



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL
Monday, September 25, 2023
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Laura Reid, Councilor
Kyle Juran, Councilor
Soraida Cross, Councilor
Robert Husseman, Councilor
Daniel Kohler, Councilor

Staff:

Adam Brown, City Manager
Tim Wood, Assistant City Manager
Shannon Johnson, City Attorney
Shane Witham, Planning Director
Andrew Copeland, Police Lieutenant
Melissa Bisset, City Recorder
Ben Crosby, Code Compliance Officer
Darsy Olafson, Community Response Unit Sergeant

Absent:

Shaney Starr, Council President
Grayton Woodard, Youth Councilor

Guest Speakers:

Dan Clem, Union Gospel Mission
Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Elaine Lozier, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
Eric Rasor, Soaring Heights Recovery Homes
Victoria Meredith, Soaring Heights Recovery Homes

**DISCUSSION -
Housing &
Homelessness**

Elaine Lozier, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (MWVHA), presented the mission, purpose, goals, history, structure, responsibilities and current work of MWVHA. Ms. Lozier reviewed the progress of MWVHA in relation to the Governor's Emergency Declaration. Discussion ensued regarding permanent housing and the various levels of support needed based on each individual's needs. It was noted that each circumstance was unique and distinct.

Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, explained the various services which included ARCHES Inn, the number of sheltering beds, family shelters, veterans' shelter, and run-away

and youth shelters. They had recently begun operating the Salem Navigation Center. Mr. Jones noted there was still a lot of work to do, but there had been improvements.

Ben Crosby, Keizer Code Compliance Officer, shared how he engages with the homeless population and works to get them in touch with services.

Darsy Olafson, Keizer Sergeant, explained how the Keizer Police Department's Community Resource Unit works with the homeless population, noting that all applicable laws are enforced and that they work to connect individuals to services where they are able to. Sergeant Olafson shared success stories on how the Community Resource Unit has helped the homeless population in Keizer.

Dan Clem, Union Gospel Mission, thanked the Police Department for keeping their residents safe and feeling safe. Mr. Clem shared how they are a person-first agency, and he summarized the work of Union Gospel Mission. He shared the commonality of the homeless alliance. The biggest need they had was for families. They designed their facility for stabilization of the homeless. They found space for JD Health and Wellness Center in the men's division. With the help of the Church @ the Park and Keizer Rotary, they are able to take in women who are still in trauma. By combining medical and mental health along with having case workers, they have been able to collaboratively diagnose and treat all issues and help them with recovery and find life again. The Union Gospel Mission implemented a good neighbor policy. This policy resulted in a clean frontage of their campus. There was discussion regarding helping everyone in need and not giving up on anyone.

Eric Rasor, Executive Director of Soaring Heights Recovery Homes, shared how they provide transitional housing and a support system for those recovering from substance abuse. He shared how they work closely with community partners. They have homes for men and homes for women, and they have a plan to expand and add more beds.

Victoria Meredith, Advisory to the Board, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and Certified Recovery Mentor, shared that they are faith-focused and community-driven. They work with them individually, conduct a needs assessment, and work on finding the root of the trauma and providing structure.

The Council expressed gratitude and appreciation to the service providers. Mayor Clark summarized by saying that everyone on the panel was providing the answers. The money that was going into finding these answers was practical, approachable, and necessary to take care of people in our community and with the alliance.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

MAYOR:

APPROVED:

Cathy Clark

Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor #1 – Laura Reid

Councilor #4 – Soraida Cross

Councilor #2 – Shaney Starr

Councilor #5 – Robert Husseman

Councilor #3 – Kyle Juran

Councilor #6 – Daniel R. Kohler

Minutes approved: _____

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