

https://www.thenewsguard.com/news_paid/homeless-council-approves-emergency-shelter/article_a589081a-f26d-11e8-90dd-e30b8d6450ed.html

HOMELESS: Council approves emergency shelter

Jeremy C. Ruark newsguardeditor@countrymedia.net

Nov 29, 2018

1 of 2



Up Front: Lincoln City Warming Shelter President Patrick Alexander addresses the Lincoln City Council during the Mon Nov. 26 meeting.

Jeremy C. Ruark / The News Guard

The Lincoln City Council has approved an emergency declaration allowing the Lincoln City Warming Shelter to use its current resource center at Taft Hall as an overnight homeless shelter through March 31.

The decision follows a lengthy regular city council meeting on Monday night, Nov. 26, in which the council listened to one hour's worth of public testimony, much of it in support of the Lincoln City Warming Shelter's request to allow homeless overnight accommodations at Taft Hall, the site of the nonprofit's homeless resource center.

"This decision means we can now offer a warming shelter to the homeless when the temperature is below 40 degrees," Lincoln City Warming Shelter President Patrick Alexander said.

But Alexander acknowledged that the long-term homeless shelter solution still must be addressed. He said Taft Hall owners, Lincoln City Mayor Don Williams and his wife Debbie, have indicated that the Warming Shelter's lease will not be renewed after March 31.

"So, we are now starting work on a plan of what to do for next winter," Alexander said. "This gives us more time, but we are going to need every single day of that."

Alexander said one of the shelter site options includes using Lincoln Square, the site of Lincoln City Hall at 801 SW Highway 101, a suggestion made by City Councilor Riley Hoagland.

"My hope is that we have a facility that is all-inclusive for the homeless," Hoagland said following the first of two community meetings held last week by Lincoln City Manager Ron Chandler concerning the shelter solutions.

"Over the past few years, I have suggested the fourth floor of the city hall building to be an intake center," Hoagland said. "The cost to renovate, or accommodate several facilities, would not be a large amount. So, I would like it to be in a building that we own in conjunction with the organizations that help the homeless."

Following the council's decision Nov. 26 about the shelter, Councilor Diana Hinton suggested the council hold a work session to define what the city can do about the homeless.

"The location (of a shelter) is one of the biggest issues, so if the city provides the location, the building, then the county provides the program and a nonprofit runs the service, I think we have a win-win and can make this work," she said. "We have a responsibility for managing the building, making sure a good solid program is there, and looking to the county for guidelines and oversight of the program."

Hinton also developed a list of 14 properties she said could be a possible location for a homeless shelter. She offered that list to Alexander before the council session and she he was reviewing what properties might work.

“That is the kind of thinking we need moving forward,” she said.

Alexander said he believes the city police building might also be a homeless shelter option, once the new police building is constructed.

“It’s an idea worth looking at,” he said.

For now, Alexander said Taft Hall will immediately be ready for homeless overnight accommodations during adverse weather.

“We have all the materials we need, including cots and blankets,” he said. “We are always in need of donations and especially volunteers who are willing to stay at the building all night and stay awake for at least half the night.”

To donate, or to be a volunteer, contact the Lincoln City Warming Shelter at www.lincolncitywarmingshelter.com or call at 541-264-0457.

Sign code regulations

Following a recommendation by the Lincoln City Planning Commission, the city council continued the public hearing to Dec. 10 into proposed new sign code regulations.

“This will give us time to meet with representatives from the business community and the chamber of commerce and also to make changes to the ordinance to reflect the recommendation of the planning commission,” Lincoln City Planning and Community Development Director Richard Townsend said.

The sign code amendments focus on feather banners that have increased in front of several businesses along Highway 101 in Lincoln City.

The planning commission is recommending that the Lincoln City Council move forward with removing any content-based regulations from the sign code. The commission is also recommending that the remainder of sign code amendments be incorporated into the city's

design standards project, to include input from the public and businesses.

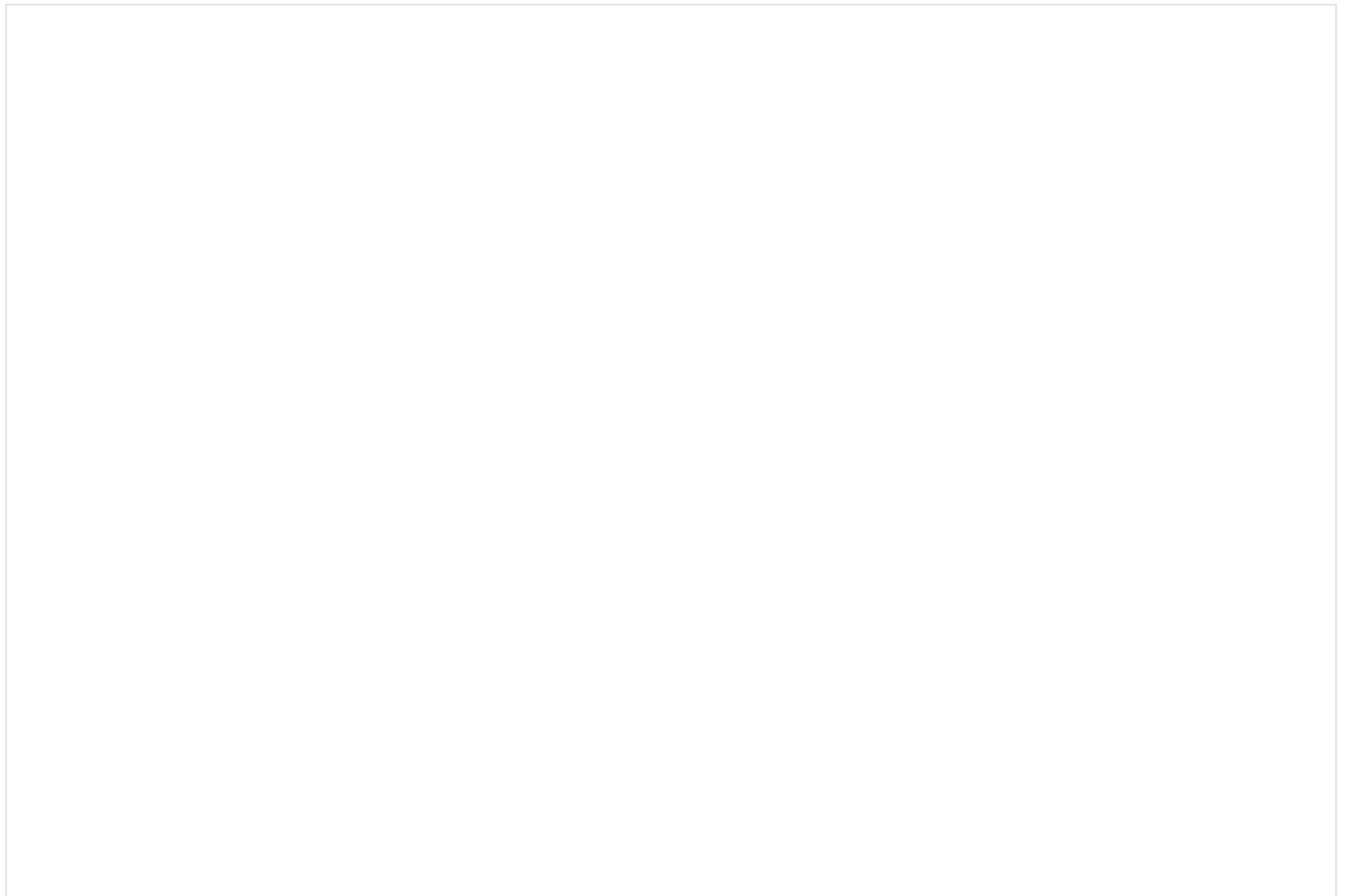
The commission made its recommendations on Tuesday night, Nov. 20, following a public hearing at Lincoln City Hall

Following citizen complaints concerning flags and feather banners posted in front of area businesses, Lincoln City planners recently began reviewing a new set of sign code amendments to better regulate the signs.

Townsend said there has been a proliferation of the feather banners and flags over the past several months to promote different businesses. He said the city has received at least five or six citizen complaints from citizens who are concerned about the feather banners. Townsend said the concerns center on the visual overload of the banners and flags.

"Sign clutter," he said. "People think they can place them anywhere and as many as they want. There are places where people have put them where they can slap people in the face. If they are in the right of way, they are illegal and they should be removed."

Follow the proposed sign code regulations and homeless shelter story developments, online, at thenewsguard.com, and in the Wednesday print editions of The News Guard.





PHOTOS / HOMELESS SHELTER: Community meeting



SHELTER OPEN: Overnight shelter for homeless in Lincoln City