

Orland resident Trish St. Evans shared potential ideas on what she would like to see for the property on Walker Street including a charging station, visitor center, City Hall or pollinator garden.

No Council actions.

C. Proposal for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

City Manager Pete Carr presented a proposal for the installation of electric vehicles (EV) charging stations in the downtown area. Mr. Carr shared that the objective is to encourage highway travelers to visit the downtown shops and restaurants while recharging their vehicle.

Mr. Carr shared that Rivian has been the only EV vendor to respond to the City’s solicitations and shared a diagram depicting proposed location of EC spaces and equipment. Mr. Carr stated that the proposed agreement with Rivian would be a lease of parking spaces, with 6 charging stations now and possibly 6 more later.

Councilmember Tolley stated he does not feel ready to move forward on this item just yet, but he does like that Rivian would now offer accessibility to many different car manufacturers. Vice Mayor Roundy shared his support for the proposal.

Orland resident Carolyn Pendergrass asked if there were currently any State or Federal mandates that cities must install EV parking. Mayor Dobbs explained that currently there are no mandates. Ms. Pendergrass asked what would happen if a non-electric vehicle parked in one of the spaces. Mr. Carr shared that the City has not discussed how enforcement of the spaces would be taken care of.

Trish St. Evans asked about the six additional spaces and stated she saw this as the community working together and likes the idea of people being able charge their EV and then enjoy Pollinator Park or stop into one of the downtown businesses to spend money.

Orland resident Christine Stifter asked if staff or Council has talked with downtown businesses owners to find out if the businesses are for or against the EV chargers. Mayor Dobbs stated he has spoken with many downtown businesses who have all been in favor of the charging spaces. Ms. Stifter shared her concerns for taking up spaces in front of downtown businesses.

Orland resident Brandon Smith asked about the aesthetics of the chargers. Staff presented images of what the chargers and signage would look like.

Terrie Barr asked about the sound the EV equipment makes. Chelsea Williams, Rivian spokesperson stated the sound from the equipment has been described as white noise as power is going through station. Ms. Barr shared her concerns with adding a new City Hall building, parking for City employees, EV charging equipment and a pollinator park on the vacant lot. Ms. Barr suggested the City move the charging stations to the City owned property on Hwy 99.

Councilmember Tolley suggested tabling the item for now.

Glenn County resident Troy LeDonne shared his opinion on the EV charging station and stated his concerns with the noise the equipment will make and did not feel the EV charging space on the vacant lot would get utilized by an electric truck pulling a trailer.

Mayor Dobbs shared he would like to review the contract first and allow for more public comments once the agreement is available.

Councilmember Romano stated Rivian wants to invest in this community and shared he believes it will bring people to the downtown area.

Ms. Barr stated she has invested in Orland her entire life and shared her concerns for the noise the equipment will make and the effects it will have on the downtown business owners.

Action: Councilmember McDermott moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Roundy, to approve the proposal and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and project. Motion passed by a voice vote 3-2.

Ayes: Councilmembers Romano, McDermott, Vice Mayor Roundy
Noes: Councilmember Tolley and Mayor Dobbs

D. Appointment to Feline Ad Hoc Committee

Director of Administrative Services/ACM Rebecca Pendergrass presented to Council the opportunity for one or two Councilmembers to represent Orland on the Glenn County Feline Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Pendergrass shared that the Glenn County Board of Supervisors recently established the temporary single-focus (ad hoc) committee to explore ways to address the issues of feral cats and services to control the feral population.

Mayor Dobbs asked the Council for volunteers to join the committee. Councilmember Tolley and Vice Mayor Roundy both stated their interest in joining the Committee.

Willows resident/Hidden Treasures Board member Janice Smith stated her appreciation for Councilmembers joining the Committee but shared that Hidden Treasures Sanctuary is running out of money/time to stay open and they need help now.

Orland resident Jody Putnam reminded Council that she has given them all the information that they requested. Ms. Putnam suggested a solution to the problem could be that the City enact a spay/neuter ordinance.

Orland resident Alane Allison shared her experience with rescuing cats in Glenn County and Orland and expressed the need for help now.

Director of Hidden Treasures Valerie Johnson thanked the Council for hearing the concerns of all the volunteers and shared information on the dire conditions at the clinic.

Troy LeDonne asked the City to take care of the cat problem.

Vice Mayor Roundy stated the Council understands it is a problem and everyone agreed to help with short term and long-term problems. Vice Mayor Roundy shared that the ad hoc committee would help with the long term and challenged the Council to come up with a solution to help the sanctuary with the short-term problem.

Ms. Johnson asked the Council for help in the interim to keep the Sanctuary open.

Councilmember Tolley stated he is supportive of the sanctuary and the services they provide but shared fiscally the amount of money it is taking to run the sanctuary is too much. Councilmember Tolley shared he didn't want to see taxpayers pay for the services but would prefer to see citizens who use the services pay for them.