



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Monday, February 14, 2022

Held Electronically

View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (for Charter Communications customers)
or live stream via rvtv.sou.edu select RVTV Prime.

Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input. For written testimony, email public-testimony@ashland.or.us using the subject line: Ashland City Council Public Testimony.

For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at ashland.or.us/speakerrequest and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, February 14 at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

Mayor Akins called the Study Session to order at 5:32 p.m.

Councilors' present were Hyatt, Graham, Moran, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Jensen.

1. Public Input (15 minutes, maximum)
None.
2. Community Survey Schedule and Draft Questions Discussion

Hyatt thanked the SOU team for attending the meeting. She gave a Staff report. DuQuenne thanked City Manager Joe Lessard for working on the questions in the survey. DuQuenne spoke to the importance on focusing on the General Fund. Seffinger spoke that good work has been done so far. Jensen spoke that he is eager to hear from the SOU experts.

Council discussed the survey and how to word the questions.

SOU Members Karen Miller-Loessi, Dan Rubenson and Eva Skuratowicz were present.

Ms. Skuratowicz introduced the SOU Sub-Committee. She spoke briefly about the history of this Sub-Committee.

Mr. Rubenson spoke regarding the importance of "Value" and how to measure value. He also spoke regarding priorities.

Ms. Miller-Loessi explained her background on survey research.

Graham spoke regarding dealing with this situation that we have now and how to deal with shortfalls. She suggested looking into each Department and identify what is the most imperative to keep and what can be cut. Mr. Rubenson spoke that it makes sense to look at the budget. He discussed bundle options.

Moran thanked SOU. He spoke that business plans verses marketing plans. He spoke to the

importance of giving the citizens the facts. He spoke regarding staff to residents ratios.

Council spoke to the importance of making sure the citizens know what goes into the General Fund and quality of service.

Ms. Skuratowicz spoke regarding options presented.

Council discussed the bundles and the importance of Community involvement.

Council discussed service levels and budget.

Mayor Akins questioned what the impact would be if there were cuts. Mr. Rubenson spoke that service implications will need to be looked at. He explained that a set of policy bundles would need to be done.

Council discussed options.

Council discussed the timeline it was estimated to have a final report by the middle of July 2022.

Council discussed that the bundle approach is the way to go.

Council gave consensus for the consultants to move forward with the bundle approach process.

3. Look Ahead

Council gave consensus to move this Item to the Business Meeting tomorrow.

4. Adjournment

The Study Session was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Akins

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).