

North Powder City Council Special Meeting
January 25, 2022
6PM Old Fire Station

Attendance: Mayor John Frieboes, Councilors Logan McCrae, Mike Morse, Vicki Townsend, Joyce Lawyer and Jeff Grende, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Librarian Maggie Guthrie, Library Board Members Carol Bouchard, Sherry Hart, Barbara Weeks, Jeff Nielsen

Mayor Frieboes called the meeting to order.

Logan noted that the City Hall area was marked off. He explained the basic layout which includes a City Hall office, lobby, mayor's office, and storage area. The big doors come out and will be framed in. It will be sheet rocked and painted. The floor will be leveled and carpeted and/or tiled, and there will be a big window between City Hall office and lobby. We need to discuss different options for the Library and Council Chambers. Currently we hold Council meetings at the Grange. That area is about 600 square feet. There are times when that is not nearly big enough. We want to make sure the library has sufficient room but at the same time be sure we have a meeting room big enough to accommodate anyone who would like to attend a Council meeting. Carol Bouchard thought there were only a few times when the room was overcrowded and one of those times was to discuss the purchase of a building. She was concerned that a meeting room or Community Hall would take events away from the Grange. She agreed that the Council should have a meeting area but she hoped it wouldn't be opened up to rent out. Logan noted that a lot of functions have chosen North Powder for their events due to the new Fire Station. He felt it was a good thing that as more space opens up, it draws more people to North Powder. Jeff didn't think a city meeting room would draw that kind of attention because it won't have a kitchen. John agreed that the intent was to have a place to hold meetings for the City, not have parties and events. He asked if we should start looking at layouts. Joyce wondered if we should ask the library for an opinion. Logan noted that Maggie had done a drawing for the other half of the building. The problem is that it only leaves an area about the same size as the Grange for a City Council chamber. He and Jeff marked off an area that was in one of the first proposed ideas that put the Council chamber on the opposite end of the building from City Hall. Joyce interjected that was not set in the plans. Logan thought it made sense to have the City Hall located in the RFD part of the building. The plans for City Hall have been approved and we have a building permit and are ready to start building. Vicki felt it was important to decide where the Council Chamber goes and whatever is left can go to the library. Maggie commented that she tried to incorporate what people are looking for in a Library when she drew up her plan. Logan noted that the Council Chamber will be an open room with tables and chairs and the library could use the area if they needed it. The area could be closed off from the library when we have Council meetings. Joyce didn't like the idea of kids having to walk around the building to get to the grass. Vicki didn't understand why that was so important. We need to consider what works best for everybody involved. Logan thought there were currently two options; one to give the library the whole City side of the building, and the other was to put the Library between City Hall and the Council Chamber and give them the area behind City Hall. Beth clarified that the idea was to use the existing bathrooms. John agreed it would save a lot of money. Joyce thought if we were applying for grants, we didn't need to worry about saving money. John pointed out there is no guarantee that we will get grants to do everything. Most grants won't give to a City for a building. Logan commented that the current Library has about 940 square feet and the proposed "L" shape would be about 1650 square feet. Vicki felt it was important to remember that once the City Hall is moved and the old building is gone, there would be room to put a modular in its place. Joyce added that when we bought the building it was for a Library and City Hall. Now we are talking about another room that would take away from the

library. John clarified that we are only talking about the Library and council chamber, not a Community Center. Logan commented that the council chamber would be about 1000 square feet. It could be available to the library for activities when it's not in use. Maggie said she needs more room for bookshelves and computers and adult space. She didn't see where they would need to utilize the chamber a lot. Logan reiterated that the "L" shaped space would be about 1650 square feet and the whole side is about 2000. Maggie noted that would be a little less than twice what the library currently has. Joyce wondered how often we expect to use a meeting room. She thought the space would sit empty a lot. John interjected that the library could use it. Logan guessed it would be used a couple times per month. Joyce hated the idea of the library being so spread out instead of one big room. Jeff felt the different shape was better for some seclusion because it keeps activities separated. Carol added that Maggie is only one person to watch the whole thing. Logan felt 1000 square feet for a council chamber made sense. It would give room to accommodate for tables and chairs for the council with a 4' walkway as well as a gallery for the public. If there is another design that would provide for an adequate chamber in the fire station, he was open to suggestions. Joyce suggested opening the division wall behind City Hall. Logan pointed out that is a support wall. He was only proposing to open it up where there was originally a 6' door. Jeff asked if the Library was proposing to budget for bathrooms to be added on. Maggie was confident they could get funding. Joyce thought we would have to add wheelchair access which would take extra room. Logan thought the plan would accommodate for that. Joyce was also concerned about lighting. The old windows don't allow for a lot of light. John noted that it would be the same as the other side of the building. He suggested everybody wonder about the building and look at the proposed design. Carol asked how Beth felt about having the Council chamber separate from City Hall. Beth understood her concern but didn't have a better idea. If we had a big enough meeting area, we could host things like the League of Oregon Cities meeting. The grange doesn't have access to technology to do that. Barbara wanted to open the library up so it wouldn't look like a cave. She thought it would be odd to have it split up. Logan commented that a lot of libraries have segregated areas. Jeff interjected that we put together a wish list of projects to apply for funding from the County. Carol asked if the City had an architect draw up plans for the City Hall. Logan noted that there is no structural work being done on City Hall. He reiterated that there isn't enough room behind City Hall for a council chamber. John noted that we could move the wall for the chamber over about 3' to miss the window and it would still be workable. It would add about 120 square feet to the library. Logan thought that would still make a long narrow chamber. John added that there will be new lights and new paint which will brighten things up. Jeff noted that with the chamber on the backside, there would be no emergency exit. John agreed. That part would be open into the library and the only way to add an exit would be to the ditch on the back side. Joyce suggested having meetings at the library. Beth didn't think that would work because we need a big open space, and we would have to work around shelves and computer desks. Joyce said Maggie is talking about having a museum area. Beth added that would only mean more things to work around. She pointed out that the marked off area we were meeting in was about the same size as the rest of the RFD side of the building. Barbara asked if the construction was only going to start on City Hall. She wondered if we would work together as a team or as two separate entities. John clarified that the building belongs to the City and we need to work together. Joyce commented that the library has a storage area next to City Hall. Logan pointed out that the current 940 square feet doesn't include storage. The library would have a storage area and they could use the 10' x30' loft area above the office. We would probably have to add a staircase to access it. He agreed that the building is not going to be perfect for anybody's needs. Maggie remarked that since 2016 she has added about 2000 new books, 2000 videos, and 75 audio books to the library inventory. On a typical day, the library gets about 10 people. There has been as many as 35 in a single day and when she has activities, there are generally 15 to 18 kids. Logan thought with more space there would be more people. Maggie agreed. Especially if there is room to accommodate adults. She

admitted that she could make anything work. The “L” shape was not ideal, and she would prefer the whole side of the building. Jeff asked how much bigger City Hall will be than it is now. Logan calculated that it would be approximately 800 square feet which is quite a bit larger but still less than double the current size. Jeff added that the front entry will provide some added security. Joyce suggested another community survey. John felt a survey would be heavy handed in favor of the library because there are a lot of people who really don’t care in the matter. He felt the Council should think about this and decide soon so we can focus on getting started. A decision should be based on what is best for all. The library is a part of the City, but we need a workable size meeting room. He felt it could work well to open the Council Chamber to Library use. It could even be set up for adult use. Maggie was concerned about how meeting times might interfere with Library hours. Logan thought the City’s computer equipment should be stored in locked cabinets. Maggie added that she is trying to get certified to be a testing site. Barbara wanted to be able to offer computer classes. John asked how many adult computers Maggie wanted to have. Maggie wanted at least 2. John thought she could get some rolling cart type desks that could be moved around as needed. Jeff wondered about an accordion wall that could be opened or closed as needed. Logan thought that was a good idea. Maggie wondered about the floor. Logan said it will be leveled. However, the City side of the building doesn’t slope as much as the rural side. Beth suggested everybody take a few days to think about options and Maggie could see if she could work out a floor plan. Then maybe the Council could make a decision at the next Council meeting. Barbara wondered about a wi-fi set-up. Maggie said she already has a secured line and a line for public use. Logan added that North Powder will have fiber optic lines. Beth corrected that they are already in place. Maggie wondered if the options would affect what the City is already planning to do with City Hall. Logan said no. Maggie didn’t like so much wall with less windows. Logan noted that she could do anything but thought the windows should match City Hall. John thought once the big windows are in the front, it would make a lot of difference throughout the whole building. Barbara wondered why we would only fix the roof on one side of the building. John clarified that if anything is done, it would be to the whole building. Logan reiterated that the building inspector said it should have at least 5 years on the roof.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder