

City of Springfield
Work Session Meeting

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF
THE SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007

The City of Springfield Council met in a work session in the Umpqua Room, McKenzie-Willamette Hospital, 1460 G Street, Springfield, Oregon, on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 5:43 p.m., with Council President Lundberg presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Council President Lundberg and Councilors Wylie, Ballew, Ralston, Woodrow and Pishioneri. Also present were City Manager Gino Grimaldi, Interim Assistant City Manager Mike Harman, City Attorney Joe Leahy, City Recorder Amy Sowa and members of the staff.

Mayor Leiken was absent (excused).

1. Meeting with McKenzie-Willamette Hospital.

Dinner was served to the participating members of the meeting.

Councilors introduced themselves and thanked McKenzie Willamette Hospital for their hospitality.

Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Maurine Cate, introduced herself and Director of Marketing and Programming, Rosie Pryor.

Mr. Grimaldi said this meeting was long overdue and was a way to communicate between the City and the hospital. McKenzie Willamette had been and would continue to be an important part of our community, even after they moved from Springfield.

Ms. Cate said she was delighted to have the Council here. She felt it was important that McKenzie-Willamette had a relationship with the City and were meeting the needs of the community where they resided. She said the hospital was meeting with the Eugene Planning Commission tomorrow night, but her effort was to focus on the here and now. They would continue to be a part of Springfield for at least the next three and a half years and she wanted to make it all it could be now.

Ms. Cate said they had recently started doing open heart surgery at the hospital and had performed twelve surgeries, which had all been very successful. They were also doing some complicated interventional cardiology procedures in their Cath Lab. The hospital had a new relationship with the Oregon Medical Group (OMG) and those physicians were now bringing more of their patients to McKenzie Willamette, so the hospital would be busy and vibrant. She said the hospital wanted to know what they needed to do to be good neighbors. She discussed some things planned for the remainder of 2007, including spending about \$6M on the beautification of the facility. Triad had put nearly \$20M into the facility over the last year and a half, including a new MRI, CAT Scan, and other expensive equipment. She said the surgical floor had been upgraded and the Cardiac unit was new. All the patient care areas would be remodeled in the coming year.

Ms. Cate said the hospital had two partners, Cascade and Triad. Their Triad partner was acquired by Community Health Systems (CHS) and the transaction was expected to close the first of July. She said there was limited information about what would happen with the change, but the mission of CHS was similar to Triad's and she expected that there would be minimal change in the eyes of the community and employees. The mission of the hospital was driven by the employees and management. She said McKenzie Willamette had a great workforce, with a lot of staff that had been with the hospital for many years. It was a wonderful hospital and she was happy to be here.

Councilor Ralston asked why they were putting money into the current location when they were planning to move. He asked if they would be able to recoup their investment and what the current facility would become once they relocated.

Ms. Cate said the question of what the building would become once McKenzie Willamette moved out was not yet decided. When Triad became a partner, the hospital was struggling and the cost of doing business was significant with new technology and other costs. The hospital needed a viable partner. Much of the costs incurred over the last couple of years had been catch-up to upgrade equipment. Triad knew what was needed to upgrade the hospital when they became a partner. The hospital needed to continue to upgrade now to serve patients now.

Councilor Woodrow asked if Triad would retain controlling interest in the hospital.

Ms. Cate said CHS would take Triad's place, but would still remain a partner with Cascade, the non-profit group. OMG also took a share of the hospital in recent months.

Councilor Ballew asked if OMG would only be at McKenzie-Willamette or if they would be at both hospitals.

Ms. Cate said both hospitals believed in choice for patients. Choice and multi-competition in health care improved quality and made healthcare more affordable. There was a commitment on the basis of their relationship for OMG to send most of their business to McKenzie-Willamette, but it would not be exclusive.

Councilor Pishioneri asked if some of the new equipment could be transferred to the new hospital.

Ms. Cate said the majority of the equipment was moveable and would be transferred to the new facility.

Councilor Pishioneri noted that PeaceHealth was going to be the regional cardiac center for the region and asked how that would affect the smaller cardiac unit at McKenzie-Willamette.

Ms. Cate said there would be competition. She said they could compete because a lot of the medical staff in the community supported the concept of both hospitals being viable hospitals. The referrals were generated from each of the cardiologists, who supported both programs.

Councilor Wylie said she was concerned about the clients and patients that depended on this hospital that were in the low-income and poverty level. With McKenzie-Willamette Hospital moving to north Eugene, she questioned who would take care of those people.

Ms. Cate said she hoped the patients would follow the hospital. The current facility could not continue to support the ever changing technology. More hospital services were coming to care for the baby boomers as they got older. There was a need for both hospitals and for this hospital to grow. Building on site was very difficult. She said they hoped that not only their current patients would follow them, but they would gain new patients. She noted the high-touch reputation McKenzie-Willamette had and the importance of preserving that reputation.

Ms. Pryor said a federally qualified health care facility, RiverStone Health Center, across the street from the hospital was a welcome addition to address some of those needs. She discussed urgent care treatment and treatment through an Emergency Room. It was an issue for all of Lane County to determine how best to care for those patients that couldn't afford to pay, not only in Springfield, but throughout the County. She noted that Ms. Cate had set a new standard in collaboration with PeaceHealth and a freshened relationship with PeaceHealth's Executive Director Mel Pyne and other staff. There would be more opportunities for the two hospitals to work together to address issues.

Councilor Ballew asked if they anticipated McKenzie-Willamette would eventually pick a specialty for their facility.

Ms. Cate said it was something she was looking at and she may find there were areas they did excel. Ms. Cate asked what the hospital could do to be a better corporate citizen and community member.

Councilor Ballew said it would be great to have hospital employees as volunteers for the City in their different City boards, commissions and committees (bcc's).

Councilor Pishioneri said there were probably some bcc's with vacancies now. The City can let McKenzie-Willamette know when current positions were open.

Mr. Grimaldi said as a property owner, he would like the hospital to be involved in discussions about neighboring development, such as the old Waremart building.

Councilor Wylie asked if they had a Plan B if the location in north Eugene didn't work out.

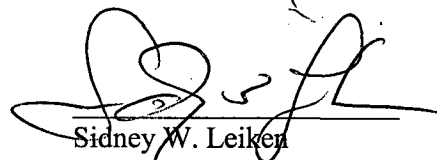
Ms. Cate said they did not have a solid Plan B, but she believed that the right thing would work out.

It was decided that rather than take the tour at this time, Council would break into their Regular Meeting and Executive Session and take the tour later in the evening.

ADJOURNMENT

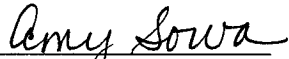
The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Minutes Recorder – Amy Sowa



Sidney W. Leiken
Mayor

Attest:



Amy Sowa
Amy Sowa
City Recorder