

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
WORK SESSION – January 10, 2017  
5:00 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, Or 97146

Mayor Kujala called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Mark Kujala, Tom Dyer, Henry Balensifer, Pam Ackley and Rick Newton

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Fire Chief Tim Demers, Finance Director April Clark, Deputy City Recorder Dawne Shaw, Library Site Manager Nettie Lee Calog,

Library Board Members Present: Chair Kelsey Balensifer, Rochelle Coulombe and Baret Murphy-Becker

Mayor Kujala noted the purpose of the work session is to discuss funding for the library. City Manager Linda Engbretson stated it is time to renew the levy, and noted Finance Director April Clark put together numbers of where we are and possible funding scenarios. Ms. Engbretson stated to the press that these are strictly preliminary numbers and assumptions. Ms. Clark reviewed estimates. The discussion continued on the need to request more money on the next levy and the amount of the lease for the new location. It was noted the school district is in the process of notifying the tenant they will not renew their lease, which is through June. There was brief discussion on the possibility of buying the building in the future and Commissioner Balensifer noted it is premature to talk about ownership and suggested leasing the building for a year or two and see how it works out.

City Manager Linda Engbretson stated the city currently has a serial levy, and suggested going out on the May ballot for a new levy. Commissioner Balensifer asked if the library board is ready or willing to go out and advertise and campaign for the levy. Library board member Rochelle Coulombe stated it is awkward and difficult to go out and “cheerlead” and gain support for a levy without something “to put your arms around”, noting it would be better to have more information. Ms. Coulombe stated the board is enthusiastic but more information would be beneficial. Brief discussion continued and Ms. Engbretson stated if it is going on the May ballot, we need to move fairly quickly; we need to have it ready and the ballot title adopted by the first meeting in February, and in to the County by March 8<sup>th</sup>. The discussion continued on whether to place it on the May or November ballot, or both. Commissioner Balensifer noted his desire to make sure there is a clearly thought out and good strategy to move forward on this; he stated the need to have a very clearly communicated strategy to explain the need to ask for more money. “It

is very clear we need more". Mayor Kujala noted the timeline and current lease is until June 30<sup>th</sup> so theoretically we cannot move in until July. Discussion continued on the current tenant and the need to wait and see what she does in regards to moving out. It was noted the revenues from the new levy will not start coming in until November 2018. Commissioner Newton noted the recent public support for the continuation and expansion of the library and Mayor Kujala stated there has not been much resistance to library levies in the past. Mayor Kujala asked the Commission their thoughts on whether to go out in May or November and after brief discussion the consensus is it would be better to have more time to get information out and to gather community support, so November would be better. Finance Director April Clark noted there is a risk that if it does not pass in November, we will have no library as of July 1, 2018. Ms. Clark continued her review of the budget document and the percentages needed to continue current library operations and the increases needed to expand services and operations. Discussion continued on the levy percentage and Commissioner Newton suggested 25 cents. Mayor Kujala noted there is a goal setting meeting next week, so it's a good time to focus on the library.

Library Board Chair Kelsey Balensifer stated the library is an integral part of community and has limped along for a longtime. She noted it will be nice to have a better location, with expanded services and hours, and feels the community would be supportive. Commissioner Balensifer stated he would like to see a building (inspection) report to see what needs to be done. The discussion continued on the condition of the building and the school district's plans going forward. There was also brief discussion on the Vision Plan and the Heritage Museum sharing the space.

There being no further business Mayor Kujala adjourned the work session 5:46 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Dawne Shaw, Deputy City Recorder