

Council Study Session

March 16, 2020

Agenda Item	Climate Policy Commission Presentation	
From	Kelly Madding	City Administrator
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Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

During the Study Session on February 3, 2020, the City Council received a presentation from members of the Climate Policy Commission (CPC). During that meeting there were questions left unanswered and both Commission members and staff are seeking direction from the City Council on a variety of questions.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Value Services – Higher Priority
b. Address Climate Change

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following that study session, Chair Tonya Graham and Vice Chair Rick Barth met with Mayor Stromberg and Kelly Madding to discuss the nature of the Commission and how it may be different in terms of scope, content, and activity than other city commissions. Seeing that there are significant differences between how this Commission may need to operate in order to fulfill its charge, the Climate Policy Commission requested this second study session to discuss these operational differences and get Council direction for moving forward.

In particular, we have four topics to cover during the study session:

- How do CPC projects move forward to fruition?
Recommendation:
 1. CPC brings project proposal to City Council – if Council supports the proposal, staff has approval to spend staff time on the project.
 2. Staff and CPC work on project. If staff and the CPC agree on all aspects of the project, the project proposal moves forward to the City Council with one voice. However, if staff and the CPC don't agree, staff will prepare a Council Communication articulating the similarities and the differences in the approach to the project.
- What is the process by which the Climate Policy Commission will engage with other city commissions on issues and projects that have a nexus with the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)?
Recommendation

CPC monitors work of other commissions and when there is a nexus with CEAP goals, makes appropriate requests, such as:

 - Formal comments from CPC be considered
 - CPC have a formal seat on ad-hoc committees

- Should the CPC communicate with stakeholder groups? If so, before or after Council approval or formal direction of the project? With staff? Without staff? How are stakeholder groups identified? Who contacts/schedules them? How is the stakeholder feedback recorded?
- The CPC would like the City Council to provide direction on what proposed projects the CPC should begin to work on with the expectation of bringing refined proposals forward to the Council at a future date.
- Additional specific feedback regarding the Climate Emergency Declaration and the list of recommendations embedded within it?

FISCAL IMPACTS

Should the CPC put forward projects for Council direction, please note that City staff has not conducted any financial analysis of those items. Some of the items have relatively little initial financial impacts upon acceptance as they are primarily process related to ensure greater climate integration into current and future planning, policy, and projects that come before Council for deliberation and decision. However, decisions and actions taken in support of these recommendations could have much more significant financial impacts.

If there is affirmative Council direction, staff will evaluate each of the items, work with the CPC on any clarifications of their intent and develop financial impact summary along with appropriate overall recommendations on the items.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

N/A

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

If the City Council needs more time and information, schedule a future Study Session.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Climate Emergency Declaration

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, the harm to people and nature already wrought by current average global warming of 1°C demonstrates that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as evidenced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological emergencies and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises;

WHEREAS, in July 2019, Oregon Representative Earl Blumenauer and congressional colleagues introduced a resolution to declare a national climate emergency in the United States, calling for a “national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations;”

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization, an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove excess carbon from the atmosphere until pre-industrial greenhouse gas levels are restored; and to implement measures to protect people and nature from the consequences of abrupt climate destabilization;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

- a) A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
- b) Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
- c) A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
- d) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
- e) Widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

WHEREAS, fairness requires that disadvantaged communities, which often experience the impacts of climate change “first and worst” participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit from the transition to a climate-safe economy;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency;

WHEREAS, the City of Ashland can act as a global leader through rapid implementation of its Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) and by advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the City of Ashland declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff to collaborate with the Climate Policy Commission to develop a comprehensive energy plan, including electric and gas utility plans, that charts a course for Ashland to meet its near and long-term climate mitigation and adaptation goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council commits to opening conversations with Bonneville Power Administration and advocating for adjustments to the current contract in order to allow the community of Ashland to pursue renewable energy production without financial penalty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff to collaborate with the Climate Policy Commission to incorporate the goals of the CEAP into all city plan updates, including but not limited to Master Plans, Comprehensive Plans and Updates, and Capital Improvement Program plans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff to prioritize climate action in future budget processes until the climate crisis is addressed to the point where human and ecological communities are no longer in danger due to an unsafe climate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council requires all Council, Commission, and Ad Hoc Committee work and decisions incorporate CEAP goals as appropriate and that those bodies are educated about the climate crisis by staff and/or the Climate Policy Commission or the Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff to immediately implement efficiency recommendations from the City facilities water and energy audits throughout City facilities and vehicle fleet;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs the City Administrator to work with the relevant departments to include greenhouse gas impact statements in all relevant Council motions, much as it currently includes fiscal impact statements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff in collaboration with the Climate Policy and Conservation and Climate Outreach Commissions to develop a website to track progress against CEAP goals, and demonstrate actions individual citizens, businesses, and organizations can take to help the Ashland community meet its climate mitigation and adaptation goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council directs staff to build on existing internal climate education efforts to ensure that all City staff receive annual training on the climate crisis and the City of Ashland's climate goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council requires that management level hiring decisions prioritize climate knowledge and demonstrated leadership in helping communities meet climate goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ashland City Council recognizes that additional policy and program recommendations will be coming forward with urgency from the Climate Policy Commission and commits to prioritizing consideration of those recommendations in the normal course of Council business;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ashland joins a national-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing effective action at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Ashland supports House Congressional Resolution 52 and Senate Congressional Resolution 22, "Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes," as well as any legislation that would initiate a national emergency-speed mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, as described in the text of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ashland calls on the State of Oregon, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, the City of Ashland shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Representative Greg Walden, State Senator Jeff Golden, State Representative Pam Marsh, and County Commissioners Ricky Dyer, Colleen Roberts, and Bob Strosser, and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.