

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION DRAFT MINUTES**

December 5, 2022

**HELD HYBRID - Council and some City Staff will be live in the Council Chambers, 1175  
E. Main Street. Citizens and presenters can join via zoom**

**View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (for Charter Communications customers)**

**or live stream via [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu) select RVTV Prime.**

**Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input. For written testimony, email [public-testimony@ashland.or.us](mailto:public-testimony@ashland.or.us) using the subject line: Ashland City Council Public Testimony.**

**For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at [ashland.or.us/speakerrequest](http://ashland.or.us/speakerrequest) and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be at 10 a.m. on the day of the Study Session meeting and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.**

Mayor Julie Akins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, and Jensen were present. Councilor Moran and Seffinger were absent.

**1. Public Input - None**

**2. Memorandum of Understanding Emergency Operations Center**

Southern Oregon University President Rick Bailey and Ashland School District Superintendent Samuel Bogdanov were present.

City Manager Joe Lessard gave a Staff report. He spoke that there will be three special council meetings to discuss city financial circumstances.

It was discussed to have City Management and the Fire Department to look at this item jointly.

Council and Staff discussed the next steps and timelines.

Council discussed Budget.

Lessard asked for concurrence to move forward. Council gave consensus to proceed.

**3. Ashland Police Consolidation Study**

Police Chief Tighe O'Meara provided a presentation (*see attached*).

Items discussed were:

- Overview of Two Departments/Communities – Talent & Ashland
- Budgets for both Departments
- Events Leading up to Partnership
- Current Ashland Agreement with the City of Talent
- Study Suggested Options for Talent going Forward

- Options Moving Ahead

Council discussed options.

Council thanked Staff on their work.

#### **4. Planning Commission Annual Report**

Interim Community Development Director Brandon Goldman and Planning Commission Chair Haywood Norton gave a Staff report.

Items discussed were:

- North Mountain Neighborhood
- Appeal of charging station on clover lane
- Spent time on Grand Terrace Annexation
- Planning Commission recommended approval
- Upcoming projects

Hyatt spoke regarding the work that has been done and in appreciation of the Commissioners and Staff.

Graham spoke in appreciation of the work done.

Council discussed Housing Production Strategy.

DuQuenne spoke to the importance of Committees and Commissions working together.

#### **5. Look Ahead**

City Manager Joe Lessard reviewed items on the Look Ahead.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

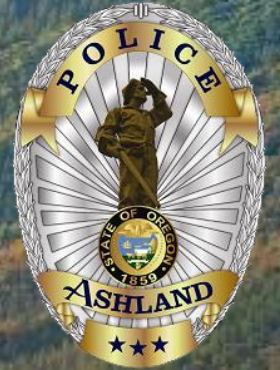
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City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

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Mayor Akins



# Ashland/Talent – CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Chief Tighe O'Meara  
City Manager Joe Lessard  
Dec. 5, 2022

# Overview of Two Departments/Communities

## CITY OF TALENT

6,141 population

1.32 square miles in city boundaries

## CITY OF ASHLAND

21,620 population

6.64 square miles in city boundaries

350,000 tourists + SOU resident students



## Budgets for Both Departments

### Ashland Police Department (APD)

- Annual Budget is approximately \$8,000,000
- Full staffing is 28 sworn officers and 7.5 non-sworn officers
- Plus, cadets and park patrol

### Talent Police Department (TPD)

- Annual Budget is \$1,621,663
- Full staffing is 8 sworn officers and 1.5 PT non-sworn officers

## TIMELINE

# Events Leading up to Partnership

- **2017** APD staffing authorized to increase to 33 (never realized)
- **2019** APD staffing at 30
- **2020** TPD saw staffing drop, while APD was still good
- **2020** TPD & APD started talking about consolidation
- **2021** TPD & APD entered into an agreement to provide training, on-call supervision as needed and eventually cover 12 hours of patrol
- **2021** APD staffing dropped due to retirements, transfers and exit from LE. APD had to back away from providing regular shift coverage



## Where we are now

Current Ashland Agreement with the City of Talent

\$750/month for access to training, sergeants and detectives as needed

\$110/hour for shift vacancies that will cover...

- Overtime cost with rollups
- Gas/wear & tear on APD patrol car



## STUDY RESULTS

# Study suggested options for Talent going forward

1. Re-establish TPD in its entirety \$1,648,393
2. Contract with Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) at a cost of \$1,369,143
3. Contract/Consolidate with APD at a cost of \$1,470,315
4. Contract with Phoenix PD at a cost of \$1,038,392

**The study also noted that there are qualitative issues at play**





# Options Moving Ahead

- APD is succeeding in rebuilding its staffing
- Mid-2023 targeted for completion of staffing, barring unexpected exits from the department
- Appears TPD intends to retain their own fully staffed police team
  - *TPD is fully staffed and resuming full operations*
- TPD desires to continue with the current APD partnership
  - *Access to training, supervisors and detectives*
  - *Shift coverage as needed (diminishing as TPD staffing increases)*
- APD desires to continue the current partnership with TPD and is open to more cooperative opportunities in the future





QUESTIONS?