

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Preedin      Mayor  
Andrea Blum          Council President  
Jennifer Letz        Councilor  
Susan Cobb          Councilor  
Gary Ross            Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jordan Wheeler      City Manager  
Kerry Prosser      Assistant City Manager  
Joe O'Neill          Finance Director  
Scott Woodford      CDD Director  
Emme Shoup        Associate Planner

The meeting recording is available here:

<https://www.ci.sisters.or.us/bc-citycouncil/page/city-council-workshop-meeting>

Mayor Preedin called the workshop to order at 5:30 p.m.

**1. Community Involvement Review**

Planner Shoup reviewed a [presentation](#) on the Planning Commission's feedback on community involvement. Feedback for the Council included updating the policy on neighborhood meetings, drafting a history of Sisters Development, creating more informal opportunities for the public to engage with the City Council and staff, considering forming neighborhood districts, expanding public outreach tools and strategies, and auditing the Comprehensive Plan for the implementation of policies into the Development Code.

The Council discussed the Planning Commission's feedback and gave staff direction to:

- Neighborhood meetings: Have staff work on the threshold to trigger a neighborhood meeting.
- Development History: In general, the Council thought this was a good idea and preferred to have a memo or "elevator speech" on the history of development in Sisters.
- Informal public engagement: The Council discussed the challenges and limitations of the format of City Council meetings, including the lack of interactive engagement; public comments were heard but not necessarily responded to immediately. A suggestion was made to encourage people to attend the end of meetings for additional information. Other ideas for informal engagement included town halls, office hours, "coffee with a councilor," or "beers with the mayor." Hiring the deputy recorder/communications position was seen as a potential solution to improve communication and engagement.
- Neighborhood Districts: The Council thought this idea might be premature as the town was still relatively small; citizen-led initiatives might be more appropriate.
- Expand Public Outreach: Different viewpoints were shared regarding the use of social media platforms, with some Councilors expressing concern about the constantly changing landscape and the need for resources to manage and maintain these channels. However, others thought there was value in quick information dissemination and suggested exploring strategies used by other communities,

including short videos. Council discussed the new Deputy Recorder's ability to assist with outreach efforts.

- **Audit the Comprehensive Plan:** This was a City Council goal for FY 2023/24. The staff planned to audit the comprehensive plan, highlight the policies that could result in amendments to the development code, and review those with the City Council for direction on which to prioritize.

Planner Shoup said if the Council has any questions about community involvement, they could follow up with staff.

## **2. Discuss 2024 City Council Calendar**

Council discussed the 2024 meeting calendar and determined they would like to cancel the July 24<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, November 27<sup>th</sup>, and December 25<sup>th</sup> meetings and add meetings on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. Other Business - None**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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Kerry Prosser, Recorder



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Michael Preedin, Mayor