

CANBY CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 25, 2018

PRESIDING: Mayor Brian Hodson.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Tyler Smith, Greg Parker, Traci Hensley, Tracie Heidt and Sarah Spoon. Councilor Tim Dale was absent.

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT: Kathleen Myron and Cameron Jones.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Robinson, City Administrator; Amanda Zeiber HR Director/Asst. City Administrator; Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney; Irene Green, Library Director; and Kim Scheafer, City Recorder.

OTHERS PRESENT: Alan Matecko, LDAC Chair and Greg Williams, LINCC Library Services Manager.

Mayor Hodson called the Work Session to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Mt. Hood Conference Room to discuss changes in the library district.

Irene Green, Library Director, reviewed the library boundary maps with the Council.

Councilor Parker asked if the Council could change the boundary.

Ms. Green said no, they would need two-thirds of the library cities to agree to the map changes. All of the cities would have to agree to a levy.

Kathleen Myron said they were trying to get members from those City Councils, Mayors, City Managers, Library Boards, and Library Directors on task forces in order to get input from all different areas. They would be advisory groups to the County Commission.

Alan Matecko, LDAC Chair, said each library city would have an equal vote.

Ms. Green said the issue was being able to maintain financial sustainability for the library.

Mr. Matecko said when the map was created it was done by City Managers. At that time, Canby received part of Wilsonville's and Molalla's district in return for giving some of Canby's district to Oregon City. They needed to look at what changes could be made that would be equitable to all.

Rick Robinson, City Administrator, said a fundamental flaw was ignoring the number of people who were being served by each library in favor of the dollars collected in which jurisdiction. He further explained the problems with basing the funding on assessed value.

Ms. Myron emphasized there needed to be city participation on the subcommittees as well in order to have a voice on the issues.

Councilor Spoon asked if the district boundaries were changed, would that solve the funding problem since they were urban and rural reserve areas and had low assessed value. It might be better to focus their energies on how to recalculate how they were funded.

Mr. Robinson thought they could work on both, and tie the funding to library use and the percentage of the population in the district that was being served.

There was discussion regarding how other cities who were receiving more funding might not be in favor of changing the boundaries and how to make the changes equitable.

Councilor Parker suggested allowing each jurisdiction to have the authority to issue its own library tax. He was concerned that Canby would not get a proportionate share of the money if it was done County-wide.

Joe Lindsay, City Attorney, said he would have to look at the IGA to see if it would allow them to compete with the current district.

Mayor Hodson asked what other cities were having this problem and would be willing to work with Canby on this issue.

Ms. Green said most of the cities in the district were not having this conversation yet. There were cities that were funding their libraries out of their General Funds who might be willing to be a part.

There was discussion regarding the difference between local government and district revenue. There was further discussion regarding the idea of creating a separate tax for Canby and how to include the unincorporated areas that were being served.

Mr. Matecko thought the map should be reviewed County-wide and that the conversation should be making the map and tax distribution equitable.

There was discussion regarding increasing population and increasing property values.

Greg Williams, LINCC, said the current tax had two components, it was based on the assessed values for properties in the City limits and in the unincorporated areas it was distributed by population. Library Directors had come together and submitted a letter to LDAC and the County Commission expressing concerns about the funding and the sustainability of the library district.

There was a comparison of what other cities received and what Canby received and the reasons behind that. It was suggested to take a survey to find out what library patrons were using and the services they were expecting.

Mr. Williams explained the work of the larger task force and the three subcommittees and their components. These groups would start meeting towards the end of summer.

Ms. Green then reviewed the Gladstone library settlement agreement. The citizens of Gladstone were being asked on the May ballot to approve a new library that would be run by the County. It did not really affect Canby, except that the Master Order had to be changed.

Mr. Williams said since the Master Order was going to be changed, they had decided to create the task force and subcommittees to look into other changes that needed to be made.

Mayor Hodson said the continuing issues were involvement in the committees, budget allocation going forward from the City, investigation of the IGA to see if the City could put out its own levy, and possible cutting of operations to meet budget.

Councilor Parker thought this was administrative, and did not want to make it political.

Mr. Matecko said this was an issue of the greatest good and what was best for Canby was also best for the County.

Mayor Hodson adjourned the Work Session at 7:40 p.m.

Kimberly Scheafer, MMC
City Recorder

Brian Hodson
Mayor