

Beaverton Now!
September 2012
Hosted by Margi Lynch

Opening: Margi Lynch discusses the progressive strides made in Beaverton, focusing on national recognition for the city's environmental protection projects, and the research conducted for a safety analysis of critical space needs involving Police, Courts and Emergency Preparedness.

Lynch then introduces Mayor Denny Doyle

Mayor Doyle discusses the 1986 purchase of the current City Hall building at SW 4755 SW Griffith Drive, and how the expectation was it would serve as a 5 – 10 year temporary fix . . . and here we are, 26 years later.

Lynch responds to Doyle's statement by noting the growth of the police department from 64 to 174 staff members working in the same tight space. She then asks bluntly, "How?"

Doyle responds the space serves only 1/3 the need of the Police Department, and how they currently rent two other buildings; one to serve as evidence storage and the other for a training facility - a huge yearly expenditure that should not be.

Lynch then moves to talk about the space issues with the municipal courts and how they share space with people going to pay tickets, versus those serving jury duty.

Doyle emphasizes people coming in to pay simple traffic fines often stand in line with people who've committed more serious offenses, presenting a public safety issue. Washrooms are shared with community, staff, judges and, "people having their day in court."

Lynch segues to footage of **Lieutenant Paul Wandell** of the Beaverton Police Department who is taking the camera crew around the BPD work space at City Hall. He emphasizes where he is standing the same hall where the community visits, people stand in line to attend court and where prisoners are brought in. In order to be processed, they migrate from a holding cell to the police department to court.

Lynch asks for clarification regarding the prisoner intake area is the same area where police officers fill out their reports, which can be extremely distracting during critical report preparation.

The camera crew shows several views of the changing quarters with clothing and equipment piled high, and women officers change in a shower stall with only a shower curtain for privacy.

Lynch brings asks about how the overcrowding affects ALL city services, not just police and the courts.

Doyle states simply, “we’re literally out of room;” he mentions how conference rooms have been converted into multiple small cubicles, people share desks and about the glass partition being installed in the main lobby, right next to the front door, which serves as a police interview room for victims of crime.

Lynch then segues to footage of her interviewing **Shelly Oliver, a Clinical Coordinator – DVRC**, who serves as an advocate for crime victims. Lynch asks Oliver about the state of mind of a crime victim and what their needs are as they report the crime.

Oliver reports it doesn’t matter the category of the crime, there is always some level of traumatization associated with any crime. She states clients often need ongoing support and assistance navigating the process.

Lynch asks Oliver to talk about their nerves.

Oliver reiterates the victim’s feeling of traumatization, and being extremely devastated when they are first time victims of crime. She stresses the system tends to ignore the emotional needs of victims.

Lynch asks Oliver to talk about the space at City Hall

Oliver states at the very least, victims are feeling uncomfortable, talking about private, uncomfortable personal experiences.

Video segues to a pan of the front lobby and the glass with the “Police Interview Room” sign taped to one panel.

Oliver comments the space is in a very public setting with without privacy. In addition to the discomfort of the victims, others guests to City Hall are feeling uncomfortable as well. The setting may impact the victim’s reporting of the incident.

Lynch asks Oliver to describe what a best case scenario should be for a victim to report a crime

Oliver stresses privacy is critical, and the ability to offer some level of comfort and emotional safety. The City Hall space is NOT client, or victim-centric.

Lynch continues by asking Oliver whether the City Hall Police Interview Room setting is common practice or did she find it surprising?

Oliver was shocked by what she saw as she always understood Beaverton to be a very progressive city.

The viewer is returned to the studio where **Lynch** introduces **Beaverton Police Chief Geoff Spalding**. She asks Spalding what his main concerns are as his officers continue to do their jobs.

Spalding replies they continue to provide a high level of service to the citizens of Beaverton and the public recognizes this, but he stresses what they don't know, about the conditions the officers work under: tight, crowded work space. He states patrol function accounts for only 1/3 of the work force.

Lynch asks him to identify his top concerns

Spalding replies he has many concerns, first is "over 25 years we've grown into this very small space, creating significant inefficiencies, preventing and event better job" from being done.

- Two separate offsite facilities: evidence storage and training) which is NOT up to professional grade standards

The goal, he mentions, is to bring everyone together under the same roof, increasing security and a higher level of efficiency.

The other big concern **Spalding** has is not meeting the essential facilities requirement by state law: Police, fire, hospitals should be built to a higher standard than other buildings since they must withstand catastrophic events. He stresses the importance of bringing Emergency Management personnel under the same roof. They currently reside at another offsite facility, the Community Center across from Beaverton City Library.

Spalding goes on to commend his officers for the high level of services they provide in spite of cramped working conditions.

Lynch asks for details on the police intake room at City Hall.

Spalding discusses the distraction to officers as they prepare police reports, as well as the security concerns with two holding cells, a juvenile cell, and a restraining chair all located in the same room. Ideally, the holding cells and restraining chair should be away for the sake of tighter security.

Lynch asks **Mayor Doyle** about the group of citizens studying the space needs issue.

Doyle talks about the Public Safety Center Advisory Committee created about a year and a half ago.

The video segues to Lynch interviewing Committee Chair, Jim McCreight, asking him about the group and their purpose.

McCreight states the committee was formed by the Mayor and Police Chief for the purpose of studying the space needs for police and the courts at City Hall. The next step was to recruit other community leaders.

Lynch asks McCreight if he was surprised by the space needs.

McCreight responds was surprised by the degree of the need. He reiterates the current location was to be a temporary situation for the police, and 25 years later things are the same with the addition of several offsite, private spaces to fill the void.

Camera pans the space at City Hall.

Lynch asks McCreight if the committee has specific recommendations, or what the next step is.

McCreight shares after the initial meeting, three sub-committees were formed

1. Site Analysis
2. Method to Finance
3. Design review of a new facility proposal

Lynch asks McCreight what was the biggest surprise or hurdle.

McCreight responds the biggest surprise was finding out about the two private facilities being rented, separate from the police department.

He goes on to talk about the challenges for the courts, mentioning the fact City Council Chambers double as a court, posing a security risk with defendants, judges, prosecutors all lined up along the halls waiting to enter court, at the same time.

Lynch asks McCreight what he says to people who aren't aware of the challenges, but see the police department doing a great job.

McCreight responds that her question is a legitimate one, but it doesn't deal with the working conditions and security issues creating inefficiencies – it is the Committee's responsibility to build the case for addressing the space needs issue.

Lynch asks McCreight what the recommendation will be.

McCreight responds there are several options being reviewed. Remodeling the current site is NOT a satisfactory solution since it would cost more to bring the current space up to the required higher standards than building new.

The Committee originally had 18 sites on their radar, but they have narrowed the field to 4 – 5 sites. They are awaiting word on next steps from the Mayor and City Council.

Lynch remarks keeping things as is will not work.

McCreight replies the current building is beyond capacity and something must be done. City Hall staff may stay, but the police department and the courts should be moved to a newly developed site.

Lynch asks how this will improve the lives for the people of Beaverton.

McCreight states increased efficiency and productivity, as well as security for people coming to court.

He also mentions the Site Analysis sub-committee investigated newly built stations throughout the state to aid in the decision making process.

He concludes by saying the Committee is anxious for a decision from City Council and the Mayor.

Viewers are returned to the studio where **Lynch** asks **Mayor Doyle** what the next steps are.

Doyle responds, “We can’t postpone the decision for another 26 years,” and the conversation with City Council is ongoing.

He thanks Jim McCreight and the Committee for all their hard work. He wraps up by stating the bottom line is we know we need a public safety building that is safe and secure and designed to serve its purpose

- Dignity for crime victims
- Meet seismic requirements

The time has come to build a stand-alone public safety facility to bring together the courts, police department and emergency management team.

He concludes by saying Beaverton residents can expect a thorough discussion of what to do next to make a real good decision.

The camera pans to cover another story about sustainable Beaverton. We see Mayor Doyle plugging in a city of Beaverton employee’s electric car.

Lynch talks about the national recognition the city has received for their protection of the environment and offer her congratulations to the Mayor.

Mayor Doyle responds by stating it is an overall effort with city staff.

Lynch states the recognition came through the US Conference of Mayors, and then asks how it happens.

Doyle responds by enumerating the projects Beaverton has completed, such as

- Upgrading 755 streetlights to LED or Inductions
- Adding the 17.6 kwh solar system to the Beaverton Library
- Retrofit lights at City Hall, Resource Center, Library, Community Center and Public Works building
- Replacing the trash receptacles with solar powered trash compactors
- Support recycling programs for Home, Work and School
- Plant 3700 trees
- Add 5 electric charging stations

Lynch then asks why all these changes were made.

Doyle responses they needed to be done to run the city more efficiently.

Lynch mentions the Beaverton Celebration Parade on September 8, 2012.

Doyle reminds her and viewers about the change to the parade route.

Camera pans to an image of a map with the new route highlighted.

He then mentions the following

- 55th annual parade
- Local Olympians were featured with Mariel Zagunis serving as the Grand Marshall
- Parade theme is "The Many Faces of Beaverton," by Laurette McGee

Lynch gives the city's official website:

<http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov> while it is shown on the screen as well. She closes by saying, "Go out and enjoy Beaverton!"