

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-61

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCIL
WITH THE PURPOSE OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL
ON POTENTIAL SHELTER OPTIONS**

WHEREAS, the City Council has held several work sessions and presentations on homelessness to become fully informed and help ascertain the City's role and responsibility in addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has taken several initiatives to help address homelessness in Forest Grove including creation of the Community Impact Grant to fund homelessness outreach and participation on the Washington County Homeless Plan Advisory Committee and Anti-Poverty Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the City Council came to consensus on November 8, 2021, to form a subcommittee of City Council to further address shelter options in the area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. To establish an ad-hoc subcommittee of City Council with the purpose of making recommendations to City Council with the goal of reducing the impacts of homelessness on the community and to better serve persons experiencing homelessness.

Section 2. To have the subcommittee tour, or otherwise familiarize themselves with, local homeless camps and nearby homeless shelters and collaborate with City staff, the County, non-profits, and community members on the City's potential role and responsibility for sheltering options and make recommendations to City Council on what those roles and responsibilities could be.

Section 3. Per the City Charter, Section 8 (c), the Mayor, with the consent of Council, will appoint no less than 2 and no more than 3 Councilors to the subcommittee.
(Council Appointed Councilor Rippe, Council Kottkey and Mayor Truax)

Section 4. This resolution is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

PRESENTED AND PASSED this 22nd day of November, 2021.



Anna D. Ruggles, City Recorder

APPROVED by the Mayor this 22nd day of November, 2021.



Peter B. Truax, Mayor

CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:

AGENDA ITEM #: F. 5.

MEETING DATE: 11/22/2021

FINAL ACTION: RESO 2021-61

MEMORANDUM

TO: *City Council*

FROM: *Emily Matasar, City Attorney's Office
Henry Reimann, Chief of Police
Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager*

MEETING DATE: *November 22, 2021*

SUBJECT TITLE: *Resolution forming an Ad-hoc Subcommittee of Council to make recommendations regarding homeless shelters options*

BACKGROUND:

Over the past 9 months, in response to *Council Goal 2: Support housing stability and mitigation of homelessness* and *Objective 2.2: Partner with other agencies and non-profits to address homelessness needs and access to wraparound services in Forest Grove. Monitor legislation and advocate to meet the needs of the homelessness population*, the Council has held several work sessions and presentations to become fully informed on issues and programs pertaining to homelessness at the federal, state, and local level. The Council has also been briefed on current court cases and programs pertaining to homelessness enforcement.

A brief summation of these efforts include work sessions on February 8, July 19, and November 8; and presentations on March 15, March 24, May 10, and June 10. Some of the findings include:

- Creation of a City of Forest Grove Community Impact Grant and award of the \$40k/year for 3 years grant to the Forest Grove Foundation for homelessness outreach services. The Foundation has expanded staff and facilities since receiving the grant.
- Passage of a Metro bond in 2020 that will bring up to \$70 million/year to Washington County for homelessness services for 10 years. This program is being created and administered by Washington County.
- Centro Cultural received Project Turnkey and ARP grant funds to purchase and remodel the Forest Grove Inn as a 21 room homelessness transitional shelter.
- *Martin v. Boise* and *Blake v. Grants Pass*, as well as the passage of HB 3115, stipulate enforcement is conditioned upon alternative emergency shelters being available.
- The Forest Grove City Code, which prohibits camping in parks and not obstructing streets or public ways, is likely constitutional and therefore no code update is required unless Council wishes to do so.

- The City may not prohibit camping in all areas of the city, however, it may pass time, place and manner regulations that restrict and manage camping in the city.
- Frequent participation and updates from staff and Councilors on the County's Homeless Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) and the local Anti-Poverty Task Force.

Noting recent legislative and judicial decisions, homelessness has become an increasingly complex issue to address. Questions such as how to enforce, comply with current legislation and court cases, humanely address the issue, and work with our County and non-profits partners continue to emerge with no easy or apparent policy resolution.

CURRENT STATUS:

At the November 8 Work Session, the Council came to a consensus to form a subcommittee of the Council to address the issue. While the scope was not fully defined, and there was recognition the County is the lead on this issue, there appeared to be a consensus the City should explore shelter options in collaboration with the County and area non-profits and recommend to the Council how the City may be able to assist, with the goal of reducing the impacts of homelessness on the community and to better serve persons experiencing homelessness. Noting this, the activities of the subcommittee could include:

- Tour, or otherwise familiarize themselves with, local homeless camps and nearby homeless shelters in Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Hillsboro to determine the nature, extent, and availability of services and shelters.
- Meet with County and non-profit officials to fully understand current outreach activities, availability of temporary and transitional shelters in the area and current supportive housing services and encampments programs.
- Make recommendations to City Council regarding potential sheltering options and what the City's associated role and responsibility could be.

Staff envisions this effort will be comprised of 3-4 meetings including a tour, meetings with City and County staff, non-profits, and community members, and comprising recommendations. The estimated time is likely between 6-12 hours.

If approved, the ad-hoc (for a specific purpose) subcommittee would be subject to public meeting requirements. Additionally, the subcommittee, if it choose, could receive public comment on their recommendations prior to making them to City Council.

The subcommittee is proposed to be no less than two and no more than three members. Per the City Charter, Section 8 (c), the Mayor, with the consent of Council, appoints the members of the subcommittee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has drafted a resolution for Council consideration that includes a purpose and scope.

Changes to the resolution may be made by a motion to amend.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution establishing an ad-hoc subcommittee of City Council with the purpose of making recommendations to City Council on potential shelter options