

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
Work Session – June 22, 2021  
5:15 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the work session to order at 5:16 p.m.

City Commissioners Present: Mayor Henry Balensifer, Tom Dyer, Rick Newton, Gerald Poe, and Mark Baldwin

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Fire Chief Brian Alsbury, Finance Director April Clark, Public Works Operations Manager Kyle Sharpsteen, Deputy City Recorder Rebecca Sprengeler, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

Police Chief Mathew Workman reviewed the current RV (recreational vehicle) issues in the City. He reviewed a power point presentation outlining some of the specifics. He noted concerns about illegal utility and electrical hookups and zoning issues. Fire Chief Brian Alsbury briefly discussed accessibility issues with modified RV's and campers as permanent residences. Discussion followed. Chief Workman noted there are currently 256 RVs placed on public or private property in Warrenton. He did not count RV's that were being stored inside structures. 161 of the RV's were being stored, 52 were being lived in, and 43 were unknown. Chief Workman noted the four chapters in the Warrenton Municipal Code (WMC) that mention or regulate RV's: 3.04, 10.16, 12.28, and 16. He discussed what the current code outlines as to what citizens "can and can't do." He noted House Bill (HB) 3115 & HB 3124. There were concerns about HB 3115 not being clearly defined. There will have to be some changes to the WMC due to HB 3124.

Chief Workman posed several questions to be answered by the Commission:

- Are you okay with the current restrictions use on a public street or right-of-way?  
Chief Workman noted issues with towing and disposing of RV's.
- Are you alright with not having any restrictions on the storage of RV's on private property, particularly in residential zones?  
Chief Workman noted frequent complaints about RV placement.
- Are you okay with the current recreation permit as it is written?
- Do we create an ordinance regulating the use of an RV as a permanent dwelling?  
Chief Workman stated his opinion is no unless it is in a park.
- How do we deal with the RV's that are currently being used as temporary or permanent dwellings outside of the established RV parks and campgrounds?  
Chief Workman noted several factors for consideration.

He stated the City needs some regulation on “where.” He noted visibility concerns about RV’s being in front of houses. He noted safety concerns with excess use of extension cords. He does not have an issue with approved permanent residences in RV parks. He restated his desire to have more definition around RV use. He is okay with the 48-hour permits except for the month of Buoy 10. He would like regulation on where RV’s are allowed on residential property. He asked the Commission to reach out and see how the constituents feel.

Mayor Balensifer noted meeting time restrictions and asked the Commissioners to briefly share their thoughts. Commissioner Poe noted he agrees this needs to be more defined. He agrees the permit length should be extended and noted he does not agree with long-term residence in RVs that are not paying for the utilities they use. Commissioner Baldwin noted the state forest camping restrictions and concerns about abuse of current permits. He does not feel the permits should be extended for Buoy 10 and noted concerns about allowing campers to be placed in yards during Buoy 10. Commissioner Newton suggest charging for permits or requiring permit renewal and noted lack of housing. Commissioner Dyer suggested a limit on the number of days per year before charging a fee or prohibiting the use. He noted issues with towing. Commissioner Newton would like the state to have a free dump day for motor homes or a recycling program. Mayor Balensifer agrees there needs to be a permit cost and TRT’s (Transient Room Tax) need to be assessed but he has questions about available manpower and enforcement. He would like to look into a Code Enforcement Officer within the Police Department as a part-time position to address priorities and nuisances. Mayor Balensifer requested this discussion be carried over to a discussion item at the next meeting. Commissioner Baldwin suggested tow stickers.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the work session at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Rebecca Sprengeler, Deputy City Recorder.

APPROVED:

  
Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Dawne Shaw, CMC, City Recorder