

Councilors Daniels and Brauner, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the PacifiCorp easement for Sunset Park secondary service installation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Tomlinson recessed the Council at 1:45 pm and reconvened the Council at 7:02 pm in the Downtown Fire Station, 400 NW Harrison Boulevard, Corvallis, Oregon.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tomlinson, Councilors O'Brien, Hervey, Raymond, Brauner, Brown, Hirsch, Beilstein, Daniels

ABSENT: Councilor Hamby (excused)

VI. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS – None.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – continued

D. Energy Strategy Ad Hoc Committee (ESAHC) recommendations

Councilor Brown reported that he and Mayor Tomlinson presented a proposal to Council in July 2009 in support of a project to address part of Council's sustainability goal and prepare for new energy-related federal grants. Council approved the proposal and Mayor Tomlinson convened the ESAHC on September 1. The ESAHC has developed a community energy strategy, a compilation of existing community energy sustainability policies, and a gap assessment of the difference between current policy and where the City could be in terms of achieving community energy goals. The ESAHC was assisted by Julia Michaels, an intern in the Mayor's Office and a current OSU graduate student.

Ms. Michaels identified the members of the ESAHC:

Councilor Brown	Bill Byers, CH2M Hill
Councilor Daniels	David Dickson, CSC Energy Action Team
Councilor Brauner	Jim Phelps, CSC Energy Action Team

Ms. Michaels reviewed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the energy strategy and gap assessment (Attachment B).

Ms. Michaels said the ESAHC recommends the following:

1. Approve the Community Energy Strategy 2020 Framework subsequent to a staff analysis for time line and budget implications. Adopt the strategies as an official City document to be included in the Corvallis Comprehensive Plan as a supporting document.
2. Adopt the compilation of existing community energy sustainability policies as a reference guide and attachment to the Council Policy Manual.

Ms. Michaels recognized individuals and organizations who helped with ESAHC efforts.

Mayor Tomlinson acknowledged ESAHC member Dickson in the audience. He noted that Ms. Michaels has been invaluable in this process.

Councilor Brown suggested Council first consider the second recommendation.

In response to Councilor Beilstein's inquiry, Mr. Nelson said implementing the second recommendation would not overburden staff. The attachment in the Council Policy Manual would be limited in terms of the framework of a future community sustainability policy with a reference to existing policies.

Councilor Raymond asked for strategy time line clarification. She noted that the goal was to have a strategy by 2010-2011 and this recommendation stretches out to 2020.

Councilor Brauner said the clarification can be better answered when Council discusses the first recommendation. Council first needs to decide about adding the compilation of existing policies as a reference guide and attachment to the Council Policy Manual.

Councilor Brown said the compilation is a historic document of existing policies related to sustainability that have been approved by Council. The compilation can be used as a reference guide by this Council and future Councils when dealing with other sustainability policies, and it is designed to easily add other policies as they are approved.

Councilors Brown and Hirsch, respectively, moved and seconded to adopt the compilation of existing community energy sustainability policies as a reference guide or attachment to the Corvallis City Council Policy Manual.

In response to Councilor Raymond's inquiry, Councilor Brauner said any amendment to any document in the reference guide would amend the reference guide.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Brown said the strategy is based on, and does not encompass anything more than, the existing policies approved as a reference guide in the previous motion. The strategy identifies ways to initiate and/or accomplish initiatives during this calendar year. The second document is a gap assessment included as an appendix to the strategy. The gap assessment encompasses more than existing policies and includes work from the CSC Action Plan and other ideas from ESAHC, ICLEI, and other jurisdictions. Those action items would require a new policy and most likely a thorough public process to ensure items are consistent with community values. The strategy identifies ways to become a more sustainable community.

Mayor Tomlinson noted that Council received an e-mail and suggested amended motion from Councilor Hervey (Attachment C).

Councilor O'Brien said the draft energy strategy is an outstanding document and he supports its inclusion in the Corvallis Comprehensive Plan (CCP). He has concerns about items included in the gap assessment.

Councilor Daniels suggested discussing the strategy separate from the gap assessment. Councilor Hervey agreed as long they are not approved separately.

Councilor Brauner said the ESAHC viewed the strategy as “next steps” with the gap assessment as an attachment of possible actions, but not part of the strategy. Approval of the strategy does not approve any item in the gap assessment.

Councilor O’Brien noted that the strategy has met the test of discussion and public process; however, the gap assessment has not met the same criteria.

Councilor Daniels explained that the end of each CCP chapter includes a section of reference documents. The reference documents are background materials Council reviewed and discussed prior to adopting the findings. She noted that there are many items in the Energy Chapter that are outdated and would not be considered due to changing regulations. The reference sections do not include policies and many items referenced in these sections never become policy. The gap assessment is an appendix, not policy, and is only information to carry forward as a reference document. The strategy and gap assessment would be inserted at the end of the Energy Chapter.

Councilor O’Brien said there are specific recommendations in the gap assessment that are unsupportable and he will not support a motion that adopts the strategy with the appendix as presented. Certain elements of the gap assessment may damage local economy, negatively impact City operational capacity, infringe on personal liberty and/property rights, have negative effects on affordable housing, are aggressive in nature, are irrational, have bias, or are simply unrealistic. He reiterated that he cannot support the inclusion of the gap assessment in the CCP even as a reference document. As an example, Councilor O’Brien quoted one item from the gap assessment that he believes is an unsupportable directive in a City document: “Direct police to respond to harassment of bicyclists and to direct the police not to harass bicyclists.”

Councilor O’Brien added that he has identified 25 statements in the gap assessment as unsupportable. He does not believe discussing each statement separately would be valuable. Councilor O’Brien mentioned additional non-supportive directives: surcharges based on power usage, artificial constriction of the fossil fuel supply through quotas to raise costs, peak demand energy pricing, and mileage taxes. He said these items unfairly burden low-income individuals in the community.

Councilor Brown said the recommended motion does not imply Council would adopt any specific policy in the gap assessment, and certainly none that are questionable.

Councilors Brown and Hervey, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the Community Energy Strategy: A 2020 Framework, subsequent to a staff analysis of the “Next Steps” sections for time line and budget implications, and to take action to adopt the strategy as an official City document to be included in the Corvallis Comprehensive Plan as a “supporting document” accompanied by an implementation plan and time line.

Councilor Beilstein said he is willing to discuss and vote on each item Councilor O’Brien has identified as unsupportable in the gap assessment.

Councilor Brauner said discussing each item defeats the purpose of including the gap assessment as an attachment. He agreed that some items are unrealistic and he would not support all of them. Discussing and voting on each item raises the document to a higher level than what the ESAHC intended, and none have gone through public process. He would support separating the gap assessment and only using it as a reference document. Council must make it clear that the strategy is being adopted.

Councilors O'Brien and Daniels, respectively, moved and seconded to amend the motion to remove Appendix C from the strategy and locate the document in the City's Sustainability Office to be used as a public reference and for decision making by Council.

Councilor Hervey requested clarification on how the gap assessment will be used if the amendment is approved. His primary concern is for the gap assessment to be easily used and referenced for future staff and Councils. He opined that the gap assessment is very important to the overall process in terms of Council reaching stated goals. He is hesitant to take any action that may lessen the impact as originally proposed.

Councilor Brown said it was the consensus of the committee that including the assessment and strategy in the CCP would provide exposure and longevity. The committee did not review a list of other alternatives.

Councilor Daniels stated agreement with Councilor Brown's comments and believes it is important that the gap assessment have as much visibility and longevity as possible while Council decides whether to work through the items. She would support keeping the gap assessment in the CCP as a reference document on its own and not linked to the strategy.

Councilor Raymond said she also recognizes items in the gap assessment that are counter-intuitive to the concept of the energy strategy. For example, promoting the use of compressed natural gas is not a good alternative energy source, and she is not sure she can support using a system of tax credits to encourage the use of compressed natural gas. Councilor Raymond said she understands Councilor O'Brien's concerns and also recognizes there are many good items in the gap assessment.

Councilor O'Brien said it has been very clear throughout the process that the charge of the ESAHC was limited to the compilation and research of existing Council policy. The gap assessment does not meet that charge.

Councilor Brown said the gap assessment was envisioned in the beginning as an opportunity to look beyond existing policy. The ESAHC did not intend to present something to the Council for adoption without public process. The gap assessment was an opportunity to look beyond existing policy with the provision that Council would not be asked to adopt the policies without a public process. The gap assessment is a raw and unedited list that provides a series of opportunities for Council to identify items they may want to work on with the necessary public process.

Councilor O'Brien said an unrefined, unsorted, and un-prioritized list lends itself to difficulty and acceptance as was discussed by Council when presented with the CSC Action

Plan of 300 items with no prioritization and vetting. He said he cannot support the inclusion of the gap assessment in the CCP.

Councilor Brown agreed that the list suffers from the same concerns that were expressed by Council related to the CSC Action Plan. Council is not being asked to adopt the gap assessment or any action items within that document.

Councilor Hervey said the strategy has been very clear that the gap assessment is included as a tool for this Council and future Councils to use as a resource document and not as adopted policy. The document is a way to make sure ideas are not forgotten. The items in the gap assessment will not be approved or adopted without public process.

Based on the following roll call vote, the amended motion failed two to six:

Ayes: O'Brien, Raymond

Nays: Hervey, Brauner, Brown, Hirsch, Beilstein, Daniels

Councilor Brauner said he agreed with Councilor O'Brien; however, the committee members felt strongly that other possibilities should be brought forward for future discussion, beyond existing approved policies. The gap assessment is a list of other possibilities and the motion is clear that only the strategy is being adopted as the official document. Keeping the gap assessment as an attachment to the strategy ensures that the other possibilities will be discussed in the future.

Councilor Brauner said a statement could be added to the motion that better states the intention of including the gap assessment as a reference, and not part of the official adopted document. The statement would clarify the motion and keep the assessment visible. He added that the statement is not necessary, but may assist in approving the strategy.

Councilor Daniels requested clarification and a specific amended motion.

Councilor Brauner withdrew his suggestion to amend the motion. The gap assessment states that Council is not adopting the items and the main motion is clear that Council is only adopting the strategy.

In response to Councilor Hervey's inquiry, Mr. Nelson clarified that if the motion passes, staff will return to Council with an analysis of the next steps including time line and budget implication. The Budget Commission and Council would be required to take action on those items that need financial investments before any work can begin. Hopefully, some of the next steps are already included in work programs so the work can simply proceed. Also, staff will bring forward information from the Community Development Department about the process to include the energy strategy in the CCP. Moving items from the gap assessment into an action item would come back to Council for deliberations. It does not matter if the assessment is an appendix of the energy strategy or if it is a stand-alone document in the sustainability office.

In response to Councilor Raymond's inquiries, Mr. Nelson confirmed that staff will review the energy strategy's next steps and develop a matrix that includes budget and time line information. The adoption of the strategy does not include information about the budget or

time line. The sustainability work group, including the new Sustainability Coordinator will work on the energy strategy next steps analysis.

Councilor O'Brien reiterated that he supports the energy strategy, and he understands that an affirmative vote to the main motion does not mean that Councilors are endorsing every action listed in the gap assessment. He will not support the main motion because of the unsupportable items in the gap assessment, and he cannot envision those items being included in the CCP.

In response to Councilor Daniels' inquiry, Mr. Nelson confirmed that the City has recruited and scheduled interviews for a Sustainability Coordinator. The Coordinator will join the sustainability work group to focus on organizational and community sustainability. In addition to the Coordinator, the work group consists of a Sustainability Supervisor and Franchise Specialist. Public Works Director Rogers and Administrative Division Manager Steckel will be involved in the program. An action item could involve one or all five team members.

Councilors Hervey and Brauner, respectively, moved and seconded to amend Appendix C to include the introductory statement and changes to Section I, Urgency Gap, as noted in Attachment C of the minutes. Councilor Brown accepted the friendly amendment.

Councilor Brauner said the amended language makes it even more clear that the attachment is not part of the approved strategy.

In response to Councilor Hervey's inquiry about Appendix C missing from the Table of Contents, staff confirmed it was an administrative error. Appendix C will be included in the Table of Contents of the approved document.

In response to Councilor Raymond's inquiry about when the gap assessment items will be considered, Councilor Brown said the Council goal was to develop a strategy. This Council and future Councils can add waste, recycling, food, or any other item at any time.

In response to Councilor Raymond's inquiry about internal and community-based sustainability, Mr. Nelson said the next steps analysis with time line and budget information will make the combined issues more clear.

Councilor Hirsch stated appreciation for Councilor O'Brien's comments and the care he takes in decision making. Council now has the opportunity to make a difference for the future.

The motion passed seven to one with Councilor O'Brien opposing.

Councilor Hervey read a statement of appreciation (Attachment D).

Councilor Daniels said the strategy includes three components; however, the fourth non-identified component is the measurement of each item. She requested staff observations and/or suggestions for how to determine if progress is being made, who would make that determination (staff or committee), and how other jurisdictions have accomplished this.

Mayor Tomlinson said a number of people visited the Oregon Department of Energy to discuss House Bills 2626 (recycling electronics) and 3039 (renewable energy). Staff will bring implementation ideas for Council consideration for energy efficiency pilot programs included in that legislation. He commended Council's action, the efforts of the ESAHC, and the assistance of Ms. Michaels.

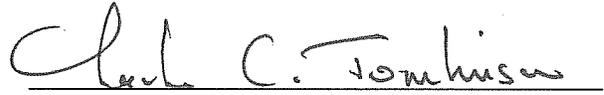
Councilor Raymond expressed appreciation for the efforts of the ESAHC and for the work staff will be completing.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

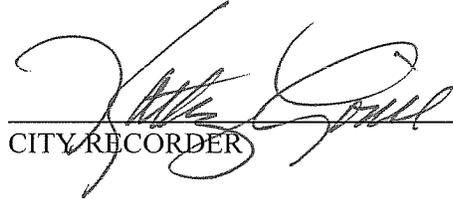
XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

APPROVED:


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY RECORDER