

**City of Lowell, Oregon
City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2023**

The Lowell City Council held a regular meeting on November 7, 2023. The meeting location was Lowell Rural Fire Protection District Fire Station 1 at 389 N. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR 97452. Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

City Councilors present:

Mayor Don Bennett, Gail Harris, Maureen Weathers, Jimmy Murray, Tim Stratis

City Councilors absent:

None

Staff/others present:

City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

Approval of the agenda: No changes.

Public comments: None.

Council comments: None.

New business:

1. Review proposal from TYJB LLC to construct a parking lot on the city-owned property located at map and tax lot number 19-01-14-24-07100. Discussion/ Possible action.

Presentation by Tim Yager and Jake Briggs of TYJB LLC. The proposal is for their company to construct a parking lot on the 0.28-acre property at the southern end of the City Hall/library campus. The parking lot would serve the public, as well as residents on the N. Hyland Lane lot that TYJB LLC owns.

The City Council indicated an interest in partnering with TJJB LLC on the parking lot construction. The CA Caudle stated that he would work with the developers to specify details for review by City Council at a future meeting.

2. Review draft map of legal camping areas and continued discussion on updating city ordinances to comply with House Bill 3115.

CA Caudle previously had brought this to the attention of the Council 10/3/2023. House Bill 3115 is a bill that relates to the regulation of public property with respect to persons experiencing homelessness and declares an emergency. The city is working to comply with this new law and has requested LCOG's planner's input to enter certain restrictions into their geographical information system (GIS). They then used the GIS to create a map that illustrates where camping would be allowed under those restrictions.

CA Caudle presented a memo that showed the most plausible areas where tent camping could occur based off this map. The City Council discussed the meaning of what “reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions” constitute for a small city, such as Lowell. CA Caudle stated that he would continue discussing the concerns about the difficulty finding a suitable location with the city’s legal counsel. This item will require continued discussion at a future meeting.

3. Discussion on expiration of “Lowell Covered Bridge Maintenance Agreement” and expectations for litter and trash removal, graffiti removal, opening and closing the interpretive center, and cleaning of the facility.

CA Caudle presented an overview of the history of the agreement and the financial constraints to the city of maintaining the structure. The current intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Lane County, which outlines the bridge’s maintenance responsibilities, expired in 2009. Recent developments have necessitated a reevaluation of the bridge’s future, in particular the continued failure of the gate.

The City Council directed staff to keep the covered bridge closed for the winter. City Council also stated that negotiating a new IGA with Lane County is a goal to secure a long-term operations and maintenance plan for the covered bridge. The City Council discussed possible historic preservation grants, as well as contacting other cities where covered bridges are located to learn more about funding opportunities.

4. Review “Lowell Business Survey” prepared by RAIN Catalysts. – Discussion

CA Caudle presented a business survey that RAIN Catalysts prepared. The City Council stated that they would like information on what businesses have used RAIN’s services.

Mayor comments: None.

Councilor comments: None.

Community comments: Bob Burr suggested low-cost ways to maintain the covered bridge.

Adjourned at 8:18 pm.

APPROVED:



Don Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeremy Caudle, City Recorder

