CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (Sitting/Acting as the Board of the Clackamas County Development Agency)

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: March 18, 2014 Approx Start Time: 1:30 p.m. Approx Length: 30 min.

Presentation Title: County Parking Facilities in Downtown Oregon City

Department: Department of Transportation and Development, Development Agency

Presenters: Dan Johnson, Manager, Development Agency

Other Invitees: David Queener, Development Agency

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

 Does the Board have any considerations staff should incorporate into the entitlement process for construction of parking facility improvements in downtown Oregon City?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The County purchased a parcel at 11th and Main Street in downtown Oregon City in October 2013 in order to provide much needed parking for various County departments located in close proximity to the site. Prior to the acquisition, the County utilized the property for parking through an agreement with the owner.

Although the property has historically been used to store or park vehicles, the City has determined that parking is not a permitted use and all necessary approvals must be obtained before the County can resume use of the property for parking.

County staff has met with City staff on several occasions to ensure that the simplest path toward approvals is followed. The City has determined that this parking lot is considered an accessory use to other County properties nearby and can therefore go through an administrative design approval process. With that determination, staff has:

- Completed a preliminary design
- Completed a pre-application conference with the City
- Presented the proposed design to the Two Rivers Neighborhood Association as required
- Submitted the necessary documents for Design Review
- Developed a preliminary cost estimate for final design and construction

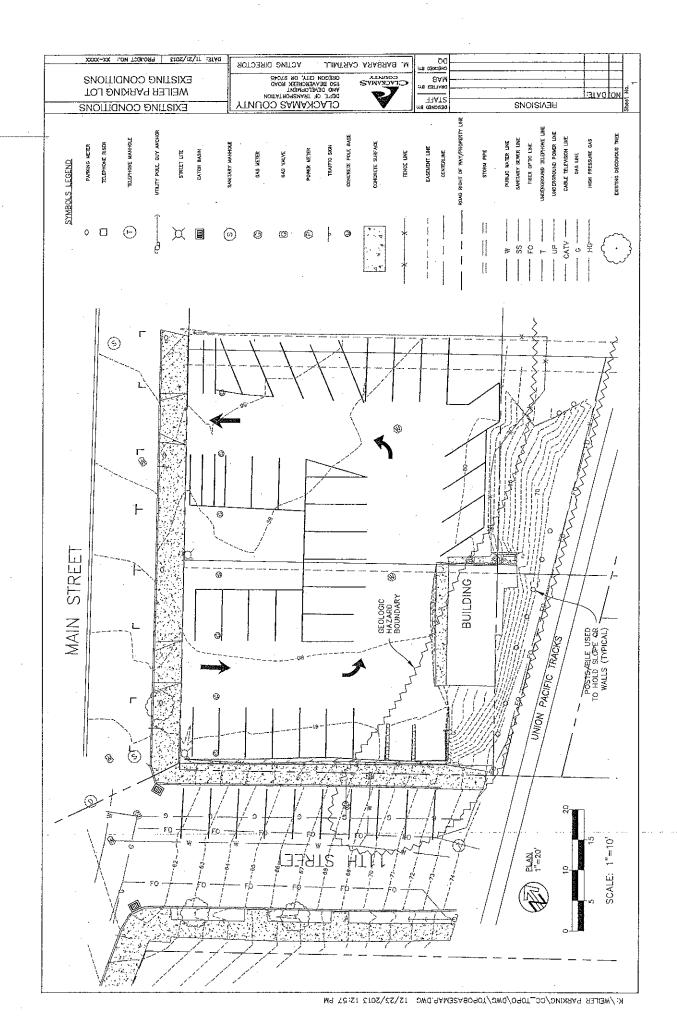
It is anticipated that we will receive Design Review approval within 45 days. The City's Development Director has indicated that, upon approval, the County may resume use of the property for parking while the final design, permitting and construction is completed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

The estimated cost for design, permitting and construction is \$350,000-\$400,000. There will be ongoing maintenance costs for the landscaping estimated to be \$2,000 per year.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

Not applicable



PROJECT NO.: EN 2013-22217



CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JL, KOS MAR 11 2014

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CLACKAMAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE OREGON CITY, OREGON 97045

March 7, 2014

(503) 655-8644 FAX (503) 650-8944

Donald D. Slack 16163 Widman Court Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: Courthouse Parking

Dear Mr. Slack,

I would like to thank you for your recent letter and for making yourself available for jury duty. We are not able to do our work without your help and realize your attendance can be at considerable personal sacrifice.

I agree with your observation, it is not the sole responsibility of the city to provide parking for the court. That being said, I do not believe the city understands the challenges we face to accomplish our work. The city and county have what I can only describe as a dysfunctional relationship. The courts are not a county operation. Unfortunately, we must occupy a county owned and operated facility in a city which appears to prefer we go away.

Although it is not the city's responsibility to provide parking, they do have as the county seat and a fellow municipal entity, an obligation to work in a collaborative way to assist the courts in doing the very important work we do. My guess is no one held a gun to the head of the city fathers when Oregon City was selected as the county seat. The city wanted that honor and I would submit over the years it has benefitted enormously from that status.

I know all about the city's frustration with the county not paying taxes and its impact on city services, but being a county seat has had a positive effect on the city and over the years. Thousands of tax paying county employees have resided in the city and done business with local businesses.

The courts, the city, and the county all should have a common interest in the critical contribution the courts make to public safety and the needs of the business community in resolving economic disputes. The judicial branch is the one branch of government which owns no property except our books, file cabinets, and computers. We don't even get to set our own agenda. We must take any case which is filed and often have to schedule cases based on the Legislatures mandate without consideration of resources. Much of the time, we require jurors to do that work.

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The justice system is not going to remain even remotely relevant and important if all of the partners don't step up. We don't have a spare nickel in our budget. In 2007, we operated with a budget of about \$16.5 million dollars. We had 110 employees in the building and provided adequate service. Today we have a budget of \$11.9 million dollars and have somewhere between 75 and 80 employees. All the last budget allocation allowed us to do was eliminate furlough days. We have not been able to rehire a single employee. Ninety-four (94) percent of our budget goes to staff.

Again, I apologize for the length of my rant. Thank you again for your jury service and for the wonderful work you and others have done with the appearance of downtown. I started practicing law in Clackamas County in 1968 and the city has never looked better. Well done.

Vety truly yours,

ROBERT D. HERNDON

Presiding Judge

Clackamas County Circuit Court

RDH/bb

cc Commissioner John Ludlow

Mayor Doug Neely

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