

CITY OF NORTH BEND
CITY COUNCIL WORKSTUDY NOTES
September 27, 2022
City Hall, 920 SE Cedar Falls Way, North Bend, WA

Mayor Pro Tem Rosen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Brenden Elwood, Alan Gothelf, Mark Joselyn, Heather Koellen, Ross Loudonback, Mary Miller and Jonathan Rosen were present.

Staff Present: Mayor Rob McFarland, City Administrator David Miller, Deputy City Administrator/Public Works Director Mark Rigos, Community & Economic Development Director Rebecca Deming, Police Captain Brian Lynch, Communications Manager Bre Keveren and City Clerk Susie Oppedal.

Guests Present: Jason Morado, ETC Institute

Needle Exchange Ordinance

Councilmember Koellen provided a background on the proposed ordinance related to needle exchange programs in the City. She noted the options moving forward included considering an ordinance that bans needles exchange programs in the City or one that establishes criteria for allowing needle exchange programs in the City. She also commented that the Council could choose to not enact any legislation regarding the issue.

Council and staff discussed the following related to the issue: Public Health & Safety Council Committee meetings which addressed the program, King County Board of Health input, health and safety concerns, liability issues, locations/zoning for program, how program is enforced and associated cost for enforcement, educational materials for users of program, benefit and drawback of mobile program, current medical facilities or emergency service providers that provide similar services and lack of community support for the program.

Community member Jay Taylor commented on his mobile needle exchange program and the concerns raised by the City Council.

After discussion, Council expressed interest in the issue being investigated by the Community & Economic Development Committee or Planning Commission relative to zoning of the potential use.

Legislative Agenda for State Legislature

City Administrator Miller reviewed the City's Washington State Legislative Priorities Agenda which included water (Foster vs. City of Yelm and City/water system assumption statute), housing priorities (affordable housing grants, impact fees, condo liability laws),

housing density mandates (Growth Management Act), infrastructure funding, police pursuits and judicial enforcement of law violators. He noted that several local municipalities also had similar legislative priorities and asked for Council input.

Councilmembers requested the following items be considered for legislative priorities: Eastside Fire & Rescue's priorities which included wildland/wildfire policy, regionalization, Chemical Action Plan Committee (PFAS), behavioral/mental health and funding of issues by property taxes and levies.

Mayor McFarland requested the City Council email City Administrator Miller if they wished to add any additional items for consideration and noted the agenda would be provided to Sound Cities Association, Snoqualmie Valley Government Association, 5th and 12th Legislative District Representatives and Association of Washington Cities.

Community Survey

Community & Economic Development Director Deming requested Council's input on concerns/questions on the proposed Community Survey and noted the goal was to keep the survey to six pages. She introduced Consultant Jason Morado of ETC Institute who discussed the purpose of a community survey and provided a draft of the proposed survey, example surveys from other jurisdictions (satisfaction and priorities) and Council's suggested survey questions.

Council and staff discussed the following: Questions that provide actionable items and answers to current issues, satisfaction vs. comprehensive planning surveys, hybrid surveys (benchmark questions and specific questions), deliverables on consultant contract, statistically valid survey, representative samples, splitting survey into two surveys (long term repeatable "how are we doing" survey and "hot topics of the day" survey), yearly or biennial surveys to establish trends and commitment to funding said surveys, and increased engagement.

Council expressed interest in a hybrid style survey that combined repeatable satisfaction type questions and specific topic questions and was administered on a reoccurring basis. They identified the following areas for specific topic questions: growth, density, height, affordable housing. Council requested reviewing a draft of the survey which incorporated tonight's input at a future workstudy.

Adjournment

The workstudy closed at 8:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jonathan Rosen, Mayor Pro Tem

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk