

**CITY OF SILVERTON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**



Council Chambers 421 S Water St and Zoom Web Conference Platform

November 20, 2023, 6:30 pm

I. OPENING CEREMONIES – Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

Mayor Freilinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The City Council and staff were present both in person and through the virtual meeting platform Zoom. Mayor Freilinger explained the meeting was being held in a hybrid format, pursuant to City of Silverton Resolution 22-06, adopted March 7, 2022.

Present	Absent	
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Mayor Jason Freilinger
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Council President Elvi Cuellar Sutton
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Jess Miller
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	April Newton
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Eric Hammond
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Marie Traeger
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Matt Gaitan

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Cory Misley, Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu, Public Works Director Travis Sperle, Chief of Police Jim Anglemier, Assistant to City Manager/Human Resources Coordinator Tammy Shaver

II. DISCUSSION

2.1 Update on Sheltering Silverton Project Completion and Opening, Sarah White, Sheltering Silverton Executive Director

Ms. White let Council know the project came in on time and under budget. It is functionally complete with a few finishing touches being applied. White said they are addressing parking. On November 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., the ribbon cutting, and formal opening will be held at 832 McClaine St., Silverton, OR.

White thanked City staff, Travis Sperle, Mike Dahlberg, and Daryl Jones for being helpful and supportive.

Monday, November 13, 2023, their operations were transferred to the shelter on McClaine Street, and they have been at capacity, serving fourteen (14) people per night since the transfer. White said they have had to turn some people away until the pallet shelters (cabins) are ready to open, there are four (4) of them, and once open, they will be able to serve twenty (20) people per night.

White and her staff are working with Public Works to determine how best to share the space. They currently have four (4) parking spaces and there are ten (10) staff members serving fifteen (15) to twenty-five (25) people per day. Sheltering Silverton staff have been parking offsite to free up those parking spaces.

Councilor Sutton wanted to know how many people were being turned away. White said they turned away three (3) people today. Sutton asked for clarification if this was the average number daily. White said it has been more lately, which is normal because of the weather, they always see a “spike” in numbers when the weather turns. She went on to say, they have funding to put people in hotel rooms which involves a process of prioritization, families with children

and medically fragile adults, particularly seniors. They do have people in hotels in Salem to help manage the overflow. White emphasized they prioritize and serve people with a strong connection to the Silverton community.

Councilor Sutton asked how Council could help with parking. White said she was working with the owner of property adjacent to the driveway who has offered to let them gravel a grass lot and have ten (10) parking spaces.

Councilor Newton wanted to know the statistics regarding finding permanent housing for those they serve. White responded they are averaging about five (5) individuals per month returning to permanent housing. The process involves intense case management, which includes people getting market rate housing, placement in adult foster care, assisted living, housing vouchers, and other arrangements. The average for this year has been five (5) per month and over the past several years, White says they have helped over two hundred (200) people return to safe and stable housing.

Newton followed up by asking what the average time is someone uses their services. White said it varies, some are there for three (3) weeks and others only briefly. They have those who are using their services today who were using their service four (4) years ago because they have barriers to housing. Families with children return to housing much quicker and average about three months maximum.

Councilor Traeger asked if they were able to offer any other services with their case management such as drug and alcohol treatment or mental health aid. White said they work to get people connected to drug treatment programs, inpatient or outpatient. They work closely with Marion County Adult Behavioral Health, and they work with Bridgeway Community Connect and have them respond to the site as frequently as needed.

Traeger also asked about the Safe Parking Program. White reminded Council the program ended during the summer because of staffing.

Councilor Newton expressed concern about issues which may come up with Sheltering Silverton's facility being so close to Public Works and wanted to know if any help could be provided to facilitate coexistence. City Manager Cory Misley responded, the parking issue is on the City's radar, he wants to meet with them onsite to discuss strategies to mitigate the parking concerns. Misley stated we need to look at this through several lenses and a thorough discussion could be held during a meeting onsite.

Councilor Hammond asked what issues might come up which would require resolution in the future. He identified a lack of sidewalk connection and asked what else there might be. White said the biggest thing is asking the community for patience as they work on issues and processes.

White emphasized her request for patience and believes the City and Sheltering Silverton have similar goals.

2.2 Update on Civic Center Mural Concept – Silverton Mural Society

Norm English and John Guy discussed the location for the mural. Their proposal, after collaborating with City Manager Cory Misley and Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu, is to place the mural on the 1st Street side of the Civic Center which will make it highly visible to northbound traffic on 1st Street. English and Guy both agree the location in the new proposal works and the mural may be more visible at this location than the original proposed location on the west side of the building. Their only requirement was the mural be "highly visible."

Councilor Traeger asked if the pattern would be the same or similar. English confirmed it would be. Traeger then asked if the mural cost of seventeen thousand one hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$17,179) covers everything. He confirmed it did.

Councilor Gaitan said he felt it would be in a highly visible and welcoming location and verified where it will be placed. It will be located between Festival Street and A Street on 1st Street. English affirmed. Gaitan then asked if the cost deviated from the previous estimate. They responded it was the same.

Mayor Freilinger said this was a great idea and he felt all parties agreed. Council, staff, and the Mural Society were in favor of the placement of the mural. City Manager Cory Misley will be checking on what is needed to move forward.

2.3 Presentation on Communications Team Survey - Councilor Gaitan and City Manager Cory Misley

Councilor Gaitan began by providing some background information and referred to Council's goals, of which communication was one of the primary goals. Gaitan said he has been working with the Team since the first of the year and they began to explore various communication solutions. Gaitan talked about some of the technologies which were being explored, demos he and the team participated in, and how they may help increase two-way communication. He said he felt the technologies were up to staff to determine how to increase their efficiency.

Gaitan went on to say, he felt the Team was attempting to find solutions without enough data to inform them. It was then they decided to send out the survey. Gaitan encouraged Council to review the results if they hadn't already. He identified challenges with the perception of some events as the City's responsibility to communicate when they were events the Chamber of Commerce would be communicating.

City Manager Misley said staff could create a report or executive summary of the survey without editorializing it or forming conclusions. Misley discussed the original goal of the Communications team to enhance internal and external communication. He referenced a 2016 Communications Plan he recently had brought to his attention. Misley said it was important we use what we have for communication and make sure we assess how we are doing with what we have and how might we want to elevate that with targeted initiatives or platforms or whatever it may be. Misley wants to make sure we're educating and working with residents to ensure they're getting the benefits of what is currently in place.

Misley asked for time to allow the Team to digest the results and determine if the current resources were being used to their fullest.

III. Council Communications

Councilor Newton attended the Chamber Lunch and Learn featuring City Manager Cory Misley. Newton wanted to express how well the City Manager did during his presentation. She felt his more informal approach, letting people ask questions, was well done and elicited information a more formal presentation may have missed. Newton also wanted to bring Council's attention to a concern about topics being brought up during meetings with no follow up or follow through. Newton wants Council to be thoughtful of that and circle back to things and try to find solutions, especially to the things which come up frequently.

Councilor Gaitan commented on Councilor Newton's thoughts expanding by saying he thinks it is part of the speed in which government works.

Councilor Traeger expressed how pleased she is to be a member of the Tourism Committee. Traeger advised Council of grants have been given to the following, the Gordon House for air conditioners, the Christmas Market at the Oregon Garden Resort, the Brewfest for Homer Davenport Days, the Stout and Owl Fest for the Fox Foundation, the Chamber First Friday, Paws in the Park, some more funds for the art association for the Art Festival, and Silverton in Bloom.

Mayor Freilinger said he had nothing new to bring up. He expressed some thoughts about items Newton and Gaitan brought up. He said former Councilor Sears used to keep a spreadsheet and would bring items up at Council meetings. The Mayor agrees government does not move fast enough but he believes things are moving more quickly in the City than previously. He said Council could move things along almost as fast as they would want by signing resolution after resolution, however, the work would not get completed. Mayor Freilinger said there are three things which significantly impact the speed things get accomplished, money, public input, and the volume staff can handle at one time. He has spoken with City Manager Misley to discuss prioritization and getting things done not just as timely as possible but done well. Council goal setting is coming up in January and he believes a targeted, focused approach on goals including where Council can determine what is needed to move forward quickly.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Tammy Shaver – Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Coordinator