation plan for the future

Mayor Palmer reviewed the current inventory of City parks and said the Silverton School District manages the sports fields in the city. He explained that the City has contracted with Portland State University to study the formation of a Parks and Recreation District. The Task Force will hold a few meetings with the consultants and will make a recommendation to City Council on if the district should go to the voters or not. If they decide to pursue a district then they would also make a recommendation on the size of the district. City Manager Christy Wurster indicated that the next step is a community survey that will be distributed through the school district, the library district, the chamber, senior center, and city utility customers that will gauge community support for a district. Councilor Smith indicated the survey will be posted online and encouraged attendees to sign up for notifications through the City's website. Councilor Plummer said that this is an area where the City is lacking and expressed his support for more structured adult sport opportunities in the area.

2.4 Health of Silver Creek

Water Quality Division Supervisor Steve Starnier explained the steps the City takes to comply with the 1972 Clean Water Act and Oregon water quality standards including cooling wastewater through the Oregon Garden prior to it being discharged into Silver Creek. He also explained the importance of good housekeeping practices in order to ensure contaminants are not getting into the stormwater system. He urged residents to use compost, nonchemical lawn care products, pick-up pet waste, recycle household hazardous waste and to plant ground cover, shrubs and trees in order to protect run-off.

The audience and City Council discussed concerns regarding a Division of State Lands notification about a proposed mineral sale located near Silver Creek and Silver Creek Reservoir. Staff submitted comments to DSL outlining the City's concerns about the potential soil erosion and stormwater runoff pollution that may enter the Reservoir and asked to be added to the interested party list. Mr. Starnier provided an update on the Reservoir dredging project which is currently in the engineering phase.

2.5 Broadband upgrades to Silverton

Director Gottgetreu explained the type of facilities that will be necessary to deploy 5G in Silverton and that Silverton City Council recently passed standards regulating these facilities, but they will largely be regulated by federal law. He provided an overview of a development code update that the Planning Commission will be forwarding to City Council allowing small wireless facilities in residential zones. The City will also be partnering with Marion County who is performing a broadband study to find opportunities for broadband development in rural communities.

2.6 Housing for the homeless

Mayor Palmer updated attendees on the Housing/Homeless Task Force and the Affordable Housing Task Force that were formed to start looking at how the community as a whole can address this issue. He said that Council has been supportive, but addressing this issue has been largely a citizen led effort. Councilor Smith provided an update on the St. Edwards project and what the Affordable Housing Task Force has been discussing which would allow for more permanent affordable units in Silverton. Mayor Palmer discussed the possibility of developing an affordable housing project on the Westfield property. A question was raised about how the City can control the rising housing costs. Director Gottgetreu explained that the Oregon Legislature passed a rent control bill this session that sets a maximum annual

rent increase statewide and explained that the Affordable Housing Task Force is looking at ways to encourage the development of the missing middle housing stock, because single family homes in Silverton have become unaffordable to the average income earner. An attendee asked whether the City could pass a local minimum wage in Silverton through legislation. Mayor Palmer indicated that the City and the Chamber work with SEDCOR to try and locate companies in Silverton that offer a living wage, such as the Forest River plant.

III. Q & A

Councilor Carter stressed that the biggest issue of our generation is global warming and Council has been discussing what small cities can do to combat global warming and encouraged the students to provide input on the matter. Staff and attendees also discussed traffic issues and lack of sidewalks on James Street, Western Avenue, and Grant Street. Mayor Palmer explained that Marion County has jurisdiction over the roads in that area, but City staff is working with all parties involved to find a solution. Staff provided an update on the City's effort to reduce energy and waste management. The Environmental Management Committee is working with Sustainable Silverton to adopt a plan for the city to transition off fossil fuels. The Sustainable Silverton Plan will be a roadmap for the entire community. The franchise agreement with Republic Services was discussed. The changes to what residents are allowed to recycle were also discussed and the reason behind those changes. Lastly, staff provided an update on street preservation projects that are scheduled for this year and larger projects such as the McClaine Street reconstruction which is moving into the final engineering design with construction to begin fiscal year 2020-2021. Director Schuetz explained that staff will be asking ODOT to prioritize improvements to South Water Street during their next round of STIP funding. The City is limited on what improvements they can do, because it is a state highway.

The Town Hall concluded at 3:11 p.m.