



# CITY OF SHERIDAN

City Hall • 120 SW Mill Street • Sheridan, OR 97378  
Phone 503-843-2347 • Fax 503-843-3661  
www.cityofsheridanor.com

## City Council Minutes September 05, 2023, at 7:00 PM

Sheridan City Hall Council Chambers  
120 SW Mill Street, Sheridan, Oregon 97378  
Public Attendance in Person & via Zoom

### **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Thomson calls the Council Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Present: Mayor, Marianne Thomson; Vice-President, Roxie Acuff; Councilors: James Buckles; Lucy Hebert; Cale George; Liz Hodgins

Absent: Councilor Dennis McElroy (*excused absence*)

Staff Present: City Manager, Heidi Bell; Deputy City Recorder, Omega Rodela Garcès

### **A. Proclamation of Vietnamese heritage and Freedom Flag**

Mayor Thomson reads through a proclamation recognizing the Vietnamese Heritage & Freedom Flag as a symbol of Vietnamese Americans in the City of Sheridan. The President of the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, Thao Tu, is grateful for the consideration, bond, and kindness. He presents a certificate of appreciation to the City of Sheridan and a Vietnamese flag for the City's efforts to accomplish this recognition.

### **B. Council Discussion/Briefing Items**

#### 1) Mayor's Work Session Comments

Mayor Thomson goes over the new format for City Council Meetings. Workshop Meetings will be on the first Monday of each month. Workshop Meetings are for information purposes only; therefore, no actions will be taken, no public comment period time, no Pledge of Allegiance, or presentations unless it has been approved prior to the meetings and is in conjunction with items in the workshop. Thomson explains that there will be changes to the Regular Meeting, but more on this later. City Manager Bell adds that there will be time for questions after a brief overview of the staff reports in the Regular Meeting, but it will be limited to two minutes for each member. The only exception to this new rule is the City Attorney's oral report. Additionally, reports on different City parks, the cooling shelter, and group activities will be added to the Regular Meetings from now on. Mayor Thomson explains that the purpose of these changes is to boost productivity by shortening the length of the meetings and to have time to process the information before voting on a decision.

## 2) Homelessness

### i. Address issues raised by the public at the August 21, 2023, Council Meeting

Mayor Thomson goes over the timeline from last year to the present day on the City's and other community efforts to understand the Oregon Legislature HB 3115, know the City's pros and cons, the City's inaction due to limitations, and how to address the homelessness situation in the City. Thomson points out that the City of Sheridan is the third largest city in the County, and this means potentially more available resources to give and to get. Currently, through the Public Library, the City offers environmental health classes, career search information, and resumé writing. Not many have taken advantage of these free programs. After listening to all the concerns addressed at the August 21, 2023, Council meeting, and all the combined information, and the possible coalition between the city, West Valley Region, and Yamhill County, Thomson summarizes four possible paths the City can take on homelessness.

- a. Property – there are some regulations that prohibit cities from placing people in the floodways. Two possible locations: 1) the two City-owned houses and the old Community Garden at SW Mill St. 2) The open lot in the intersection between Cherry Hill Rd and Balm St. Pros: in compliance with the Bill, City water is available, and clean-up would be easier. Cons: no car/RV parking is available.
- b. Wait for property buyout – Tribal leaders are opening a program to service individuals who deal with addiction. The property is at the old Sheridan Country Inn. Pros: working with a West Valley member and giving assistance to the program instead of running it. Cons: uncertain of requirements to have access to this program and if this program only services tribal members.
- c. Yamhill County Valley Aid – Sign contract with Encompass Yamhill County Valley (EYV). Pros: have an organization take over and have the City pay a portion through a signed contract. Cons: uncertain as to how much this would cost the City.
- d. No action- No action taken in either direction by the City. Pros: no immediate repercussions or spending. Cons: When the deadline arrives; the City will not be able to enforce lawful action against individuals to leave, or keep them from gathering in public areas, or maintain safe/healthy/clean space without any alternatives.

### ii. Crime, Garbage, and Littering at the Hebert Memorial Plaza, Chester Moore Park, and the Morgan Street Park

City Manager Bell reports that the Public Works Department has been tackling this issue by picking up each day; however, the demand for pick-up is rather high and they are unable to keep up with the cleaning throughout the day. Bell strategized the upkeep of

the area in three stages. Short stage: construct a fence and add signs with the approval of the County. This gives the area a visual barrier and it would help Public Works with the upkeep. Medium stage: put cameras in the area for surveillance and give police access. Additionally, install free Wi-Fi in the area. Long stage: construct a sea wall to give support to the standing structures. Ernie Hebert has been working with an engineer and County on this. Furthermore, Bell reminds the Council that there is no camping allowed on this site.

iii. Review of the Presentation slides by Encompass Yamhill Valley

City Manager Bell says she has two grants for social services she needs to review. She suggests creating a taskforce to put together a cohesive plan, and for using Encompass Yamhill County Valley as a potential partner, if not as a guide. This could include or exclude John Garza with Healthy Sustainable City (HSC). The Council directs the City Manager to come back with a quote and any other understanding if they are to work with a taskforce, HSC, and/or EYV. This also means an estimated number of homeless individuals the City would service and if services can be restricted to West Valley residents only.

iv. Other thoughts and comments by the Council regarding homelessness

Council Members discuss the four options and the possibility of combining them for quality of service, and to create a sustainable plan that should not lead the program and City into retrenchment. They unanimously agree that they need more data on the homeless population so that they know how much to spend and create a continual plan for years to come. The Council is still in agreement on providing a utility bus with either shower, washing machine, or both that could be used by the public if an emergency were to occur. City Manager Bell provides information on the FCI's assurance to work with the City to provide construction labor to build shelters if needed.

3) Draft Resolution 2023-HH, A Resolution Adopting the 2023 Council Rules of Procedure, Revised

- Pp 35: Chapter I; Item V Agendas (B) add Mayor approval (Manager Bell suggest to table this until the City Attorney can approve the language. It could become a circular dilemma with later points in this chapter (E) and Chapter VI D (2) Furthermore, the duties for Councilors, Mayor, and City Manager have just been approved and this could potentially conflict procedural process).
- Pp 36: No. 6; In Order of Business – Presentations (add “followed by Council action, vote if or when required”). This is to prevent people from waiting too long before they get their turn.
- Pp 36: No. 7-11 need to be defined in the same order as they appear.
- Pp 39: J Department Reports; Update -- change the wording in the last paragraph to “...between the Council, City staff, and the public regarding ongoing...” (2) change from 10 minutes to five minutes.
- Pp 40: Mayor and Council Comments; keep three minutes for each Council member.
- Pp 37: E (1) “at the discretion of the Mayor.” If there is no one in the audience, then the second public comment period can be skipped. (2) Unless the Mayor or majority of

Council members vote for more time. (3) Discussion continues whether public commenters can speak on only agenda items and if they can be limited to only City-related topics. The City Manager suggests clearing this with the City Attorney because this might be impeding people's free speech. (4) get rid of this.

- Pp 41: (8) and Pp 47: (2) font size needs to change so that it can match the same as the rest of the document.
- Pp 44: V (D) "...as productive as possible, with Mayor's approval."
- Pp 38: Cut down presentation time to allow more than two presentations but be considerate if those presentations would be better suited for work sessions or special sessions rather than a regular meeting. Define the difference between a presentation and guest speaker.

**C. Executive Session:**

The City of Sheridan City Council will meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h): Communications within a public body or between public bodies of an advisory nature to the extent that they cover other than purely factual materials and are preliminary to any final agency determination of policy or action. This exemption shall not apply unless the public body shows that in the particular instance the public interest in encouraging frank communication between officials and employees of public bodies clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**The City Council enters Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.**

**The Executive Session ends at 10:42 p.m. and the Open Session reconvenes.**

**D. Adjournment**

- ✓ Councilor Buckles makes a motion to adjourn. Councilor Acuff seconds the motion; motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourns at 10:42 p.m.

  
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Marianne Thomson, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Omega Rodela Garces, Deputy City Recorder