

**CITY OF SILVERTON
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**



Council Chambers 421 S Water Street and Zoom Web Conference Platform

January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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	
X	_____	Mayor Jason Freilinger
X	_____	Council President Elvi Cuellar Sutton
X	_____	Jess Miller
X	_____	April Newton
X	_____	Eric Hammond
X	_____	Marie Traeger
X	_____	Matt Gaitan

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Cory Misley, Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu, Police Chief Jim Anglemier, Public Works Director Travis Sperle, Assistant to City Manager/City Clerk Jamie Ward.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hammond moved to approve the December 4, 2023, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, and the December 18, 2023, Work Session Minutes. Councilor Sutton abstained from the December 18, 2023 minutes due to being absent. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Brandon and Jenny Ohren, representing Silverton Senior Center Board, addressed the council. Mr. Brandon expressed gratitude for the continued support and the positive working partnership with Council. He distributed invitations to a retirement luncheon for Dodie Brockamp scheduled for January 27, 2023, from noon to 3 p.m. Simone Stewert will be taking the role of Executive Director starting on January 22, 2023.

IV. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Silverton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Stacy Palmer
Mrs. Palmer read the monthly update (Attachment A). Mrs. Plamer indicated it was a quiet month due to the visitor center being closed for two weeks. There were 93 phone calls and 128 visits in the month of December.

The Silverton Business Group meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. at Silver Falls Brewery. Mrs. Palmer mentioned that local chamber members and attractions will be featured on an interactive platform called 'Tour

Silverton Online.' The tours will enable businesses to showcase their offerings and highlight local attractions. They are aiming to launch this initiative in the Spring.

After a competitive application process Business Oregon is pleased to announce a notice of Intent to Award a total of \$1.825 million in funding from Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI) program to 19 Oregon communities. The City of Woodburn on behalf of the North Marion Business Alliance has been awarded \$90,000 to help fund business assistance efforts in our region. The grant will focus on connecting local businesses to resources including business evaluation and mentorship, providing technical training and providing access to a network of regional programs designed to help businesses in our rural area.

Mrs. Palmer wanted to inform residents that the tree lights are still up due to scheduling and weather conflicts. They are actively exploring options for scheduling a forklift in the near future. Mrs. Palmer also mentioned that there are some health issues at the top of the tree, and she will be working with public works to identify a treatment process.

The Silverton Shop Hop received a total of 596 visits to local businesses. High-traffic merchants appreciated the new format, but those with lower foot traffic numbers didn't fare as well. Despite an increase in the number of forms turned in this year compared to the last two years, the majority of participants were from Silverton, although there were also participants from eight outlining communities.

Mrs. Palmer informed the Council about two upcoming events. The Annual Stout & Ale Festival is scheduled for January 27, 2024, at the Festhalle in Mt. Angel, Oregon. This event celebrates and honors the life of Jason Franz, a beloved community volunteer. It serves as a fundraiser for the Jason Franz fund, which grants scholarships to kids who enjoy outdoor recreation but can't afford to participate. The event strongly supports the Silver Falls Mountain Bike Club and Fall Line Bike Shop. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.fallinestoutandale.com for \$15, or \$20 at the door. The 2024 First Citizen Banquet is on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the Oregon Garden. A list of nominations should be released in the coming weeks.

- 4.2 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)/City Working Relationship Overview was pulled and will be rescheduled to January 22, 2024.

V. DISCUSSION/ACTION

5.1 Ordinance 24-01 – Approving a Zone Change from R-1 to R-5 at 602 Eureka Avenue

Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu gave a brief overview of the history of the application process stating the application was submitted on October 10, 2023, requesting a zone change for 602 Eureka Avenue to change the zoning from R-1 to R-5. Notice was mailed out to property owners within 700 feet of the site on October 25, 2023. The notice was placed in the Statesman Journal during the November 1, 2023, edition. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended for Council to deny the application at the November 14, 2023, meeting which included a Public Hearing, City Council reviewed the application during a Public Hearing at the December 4, 2023, meeting. Council then closed the Public Hearing and directed staff to prepare an Ordinance and bring it back to the January meeting to approve.

Councilor Miller moved to have the first reading of Ordinance 24-01 – Approving a Zone Change from R-1 to R-5 at 602 Eureka Avenue by title only. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion Passes 4-3-0 Ayes: Eric Hammond, April Newton, Jess Miller, and Jason Freiling. Nays: Elvi Cuellar-Sutton, Marie Traeger, and Matt Gaitan.

City Manager Misley read Ordinance 24-01 by title only.

Councilor Miller moved to pass Ordinance 24-01 – Approving a Zone Change from R-1 to R-5 at 602 Eureka Avenue on its first reading by title only. Councilor Newton seconded.

Councilor Sutton expressed her opposition to approving this ordinance for several reasons, citing concerns related to traffic and pedestrian safety. She believes that endorsing this ordinance would establish a precedent for future development in Silverton and argues that it does not align with Silverton's vision.

Councilor Traeger shares Councilor Sutton's sentiments, expressing the belief that rezoning is unnecessary for the area, as it is already designated for twenty-one (21) new homes. She sees this as the city's means to address House Bill 2001 and its associated challenges. Councilor Newton emphasizes the importance of developing a strategic plan for the future and reiterates her support for the Planning Commission's decision to deny the zone change.

Councilor Gaitan assessed the land and the substantial work required for its development, taking into account the city's need for affordable housing. He finds a disconnect in how this development aligns with the City's long-term plan for affordable housing. This is attributed not only to the necessary infrastructure investments but also to the support required for pedestrians and residents within the development. Due to these considerations, he cannot, in good faith, approve the change.

Councilor Miller expressed confidence in prior discussions about the minimal environmental impact on water flow resulting from the impermeable surfaces change. He also found assurance in the traffic studies conducted and anticipates a future review of the actual development and its details. Councilor Miller believes these steps are necessary before development can commence on the land, providing the Council with another opportunity to delve into specifics such as connectivity and traffic flow measures. He is in support of this change.

Councilor Traeger expressed a desire to address existing traffic issues in the downtown core, emphasizing concerns that the proposed development will exacerbate the current problem. She is reluctant to add more challenges to those already faced by the community. She also fears that this could potentially open that area up for a mobile home site.

Councilor Newton sought clarification on whether there was specific knowledge of a mobile home being planned for the area or if the concern arose merely because it is permitted in an R-5 zone.

Councilor Traeger clarified that the allowance for mobile homes comes with zone changes within developments.

Councilor Sutton expressed full support for identifying locations for affordable housing, emphasizing the strategic placement of R-5 zones as crucial. She highlighted the importance of considering the specific impact on the community, particularly in the designated area, including population concentration and safety concerns.

Councilor Hammond believes that the R-5 designation, with its traffic calculation methods, indicates potentially less traffic compared to R-1. This consideration leads him to view the proposed use for this space as acceptable.

Councilor Newton clarified that her vote in the previous decision was based on the applicant meeting the legal requirements. While she personally would prefer leaving the land undeveloped, she acknowledges the potential for entry-level housing in a denser R-5 zone. She also recognizes that this zoning allows for more communal and lawn space.

Council went on record to disclose any ex parte contact they may have had.

Mayor Freilinger has received twelve (12) potential requests for ex parte contact which he did not respond or interact with on both sides of the issue.

Councilor Sutton reported five points of contact but clarified that they have not influenced her vote, and she has not responded to them.

Councilor Traeger has received emails, and it has not influenced her vote either.

Mayor Freilinger explained that his vote was influenced by incidents over the past ten (10) to eleven (11) years. He expressed the belief that denying this application might not hold up before the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) based on the merits of the case. He feels the applicant has met the standards for development, and not allowing it, given the information available, could lead to an overturn on appeal. Additionally, he noted the potential high cost of legal fees should Council pursue this route. He also highlighted the housing need analysis conducted a few years ago. Mayor Freilinger emphasized that there is a current housing needs analysis being conducted for every city over ten thousand (10,000) statewide. This new analysis is set to take effect in terms of implementation requirements on January 1, 2025, and he anticipates that the numbers might change, potentially significantly. He expressed the view that relying on the current analysis might not be appropriate, given the forthcoming changes. The traffic calculations matter because statistical information like that is based on engineering studies and is the only factor that LUBA is going to look at. It is the only factor that ODOT is going to look at. Things that are subjective in nature, they will not consider. The merits of what he is hearing, as far as why Council should deny the application, are subjective in nature. Because of the state legislature's determination of how clear and objective standards are met then it will always err on the side of increased housing, he feels the applicant has met those. Zoning changes are not necessarily bound by this rule but what he has seen and heard LUBA is applying that to zoning changes, especially when they are talking about changing from a single-family zone to a slightly denser single-family zone. He understands the concerns but questions what the solution is. He feels we need to put in better standards that are clear and objective and ultimately, we cannot achieve that until the City goes through a Master Plan for the City of Silverton.

Councilor Sutton acknowledges that the zone change is a city decision, and while LUBA can push back, she believes that in this case, it is acceptable. She is of the opinion that this area lacks sufficient road space for people to ride or walk safely.

Councilor Traeger expresses support for and confidence in the Planning Commission's decision. She believes that the decision was grounded in clear research and was not influenced by subjective factors.

Councilor Gaitan sought clarification, questioning whether the presence of clearer standards before this request would have potentially averted the need for the zone change in the first place.

Mayor Freilinger stated that he couldn't provide a definitive answer because the City has not undergone that exercise. He emphasized that the impact of standard changes on this matter cannot be determined conclusively. To address such situations, the City would need to adopt clear and objective standards and apply them accordingly.

Motion Passes 4-3-0 Ayes: Eric Hammond, April Newton, Jess Miller, and Jason Freilinger. Nays: Elvi Cuellar-Sutton, Marie Traeger, and Matt Gaitan. Ordinance 24-01 will be brought back for a second reading during the January 22, 2024, City Council meeting due to not passing by a unanimous vote on its first reading.

5.2 Review of Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) Submitted for the Development of Affordable Housing on the Westfield Site.

Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu presented the staff report, noting that the City of Silverton had advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development of affordable housing on

the Westfield Site. The City received four (4) Statements of Qualifications (SOQ). The Request for Offers (RFO) process aims to generate a shortlist of potential partners invited to submit a development proposal. The Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) reviewed the SOQ's and recommended that the Council select DexNW, Ink Built, REACH, and FHDC as the shortlist of potential partners to be invited to submit a proposal.

Councilor Traeger sought clarification on the history of this process. She inquired whether the Affordable Housing Task Force had developed a plan and formally approached the City to inquire about using the Westfield property for the construction of affordable homes.

Director Gottgetreu explained that this process commenced in 2018 when the City explored the possibility of utilizing a section of the Westfield site for an affordable housing development. However, the process did not progress at that time, making this the second attempt to advance the project.

Councilor Newton requested clarification on the criteria for not selecting the top two (2) proposals. After reviewing the proposals and the minutes from the Affordable Housing Task Force meeting, she expressed difficulty in understanding the reasons for eliminating two (2) options. She emphasized that one of them provided detailed specifics on how they intended to secure funding. She feels that all four (4) supplied good SOQ's.

Director Gottgetreu explained that the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) believed that all four (4) applicants had the potential to undertake a commendable project. However, the AHTF determined that the top two applicants presented a product that aligns more closely with the style and vision for the City. Nonetheless, the other two applicants showcased strong qualifications and Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) and were recognized as capable and strong potential partners.

Councilor Newton believes that, despite the substantial effort required for these potential partners to proceed to the next step, it would be prudent to invite all four (4) and assess the outcomes.

Councilor Traeger concurs with Councilor Newton that all four (4) organizations are commendable. However, she expresses concern about the community's ability to support a project of this nature, especially when targeting sixty (60) percent AMI or below. She believes these falls within the median of low-income housing. Considering the current status of industrial businesses, such as Bruce Pac being vacant, she is apprehensive about the availability of jobs for those intending to reside there. Councilor Traeger asserts that the community needs to strengthen before undertaking such a project.

Councilor Sutton holds a differing opinion from Councilor Traeger and believes that the community strongly needs this project and that it aligns with the right direction. She expresses enthusiasm for the initiative, considering it a fitting use for R-5 zoning. Councilor Sutton highlights the open nature of the area with fewer traffic issues in this corner of the town. She emphasizes that delaying the project could result in more significant future efforts to address affordable housing needs. She also suggests inviting all four (4) organizations to submit a proposal.

Mayor Freilinger emphasized that one of the significant driving factors for people is affordable housing. The Chamber has been vocal about the community's desperate need for affordable housing. A large portion of Bruce Pac employees had to commute because they couldn't afford to live here, and there's strong suggestive evidence that this affordability issue may have contributed to their departure, resulting in a negative impact on the community.

Councilor Gaitan highlights a crucial missing piece in this puzzle—the absence of Silverton's Economic Development Plan. He expresses the need for a clear understanding of how the city plans to generate more jobs, providing residents with opportunities for employment. Councilor Gaitan emphasizes the historical trend of Silverton being a bedroom community with residents commuting for work, and he seeks assurance about the city's plan to address this aspect.

Councilor Hammond expresses agreement with Councilor Gaitan and supports the idea of inviting all four (4) organizations to submit a proposal for development. While acknowledging the potential benefits of an Economic Development Plan, he believes there is already sufficient demand for affordable housing. Councilor Hammond suggests that the current need could potentially fill the housing project without the immediate necessity of a comprehensive Economic Development Plan.

Mayor Freilinger sought clarification from staff regarding the potential concerns of inviting all four (4) organizations back. He referenced discussions during the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) meeting about the costs associated with progressing to step two (2) and creating a Request for Proposals (RFP). In the AHTF discussions, there was an emphasis on the need to narrow the field to manage these costs. Mayor Freilinger inquired whether staff sees any issues with not trimming the field and proceeding to send the invitation to all four (4) organizations.

City Manager Misley shared his perspective, stating that if the goal is to have the maximum number of options available, inviting all four (4) organizations would achieve that result. He acknowledged that it would require more time for reviewing and selecting proposals. However, he emphasized the intention to be considerate and intentional about not wanting anyone to waste their time. Given the qualifications of all four, and the ability to discern nuances between them, he sees no reason why the city couldn't move forward with all four (4) submitting a full-blown proposal, particularly for this specific site.

Director Gottgetreu explained that the firms will have access to the minutes from the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) and the minutes from this meeting. They can review where they stand among the top or bottom two, using that information to make an informed decision about whether it's worthwhile to move forward to the next step.

Councilor Traeger asked what the process is for the next step.

Director Gottgetreu clarified the process, emphasizing that the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) will evaluate the Request for Proposals (RFPs) and provide a recommendation to the City Council. The Council will then make a decision based on the AHTF's reviews. Gottgetreu noted that the completion of this project is not anticipated in the near future, with a projected timeline ranging from two (2) to three (3) years. The overall process involves a thorough review of the RFP by the AHTF, followed by Council selection and entering into an agreement with the top proposal firm. This agreement phase includes detailing responsibilities, after which the substantial work begins—securing funding, designing the project, and navigating the public process. The design will undergo scrutiny at the Planning Commission based on the finalized design.

City Manager Misley concurred with Director Gottgetreu regarding the timeline, emphasizing the competitiveness of funding cycles. He highlighted that numerous communities are in need and seeking to add housing units, making the funding process highly competitive. While there are additional funding streams to some extent, they fall short of meeting the overwhelming demand and need for affordable housing. Misley mentioned the potential for a housing needs analysis to take a more holistic approach, examining a menu of

options. Such an analysis could outline the desired trajectory for the City and the community over the next ten (10) years, along with the necessary steps to reach those goals.

Councilor Sutton asked where the UGB and the County line start as far as jurisdiction.

Chief Anglemier stated it was just past the Westfield site. Almost directly across from the Oregon Garden entrance.

Mayor Freilinger, as a member of the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF), shared insights into the factors considered when selecting the top two candidates. The evaluation included scrutiny of their funding sources and program focus, with attention to a specific cultural aspect. Given the significance of this potentially being the only affordable housing project in Silverton for this generation, there was a discussion about how broad or narrow the focus should be. Another critical factor was the aesthetic aspect, considering the look and design of their previous projects. Mayor Freilinger expressed openness to receiving proposals from all candidates but invited comments from the audience.

Director Gottgetreu clarified that the Request for Proposals (RFP) can explicitly outline Silverton's vision, providing a clear and definitive request. Potential candidates can then assess whether their proposals align with Silverton's vision and what they can offer.

Dana Smith, Silverton Oregon,

Ms. Smith mentioned that she has been a part of the Affordable Housing Task Force (AHTF) since its inception and brings extensive experience in reviewing these types of proposals. In assessing the four (4) teams, she believes it's evident that the two recommended by the AHTF are likely to be the top choices. While acknowledging the excellent qualifications of the other two teams, she feels they are in a different league and may not fully align with the City's vision for the property, which includes being multigenerational, multicultural, and catering to a variety of incomes. She emphasized that the ability to meet these diverse needs was more convincingly demonstrated by the top two (2) recommended teams.

Additionally, she conveyed that the AHTF prefers to conduct in-person interviews with all applicants to thoroughly discuss the proposals. The preference is for a group meeting involving both the Task Force and the Council, allowing everyone to participate in the same discussion simultaneously and arrive at a unified decision. Given the complexity of meaningful interviews, she expressed concerns about managing the process effectively with four (4) applicants.

Councilor Sutton noted the possibility that all four (4) applicants may not submit proposals. She directed a question to Ms. Smith, inquiring whether, in the event that three (3) applicants submit proposals, that would be considered a satisfactory compromise.

City Manager Misley suggested the possibility of applying a rating scale and considering only the top two applicants for interviews, streamlining the process and ensuring a focused evaluation.

Stacy Palmer, Silverton Oregon Chamber of Commerce,

Ms. Palmer expressed her belief that the construction of this affordable housing project would contribute to the attractiveness of Silverton for large industrial companies. She mentioned ongoing talks about expansion from Forrest River and Willamette Valley Pie Co. However, she highlighted a concern about the potential shortage of workers. Ms. Palmer feels that having affordable housing would appeal to individuals, encouraging them to move to Silverton and work in the area. She also expressed the view that many people

are leaving their family homes to downsize into smaller facilities that they may be able to afford. This transition creates opportunities for more individuals to enter the housing market and experience homeownership. Stating this is a supply and demand issue.

Councilor Traeger asked how we are attracting business.

Ms. Palmer emphasized that this is a valid concern for any small community. Historically, Silverton has seen 60-65 percent of its workforce leave, an ongoing trend due to the absence of large employers. This continuous outward migration leads to a widening demographic gap, with more professionals, economically advantaged individuals, and middle to low-income residents leaving for opportunities elsewhere. The high cost of living in Silverton contributes to this negative spiral, posing a challenge for the community.

Lucenda Campbell Silverton, Oregon,

Ms. Campbell would like to know if there is a way to put a map together to see the proposed site. She would also like to see better public transportation, a pool, a recreation center, and ADA housing.

Mayor Freilinger stated the City has a map and could provide that for her.

A motion was by Councilor Sutton to invite all four (4) statement of qualifications submissions to be invited to submit a proposal for the development of the affordable housing project on the Westfield Site. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion Passed

5.3 Resolution 24-01 – A Resolution Disbanding the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force and the Homeless and Housing Task Force.

City Manager Misley clarified that this recommendation originated from the council during the December 18, 2023, work session. He pointed out that there was an amended resolution specifying the repeal of the previous Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) resolutions. Misley continued, stating that the City recognizes the enduring importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as Homeless and Housing issues. Even though the task force is disbanding, he assured that the city remains dedicated to addressing these concerns at both policy and administrative levels.

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to adopt Resolution 24-01 Disbanding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Homeless and Housing Task Forces as amended. Councilor Miller seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. CONSENT

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to approve the Consent Agenda including agenda items 6.1-6.4. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.1 *OLCC Liquor License for Emerald Events Silverton.*
- 6.2 *Civic Center Change Order Ratification.*
- 6.3 *Approve the Contract with Hazen Sawyer, DPC Subject to Legal Revisions and Authorize the City Manager to Sign.*
- 6.4 *Authorize the City Manager to Amend the Contract with Firewood Design Group for \$30,000. And Amend the Contract with ML Houck for \$233,000. For the Second Street Improvement Project.*

VII. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- 7.1 Appointments to the Planning Commission and the Historic Landmark Commission.

Mayor Freilinger mentioned that he is working with staff on creating a uniform process for committees and commissions in the future. He indicated that there may be a time where nominations happen once a year and members could potentially be sworn in during the January meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to approve the reappointment of Morry Jones and to appoint Derek Evans to the Planning Commission for a term of four (4) years ending December 31, 2027. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to approve the reappointment of Sherry Hoefel and to appoint Allison Hurley to the Historic Landmarks Commission for a term of three (3) years ending December 31, 2026. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to approve the reappointment of Fred Parkinson to the Historic Landmarks Commission for a term of two (2) years ending December 31, 2025. Councilor Newton seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Misley updated Council on upcoming meetings stating Planning Commission will meet on January 09, 2024, the Environmental and Urban Tree Committee meet on January 16, 2024, the Affordable Housing on January 16, 2024, City Council Work Session on January 22, 2024, Transportation Advisory Committee meet on January 29, 2024, an Urban Renewal Advisory Committee meeting on January 30, 2024, a Urban Renewal Agency meeting on February 05, 2024, the City Council Regular Meeting on February 05, 2024, and City Council Goals Setting on February 06, 2024.

Misley went on to say that he, along with Councilor Newton, Silverton Police Chief Jim Anglemier, and Police Captain Todd Engstrom, had a follow-up meeting with Sheltering Silverton. The meeting aimed to discuss the partnership between the City, the Police Department, and their service provision supporting members of the Silverton community. Misley expressed that, from certain perspectives, the meeting involved retrospectively examining various situations that had raised questions. However, he emphasized that everyone left the meeting with a positive outlook. Silverton Police Captain Todd Engstrom will be the point person as it relates to a staff liaison between Sheltering Silverton and the Police Department to assist with coordinating and collaborating as effectively as possible. Misley noted that there are many layers of Sheltering Silverton settling into their new location and the City is going to continue to work with them to try and support them as much as possible.

Misley also met with Mayor Freilinger and Republic Services, the City's solid waste service franchisee, to discuss having a representative come to the Environmental Management and Urban Tree Committee and the City Council meeting in February. The purpose is to discuss the rate structure and likely a rate request that will be coming through in the near future.

Misley stated City Staff enjoyed a holiday lunch at the Senior Center, which was a nice event allowing everyone to get to know each other a little more.

Misley has been meeting with Ashleigh Dougill, who is the City's representative at Beery, Elsner & Hammond, LLP, the City's legal firm. They are discussing the potential of her coming down in February to meet with the Council as well as work with the management team on some internal processes.

Misley wanted to thank Code Enforcement Office Sean Farris for his over ten years of service with the City. Sean put in his resignation but maybe coming back in to assist as a part time driver for the Silverton Trolley.

IX. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Gaitan shared insights from a recent trip to Snoqualmie, Washington, highlighting a program that assists the senior living community with various needs, including health and safety, as well as transportation support. He expressed a desire to implement a similar program in their community.

Councilor Gaitan inquired about the communication strategy for updates on the Civic Center project, expressing difficulty in finding information on the City's website. City Manager Misley explained that staff have established an internal meeting regarding the move and operational shifts. He assured council that an update would be presented at upcoming City Council meetings and that monthly updates would continue, particularly as the construction nears completion and the opening approaches.

Councilor Traeger asked about the discrepancy in the numbers between the change order and the budget document for the Civic Center project. Community Development Director Gottgetreu explained that the difference is attributed to the retainage. She is also working on the Civic Center grand opening celebration and would like to know what the budget is.

Councilor Miller was disappointed the ODOT presentation is rescheduled and would like to see about stating a public education campaign regarding road safety and unsafe intersections in town.

Councilor Newton agrees with Councilor Miller that something needs to be done soon to assist with unsafe areas in town and to help with public awareness.

Councilor Sutton wanted to remind everyone that this is an election year and feels that it may be best for those interested in running for Council to consider start by joining a committee. She believes it would have been a good step prior to getting elected to the Council and would have helped with learning the basics of how city government works.

Mayor Freiling shared a message he received from a resident regarding an intersection flag program they observed in a different community. He stated he will share those pictures with staff.

City Manager Misley mentioned that while ODOT may not have all the answers regarding a flag program, he is interested in bringing in another partner from the County. This partner could offer different statistics and potentially provide the council with a pedestrian safety overview. Another strategy discussed was securing funding during goal setting to provide reflective vests to residents interested in participating in the program. Misley emphasized the importance of not rushing to be reactive but ensuring that necessary measures are taken for long-term changes.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Sutton to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Jamie Ward – Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk