



**TALENT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
- HELD AT TOWN HALL
AND VIA ZOOM -
March 20, 2024 – 6:45 PM**

Study Session, Regular Council & TURA meetings are digitally recorded and will be available on the City website: www.cityoftalent.org.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 6:54 PM (00:03:59)

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Mayor Ayers-Flood Councilor Ponomareff Councilor Greider Councilor Byers	Councilor Pastizzo Councilor Paré-Miller Councilor seat 6 - vacant
Also Present:	
Gary Milliman, City Manager Dave Lohman, City Attorney Jennifer Snook, Chief Police Hector Flores, Community Engagement Director Kristen Maze, Community Development Director Tessa DeLine, Finance Director Robert Slayton, Superintendent of Public Works	

Due to council vacancy, 3 of 5 attending councilors constituted a quorum.

2. Additions / Corrections to Agenda (00:05:35)

None requested.

3. Community Announcements (00:6:11)

Councilor Ponomareff announced that the Together for Talent Committee would be hosting their Spring into Recycling on April 13, 2024, to help the community recycle items. The event will start at 10AM and end at 4PM. Councilor Ponomareff informed the council about a program from the Oregon Department of Energy called Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and inquired if the council would be interested in pursuing the funds.

4. Speakers Heard on Non-Agenda Items (00:09:25)

None requested.

5. City Reports (00:10:02)

5.1 City Mangers Report

City Manager Milliman informed the council that three brief reports would be given. The first report highlighted that Mayor Ayers-Flood and Council President Paré-Miller had developed interview questions for interviewing candidates for the vacant council seat at the next scheduled city council meeting. The second report focused on planning Arbor Day, scheduled for April 13, 2024, by the Urban Forestry Committee. City staff met with committee members to discuss planting trees at

Chuck Roberts Park along Rogue River Parkway. The third report detailed that the League of Oregon Cities had sent out a survey to gather data on cities' infrastructure needs to support affordable housing. The collected data was compiled into a report and submitted to the Oregon Legislature. As a result, the City of Talent was allocated \$300,000, which former City Manager Tom Humphrey suggested could be applied to a senior housing development by Age Plus.

5.2 Urban Renewal Activities Report

No further information given.

6. Commission Member Appointments (00:22:08)

6.1. Appointment of Member to Parks & Recreation Commission

Motion (00:22:39): Councilor Byers moved to affirm the Mayor's appointment of Margaret Clark to the City of Talent Parks and Recreation Commission for a full two year term beginning on March 20, 2024. Councilor Ponomareff seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

7. Consent Calendar (00:23:50)

7.1 Acknowledgment of Urban Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes, December 13th, 2023

7.2 Acknowledgment of Urban Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes, December 27th, 2023

7.3 Acknowledgment of Urban Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes, January 10th, 2024

7.4 Acknowledgment of Public Arts Committee Meeting Minutes, February 5th, 2024

Motion (00:24:08): Councilor Byers moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilor Ponomareff seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business (00:24:30)

None.

9. New Business (00:24:35)

9.1 Town Hall Use Agreement with ACCESS

City Manager Milliman reported to the council on a new use agreement with ACCESS for their pantry operations at Town Hall. ACCESS has been using large portions of the building for food storage and distribution since 2021, but their memorandum of understanding (MOU) expired last October. Milliman has worked with ACCESS management to draft a new agreement that addresses the city's concerns and outlines the use of specific areas within the building. The proposed agreement, prepared by the city attorney, is recommended for approval and would be effective until October 31, 2024.

Motion (00:27:14): Councilor Byers moved to approve the ACCESS use agreement of Town Hall to expire as of October 31, 2025. Councilor Ponomareff seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

9.2 Consideration of Recology Rate Increase

City Manager Milliman delivered a staff report regarding the proposed Recology rate increase. Recology of Ashland operates as a franchise in the City of Talent, providing services in trash collection, recycling, and yard debris. The franchise, established by ordinance, allows Recology to adjust their rates. If the rate adjustment is 5% or larger, it requires city council approval. Recology submitted their annual rate request, proposing a 3.8% increase, which does not require council approval. However, it is customarily placed on the council agenda for review and to allow council members to ask questions of Recology representatives, who were present that evening.

Recology General Manager Gary Blake and Waste Zero Manager Eric Ahnmark delivered a presentation to the Council about the services and community engagement of Recology in the City of Talent.

Motion (00:48:39): Councilor Greider moved to acknowledge a 3.8% rate increase for Recology services per the franchise agreement. Councilor Byers seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

9.3 Update on Solar Panel Installations

The city entered into an agreement with Oregon Clean Power Cooperative to develop solar arrays at the community center and police station, targeting completion by December 31, 2023. Due to supply chain issues and changes in the electrical hookup process, the cooperative missed this target and requested a six-month extension. They also asked the city to share the cost of modifying the power transmission method, with options costing \$10,000 for underground and \$5,900 for overhead. Staff recommended approving the extension but advised against funding the project, as the original agreement stated the cooperative would cover all costs.

Oregon Clean Power Cooperative General Manager Dan Orzech attended and answered council questions.

Motion (01:12:20): Councilor Ponomareff moved to grant an extension to July 20 2024, for the completion of the project. Councilor Byers seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion (01:12:55): Councilor Ponomareff moved to allocate up to \$5,215, from the general fund to match the same amount provided by OCPC, to pay for the unanticipated additional cost of installing the solar array at the police station, providing that installation is underground. Councilor Greider seconded motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 3 ayes (Ponomareff, Greider, Byers) 0 nays. Motion carried.

10. Commission / Committee Reports (01:14:57)

Councilor Byers gave an update on a recent Parks and Recreation Committee study session focused on revisioning Chuck Roberts Park. Councilor Ponomareff asked Public Works Superintendent Robert Slayton about sound dampening options along tennis courts.

11. Other Business and Future Agenda Items (01:19:35)

None reported.

12. Written Communications (01:20:09)

Dorothy Hatch regarding notice from Maverick Truckstop.

13. Adjournment 8:02 PM (01:21:18)

Respectfully submitted by:



Hector Flores, City Recorder

Note: These minutes and the entire agenda packet, including staff reports, referenced documents, resolutions and ordinances are posted on the City of Talent website (www.cityoftalent.org) after each meeting. The minutes are not a verbatim record: the narrative has been condensed and paraphrased to reflect the discussions and decisions made.