

REDMOND CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION SUMMARY

December 10, 2019

Mayor

John Marchione

Members of the Council

Angela Birney, President

David Carson, Vice-President

Jeralee Anderson

Steve Fields

Hank Margeson

Hank Myers

Tanika Padhye

Staff

Maxine Whattam, Chief Operating Officer

Amanda Balzer, Utility Supervisor,

Lisa Maher, Communications and Marketing
Manager

Dave Juarez, Public Works Director

Cathryn Laird, Human Resources Director

Malisa Files, Finance Director

Cheryl Xanthos, MMC, City Clerk

Convened: 7:44 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:44 p.m.

Council President Birney opened the meeting and overviewed the agenda.

Community Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Maxine Whattam, Chief Operating Officer, provided a report to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the Community Strategic Plan:

- priorities identified by the Council;
- adopted on October 15, 2019;
- an update on progress made in each of the priorities was provided;
- Council retreat will be held on January 25, 2019;
- continually improving the plan; and
- next steps.

Ms. Lisa Maher, Communications and Marketing Manager, and Mr. Ian Stewart from EMC Research, provided a report to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the annual Citizen Survey:

- hybrid phone/internet survey of voters in the City;
- direction and quality of life ratings have continued to decline mostly due to perceived overdevelopment and traffic issues;
- positive job rating;
- delivering services efficiently have rebounded some;
- comparisons with other eastside jurisdictions, Seattle, and King County was provided;
- trends in Redmond;
- City of Redmond's current priorities;
- connection to the Redmond community;
- information sources;
- job ratings;

- services importance rating; and
- performance rating.

General discussion ensued throughout regarding status of the progress; demographic; capturing non-registered voters; onboarding new residents; reasons for the questions asked; multiple languages; survey timing; use of the information; discussion will be held at the Council retreat; informing budgeting process; and events shaping perceptions.

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

Ms. Amanda Balzer, Utility Supervisor, and Mr. Dave Juarez, Public Works Director, provided a report to the Mayor and Members of the Council regarding the Environmental Sustainability Study:

- establish an environmental sustainability action plan and roadmap;
- study focus areas;
- stakeholder involvement process;
- survey response by neighborhood;
- survey demographics;
- top priority areas; and
- next steps.

General discussion ensued throughout regarding aggressive goals; cost; guidance by a consultant; investing money; outcomes; private efforts to reduce climate change; and budgeting efforts.

Council Talk Time

Councilmember Margeson stated that the Growth Management Policy Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council voted on adopting a recommended position on Vision 2050 and overviewed the work that went into making that decision.

Council Myers stated that funding has come through for the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, there will be no diminished response, and discussed habitat restoration work.

Councilmember Margeson stated that it will be his last Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee meeting tomorrow night and overviewed the agenda.

Recess 9:17, Reconvened 9:27 – at this time Councilmembers Margeson and Myers, and Mayor Marchione, left the Council Chambers. The remaining Councilmembers were joined by the Councilmembers-Elect.

Transition of Mayor and Council

Mayor-Elect Birney, Ms. Whattam, Ms. Cathryn Laird, Human Resources Director, Ms. Malisa Files, Finance Director, and Ms. Cheryl Xanthos, City Clerk, spoke regarding the process for the Mayor and Council transition efforts:

- in depth training is being provided for the new Councilmembers;
- onboarding handbook provided for all Councilmembers;

- Association of Washington Cities Open Government Training;
- collaborative effort in developing the materials and will be available on the City's website;
- Human Resources onboarding process was overviewed;
- new Councilmember workshops include an overview of current projects, legal aspects of being a Councilmember, and the City budget; and
- ongoing training and support.

Council Talk Time

Councilmember Carson stated that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee met to discuss grant proposals and will need Council action in January.

Councilmember Birney stated that the swearing-in ceremony for the newly-elected officials will be held next Tuesday; overviewed the agenda for the next regular business meeting; and discussed the upcoming special meeting with the legislators.