

**CITY OF WILSONVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

A special meeting of the Wilsonville City Council was held at the Wilsonville City Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following City Council members were present:

- Mayor Fitzgerald
- Council President Akervall
- Councilor Lehan
- Councilor West – via telephone
- Councilor Linville

Staff present included:

- Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager
- Barbara Jacobson, City Attorney – via telephone
- Kimberly Veliz, City Recorder
- Beth Wolf, Senior Systems Analyst
- Jeanna Troha, Assistant City Manager

Motion to approve the order of the agenda.

Motion: Councilor Akervall moved to approve the order of the agenda with the addition of a City Manager Report to be added to the end of an agenda. Councilor Lehan seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

SUMMARY OF VOTES

Mayor Fitzgerald	Yes
Council President Akervall	Yes
Councilor Lehan	Yes
Councilor West	Yes
Councilor Linville	Yes

MAYOR’S BUSINESS

A. Request from Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck

Mayor Fitzgerald informed Council received a request from Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck to sign on to a letter (*Clackamas County Leaders Stand United in Condemnation of County Commissioner Mark Shull and His Social Media Posts*) dated January 12, 2021 asking for Clackamas County Commissioner Mark Shull’s resignation.

Motion: Councilor Lehan moved to approve the signing of the letter from the Mayor on behalf of the full City Council and would also like any Councilors to be able to sign on their own in addition if anyone is so inclined. Councilor Akervall seconded the motion.

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Councilor West summarized the motion before Council is whether to have Mayor Fitzgerald sign onto a letter on behalf of the Council or for other Councilors to sign the letter on their own requesting the immediate resignation of Clackamas County Commissioner Mark Shull because of his disturbing dangerous and reckless comments.

Mr. West noted that a few days ago Democratic Congressman Kurt Schrader likened impeaching President Trump to a lynching, which is racist and historically dangerous language. Mr. West stated elected officials have to do better and learn from these instances. He further, encouraged Council that if they take action against political speech, the Council must apply the standards discussed evenly and equally. Mr. West shared as non-partisan elected officials, Council must consider if the letter is partisan. Mr. West described it is his hope that Council now or in the near future would appropriately affirm that all political rhetoric of this nature regardless of party or ideological beliefs by elected officials and community leaders is inappropriate and unacceptable. Mr. West clarified he fully condemns in the strongest terms possible Commissioner Shull's and Congressman Schrader's inflammatory hurtful and ugly comments. As comments like these are incongruous and empathetical to the values in Clackamas County and the City of Wilsonville.

Mr. West stated he believes the process for which to judge a politician's political speech is by the way of elections. Therefore, if Commissioner Shull does not resign the voters who do not like his comments can start a recall process in six month or vote him out of the office at the end of his term.

Mr. West explained he is uncomfortable voting to participate in an unevenly applied standard that promotes cancel culture. Nor is he convinced that this has not become a highly partisan action.

Councilor Lehan acknowledged she too was disturbed by Congressman Schrader's comments. In response to those comments, she left a very strong message on his recorder. She explained the difference between the incidents is no one asked the City to sign on to a letter asking for Congressman Schrader's resignation. However, Council has been asked to participate in the signing of the letter asking for Commissioner Shull's resignation. Ms. Lehan shared she would be happy to sign a letter regarding Congressman Schrader and had thought about writing a letter on her own accord. She feels this is not a partisan thing as someone has stepped forward in a non-partisan way. Moreover, Republicans Tootie Smith and Senator Christine Drazan are both on this letter.

Ms. Lehan described the letter has moved with a lot of impetus, partly because of the amount of writing over the years by Commissioner Shull. Ms. Lehan said she thinks Congressman Schrader was beyond the pale as well but she is only aware of the one comment. Therefore, she thinks the issues are a little different, not to say that she would not sign a letter asking him to resign as well. However, she feels it should not stop Council from responding on the request to sign the letter for Commissioner Shull's resignation when so many people from all sides of the political spectrum have already signed. Ms. Lehan feels Council would be conspicuous by their absence if they chose not to join.

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Councilor Linville explained she takes serious Resolution No. 2626, which was passed by City Council on May 1, 2017. Ms. Linville strongly agree with Resolution No. 2626 as it calls for “*all Wilsonville residents to unite and work together to promote kindness and understanding in our shared community, rejecting hatred, bigotry, and divisiveness, as this community strives to protect the freedoms held dear and granted to all by the United States Constitution.*” Ms. Linville thinks this is an opportunity for Council to demonstrate the commitment to that resolution and appropriate for Council to respond to this request. Therefore, she intends to vote in favor of this motion to give all Councilors the opportunity to respond in the way that they feel most comfortable.

Councilor Akervall agreed with the comments made by Councilor Linville.

City Manager Cosgrove interjected the discussion to disclose that the live YouTube stream of the meeting had stopped. Council was asked to pause their videos and mute themselves while staff worked on a solution to provide viewers the ability to watch the meeting.

Once, the live streaming issue was rectified the meeting resumed. The audience was informed the meeting was recorded and could be viewed by those whom had missed pieces of the meeting due to the technical difficulties.

For the audiences benefit the Mayor recapped the meeting thus far. Then the Councilors summarized their previous comments.

Councilor West restated his comments. Furthermore, Mr. West added if possible he would like to amend the motion.

Amended Motion: Councilor West moved to amend the motion to also take equal action regarding the lynching comments from Congressman Kurt Schrader.

Mayor Fitzgerald recalled that procedurally at this time Council is restating their initial points of discussion.

Councilor Lehan was asked to restate her initial points. Before stating her initial points Ms. Lehan suggested Councilor West, create a separate motion rather than an amendment to the motion. Since, the set of circumstances were separate issues.

Councilor West withdrew his amended motion.

Councilor Linville then recapped her comments.

Councilor Akervall then provided her comments. Ms. Akervall shared she agreed with the comments provided by Councilor Linville. She further stated she reviewed all of the materials included in the packet and reviewed Resolution No. 2626.

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Ms. Akervall quoted Resolution No. 2626, *“the City recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of all persons and believes all should be treated with compassion and respect regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration or refugee status, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, mental, emotional, and/or physical ability, age, or economic status”*

Ms. Akervall shared she believes in those values today the same as when she voted for Resolution No. 2626. Furthermore, she understands that Council still has work to do to carry those values forward.

Ms. Akervall additionally quoted from Resolution No. 2626, *“discrimination against any group of persons can negatively impact the health, well-being, and general welfare of the City”*

Ms. Akervall described that she cares very much about the City and believes Wilsonville deserves the ideals described in Resolution No. 2626. Moreover, she believes that all people contribute to the incredible community and Wilsonville would not be this special place without everyone's contributions.

Ms. Akervall emphasized her belief that hateful speech against segments of our society has no place in building strong and healthy communities, Therefore, she supports the Mayor and fellow Councilors signing on to a joint letter.

Mayor Fitzgerald feels the points brought up by fellow Councilors reinforce the importance of being inclusive, welcoming, and fair, Furthermore, it reinforces the importance of finding ways for all the people in the community, and county, everyplace the City operates to make sure that fellow citizens have the opportunity for a very good quality of life, prosperity, and being treated in a distinguished and dignified way.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0-1.

SUMMARY OF VOTES

Mayor Fitzgerald	Yes
Council President Akervall	Yes
Councilor Lehan	Yes
Councilor West	Abstain
Councilor Linville	Yes

Councilor West explained he abstained because of the large ideological divide from the very large group that has called for a resounding resignation. Mr. West described there is a very small fraction of other leaders that may hold some of the same ideological views as Commissioner Shull that have also called for his resignation. Mr. West further explained he abstains because Council did not write a letter of condemnation when there were credible allegations against Representative Diego Hernandez regarding the abuse of women that came forth. Council said nothing and did not call for his resignation. In addition, Council had not yet called for a letter of condemnation or something similar to address the most hateful and heinous comments made by Representative Congressman Schrader. Moreover, Mr. West believes the best way to hold political speech accountable is through the vote and the recall process. Furthermore, Mr. West wants to make sure

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Council is consistent. In addition, he is not convinced this action is not somewhat of a partisan issue at this time. He described on the ideological basis he strongly in all terms condemns what Commissioner Shull said.

Councilors whom choose to sign the letter (*Clackamas County Leaders Stand United in Condemnation of County Commissioner Mark Shull and His Social Media Posts*) were requested to contact Mark Ottenad, Public/Government Affairs Director with their support.

Councilor West requested to make a motion.

Motion: Councilor West moved that Council write a strong letter condemning the language from Representative/Congressman Kurt Schrader out of the 5th district for his lynching comments in regards to the impeachment of Donald Trump and that Council have that letter by the next meeting on Thursday, to make sure Council is being evenhanded and equal in how Council is addressing these very serious issues.

Due to the lack of a second the motion died.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

CITIZEN INPUT & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is an opportunity for visitors to address the City Council on items not on the agenda. It is also the time to address items that are on the agenda but not scheduled for a public hearing. Staff and the City Council will make every effort to respond to questions raised during citizens input before tonight's meeting ends or as quickly as possible thereafter. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

There was no public input.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS

A. None.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. None.

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PUBLIC HEARING

A. None.

CITY MANAGER'S BUSINESS

City Manager Cosgrove asked Council for allowance for staff to move forward with the creation of a DEI committee. He shared those in discussions of a task force want the City to move forward with bringing forth bylaws and a charter for a standing DEI committee. If Council approves staff would start with the application and questionnaire previously discussed. Instead of spending several months on the process going through a task force staff would begin work on the actual committee itself.

Mayor Fitzgerald recalled a number of citizens have participated in those early discussions for quite a while. In addition, she mentioned she is aware of citizens whom are interested in serving on such a committee. She further stated if this process is a way to efficiently move forward and reflects the learnings in this development phase she is in favor.

City Manager Cosgrove clarified for Council that from the DEI discussion staff has learned participants are looking for more of a commitment from the City. Mr. Cosgrove reported he informally told the group that there is support for the DEI work by the City Council and that the idea was the task force would ultimately make a recommendation to have the Council adopt a resolution with the bylaws and a charter for a DEI standing committee. He explained his ask of Council is to forego the task force process because there is already a desire to have that standing committee. Staff would instead, begin recruitment for the DEI committee itself. Staff would bring an application with questions for Council discussion at a February Work Session and then in March staff would return with a charter and bylaws for a standing committee. This process is similar, to what was done for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Commission, Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement Committee and Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board. Council would be committing to establish a diversity equity and inclusion committee for the City instead of waiting for the task force to make that recommendation. Mr. Cosgrove explained there is a sense that people want this committee to happen sooner rather than later. Moreover, staff had not heard anything from City Council, which suggests opposition of a standing committee.

Councilor Akervall feels this work is very important and wants to keep it progressing. She is also very much appreciative of the community members that have engaged in these discussions. Ms. Akervall believes the strength of such a DEI committee would be determined by how the City sets up structure, responsibilities, and other framework that would contribute to the success. Furthermore, she desires the process to be thoughtful and recognizes that it may take a few discussions to create.

City Manager Cosgrove shared staff would continue to work with this informal group while also utilizing resources from International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and League of Oregon Cities (LOC) to create the DEI committee.

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City Manager Cosgrove restated staff’s request is to cut the two to three month process of a task force and instead move forward with the creation of a DEI committee.

Motion: Councilor West moved that the City of Wilsonville begin the thoughtful process of creating a diversity, equity, and inclusion committee or task force and that Council begin to start the formal process to make this milestone happen in the City of Wilsonville.

Reformatted Motion: Councilor West moved that the Council direct the City Manager to move forward with the creation of a standing committee or task force for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Councilor Lehan seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

SUMMARY OF VOTES

Mayor Fitzgerald	Yes
Council President Akervall	Yes
Councilor Lehan	Yes
Councilor West	Yes
Councilor Linville	Yes

LEGAL BUSINESS

No Report.

ADJOURN

Mayor Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

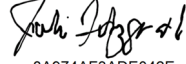
Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Kimberly Veliz, City Recorder

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor