



March 21, 2019  
City Council Meeting  
Willamette Activity Center Room 8  
47674 School Street  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

---

### 1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Present: Kathy Holston, Mayor  
Christina Hollett, Council President  
Bobbie Whitney  
Stan Barenboim  
Paul Forcum  
Donald Hadley (telephone)  
Trisha Maxfield

Staff Present: Marsha Miller, Pro Tem City Administrator  
Mike Hansen, Fire Chief  
Jackie Taylor, Assistant City Recorder/Assistant Planner  
Susie LaDuke, Finance Director/City Recorder  
Kevin Martin, Police Chief  
Rick Zylstra, Community Services Coordinator (absent)

### 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3.0 ROLL CALL- All Council present

### 4.0 CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ADGENDA-

Mayor Holston said we are removing 7.1 on the advice of our attorney upon the request that it not be considered, they have not had enough time to review the potential implications of this contract and have

advised council that this should not be discussed until they can fully review the documents of the issues at hand.

Mayor Holston added 7.4 to further our discussion on the complaint against Sarah Altemus Pope.

Councilor Hollett asked if there is any information on 7.1 that the council doesn't know about as to why it can't be discussed tonight?

Mayor Holston said it is on the advice of our attorney, they need a couple of weeks to review all of the contracts, and they haven't had a full opportunity to review all of the information.

## **5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA –**

Melissa Bjarnson 48521 Hwy 58- She handed out a petition that she started against Michael V. Hansen and read a letter.

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- She stands before you while Michael V Hansen is a contractual hire, as an individual who has called upon for emergency services for her significant other had medical issues from a brain aneurism in April 2018 and there was mass confusion in information upon arrival and the EMT's placing blame on 911 dispatch. She was very clear and specific with 911. She herself a patient of Orchid Clinic in August of 2018 was in agreement with the physician to be transported to the hospital for chest discomfort, she had at that time been a controversial debate between fire department personnel. Mr. Hollett demanded that she be transported as recommended by the physician to the part time volunteer. Upon arrival at the hospital it was determined that a potassium transfusion was desperately needed. That volunteer who refused to transport her could have cost her her life. Orchid Clinic filed a complaint against the volunteer with Mike Hansen and nothing came of it. HR being Susan LaDuke makes her wonder why.

Mayor Holston told Ms. Hammond to refrain from using Staff names.

Ms. Hammond apologized, she still questions why she received no apology. She stands here with encouragement to terminate immediately the contract with Michael V Hansen LLC as fire chief and to hire an in house chief among our current employees of dedicated services to our community.

Jim Coey PO Box 122- Passed out a letter from the State Ethics commission with their finding that they did not find any cause to continue the investigation against him.

Brett Wildrick – His son is the one who was in need of medical care at the fire department when there was no there to help him and he couldn't call 911 on the outside phone. His son is ok, but he worries that someone may not be ok at some point. From what he sees there needs to be something that potentially needs to change, people want to have their voices heard.

Lynda Kamerrer 48175 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street- The Chamber of Commerce has new board members. There is a Chamber After Hours event on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Banner Bank between 6:00 and 8:00 P.M.

Loren Hogue Oakridge Or- Let's take a look at ourselves and lets choose some of the words that were used during the belting, election time such as transparency, honesty, integrity we use these words in their meaning, something to aspire, that we wish our children in such matters. However there can be times

and situations and tugs and taunts that will allow a person a more discredited use of these words and use them in a more discrediting way and that is very sad. It would be nice if thoughts were brought in more healthy and vital to the community and focus on issues.

#### **6.0 MAYORS COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS-None**

#### **7.0 BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilor Hollett wanted to go back to Brett, she thinks that is a really big deal, he waited at the fire station with a baby and nobody responded. She thinks the council needs to acknowledge to him what happened. We have a petition here with 600 names and it's just set up on the desk like it's nothing. She hopes that all of the councilors here understand what is really going on at the fire station. We get reports from Mr. Hansen with numbers on it that things are going wonderful, but they are not when you have terminations coming out. She is very frustrated that Mr. Hansen left Friday without making sure that there was adequate staff, the calendar was not full, there were not people that showed up and responded on this call. She wants to make sure the councilors understand what happened. Bobbie do you understand that nobody responded to this man?

Councilor Whitney said of course she does.

Councilor Hollett asked Paul and Stan, do you guys, she doesn't know who is on Facebook and who sees it.

Mayor Holston said she doesn't govern from Facebook, she did look into the matter directly and she did go down and talk to the Fire Chief and find out the information and she totally understands how awful this, no one wants anyone in that situation. There are a lot of factors that led to that and a lot of them lay on everyone's shoulders, we are a small rural community, we will always have times in a perfect storm when things don't work out and it is up to the fire department to go through, analyze what happened and to figure out where they could have done better, where they should have done better. That is not for me to reach in to their inner workings. She would hope during the Emergency Service Meeting we can ask those questions and that is the appropriate time to do so.

Councilor Hollett asked what Emergency Services Meeting?

Mayor Holston said she meant the report.

Councilor Hollett said he is actually a contractor, he is not an employee, so that makes a difference.

Mayor Holston said it doesn't to her, she is still going to ask for his report.

Councilor Hollett said it actually does, it's a personal service contract it's the council responsibility.

Mayor Holston said no it's not and that is why we have this to our attorney.

Jerry Shorey said since they changed dispatch to Lane County that phone has never worked right, he thinks that is a very serious issue, it has never been addressed and in this day and age with our technology it should be fixed.

Mayor Holston said she is surprised that this issue has gone on for fifteen years and no one in the fire department did anything about that.

Councilor Hollett said a page did go out for volunteers, there were no volunteers to respond.

Councilor Maxfield said she thinks it's important for city council to acknowledge that these things are happening in our community and that we do ask staff to report on it. She feels very strongly that this was not acknowledged in a timely manner.

Mayor Holsten said she wants to remind the council and community that at the last meeting in February we asked that our new attorneys be given and asked to review contracts and the questions about PERS and if the contract is valid since it wasn't signed by council or Mayor. We as a council agree that we wanted to do that, we also asked that we received the information that we had about PERS and how that interacts with that contract. We made a motion to do that, in that time we had the Snowpocalypse and the resignation of our city administrator. Is that still something that you want to see that this is done?

Councilor Hollett said Councilor Hadley had a motion on the table that the contract be terminated and that was not put on the agenda after that and it should have been put back on.

Mayor Holston said no one seconded it.

Councilor Hollett said we actually had a staff member call point of order on that and we said we would discuss it.

Mayor Holston said we still need our new attorneys to review it, she just needs to know if you still want this information?

Councilor Hadley said he asked for the contract to be terminated, Mr. Messina said he would get him the information, it's not the city councils fault, and it's the city administrators fault. How long does it take to look at the contract?

Mayor Holston said we now have a new city administrator and we can move forward.

Councilor Hadley asked if we can have a time limit on this, can we have it done within a week?

Mayor Holston said no, she actually spoke with the attorneys today they said they have to have time to review the documents to get the documents and look through them.

Councilor Hollett asked if we can set an executive session that all of the council is able to sit down with the attorneys and talk about all of the information at hand and that we are all on the same page and that we have the attorney's opinion.

Mayor Holston said one of the things that the attorney told her is that that is also what they want to look at, what areas of concern need to be addressed in executive session and which things do not need to be addressed in executive session. It is important that we delineate that because if indeed we are talking about things that should be discussed in public then we don't want to sequester that.

Councilor Whitney said so we have asked our new attorneys for their legal opinion, she thinks it's also important to include CIS and see if there is anything that they may be concerned about.

Mayor Holston said she thinks we can definitely include them in the future. If at any time you feel like you want the attorney to listen in during the meeting he is available and we can call him.

Councilor Hollett asked if the attorney said that we should not talk about the termination for convenience clause in the contract.

Mayor Holston said he asked us not to talk about any of the contract until they have had a chance to review it in its entirety.

Councilor Hollett said can we set a date that we are going to meet with the attorney and discuss things? This has been going on too long.

Mayor Holston said she agrees with you, but in all fairness we should be able to ask the attorney what they believe the timeline should be because they are going to have to review it and come to the point where they are comfortable with giving us intelligent answers and decisions. She can definitely call them and see if we can get them here sooner rather than later and it is very important to do that for all of our council.

Marsha said since the attorneys are brand new, they have asked us for a bunch of information that we need to get to them too, so we will need to gather that information, get that to them and then have the conversation about how soon they can set up the meeting. We are all in agreement that we need to move forward.

Mayor Holston introduced Marsha Miller, our Pro Tem City Administrator, to the audience.

Cameron Anderson said she'd like to point out that no one person can provide 100% protection to anybody all the time. And no one person can receive protection 100% of the time.

Melissa Bjarnson said she listened to the last meeting and Bobbie's motion was a little concerning to her because she said to ask the attorneys if the contract violates PERS, she doesn't think the contract is the issue.

Mayor Holston she thinks they understand the larger picture, and she appreciates the question because we have to be careful about how we say things, but she doesn't think you are looking at it, in just very narrow terms. The attorneys understand that there is a broad look that we want to look at it, not just in pieces.

Councilor Whitney said she believes that the attorney knows what the intent is.

Councilor Hollett asked if she and Councilor Maxfield can be present when she contacts the attorney?

Mayor Holston said she doesn't see why you need to be, but if you want to.

Councilor Maxfield said she'd like to be there.

Councilor Hollett said she would like to have the three of them there when she calls the attorney.

**7.1 Review Michael V Hansen Consulting LLC's contract with the City of Oakridge**

**Removed from the agenda**

**7.2 Consideration of Appointment to Audit Committee**

The Charter says that a member from the Budget Committee must sit on the Audit Committee. We have one applicant and she is on the Budget Committee.

**Motion:** Councilor Whitney moved to appoint Dawn Kinyon to serve in the vacant Audit Committee position for a two year term. Councilor Maxfield seconded the motion.

D. Hadley (aye), C. Hollett (aye), S. Barenboim (aye), P. Forcum (aye), T. Maxfield (aye), B. Whitney (aye), Mayor Holston (aye). Motion carried 7-0

Susan pointed out that they forgot to add on to the agenda the applicants for the Budget Committee.

**Motion:** Councilor Hollett moved to appoint Priscilla Davidson and Melissa Bjarnson to the budget committee. Councilor Whitney seconded the motion.

B. Whitney (aye), T. Maxfield (aye), C. Hollett (aye), P. Forcum (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), D. Hadley (aye), S. Barenboim (aye). Motion carried 7-0

**7.3 CA Hiring Process and Report on Applications**

Mayor Holston said we currently have seven applicants, it closes on April 15, 2019. She would ask the council to think of two individuals in the community that you would like to add to the interview group and if you could send that to the City Administrator and why you believe that person would be a good addition to this group.

Councilor Hollett asked if the council is involved in the review process for the applications?

Marsha said it depends on how many they get, they want the council involved as much as possible. We will come back to council with the numbers and a draft of the process and make a decision with you.

Jerry Shorey said he was involved in the hiring process before and they had a screening committee that narrowed it down to a certain number of applicants before they brought them to council.

Mayor Holston thinks there is an ORS regarding this, she will get with Marsha and look in to this.

**7.4 Complaint on Sarah Altemus Pope**

Mayor Holston asked the council if they received the copy of the letter from Leahy Cox to the Oregon State Bar in their emails? She will forward that to you if you didn't receive it.

Mayor Holston passed out a draft apology letter to Sarah Altemus Pope to present to Sarah. You can come in to city hall once it is finalized.

Mayor Holston read a letter from our City Attorney to the Oregon State Bar.

## **8.0 BUSINESS FROM THE CITY**

### **8.1 Emergency Services Report**

Chief Hansen gave his February activity report.

Chief acknowledged Brett, he hopes the little one is doing well and he is sorry the situation went the way it did. To give you a little idea of what took place that day, our new schedule has been in play for eight months and that Sunday was the first time we had to have Eugene come up and transport. We had a full time and a part time on duty. About 3:00 we got a mutual aid call, typically those calls take 4-5 hours, unfortunately for your family the officer decided to go and that left our city unprotected. One of the things in a mutual aid agreement is that if that leaves your city unprotected you don't go. That has happened with us, Dexter wasn't able to respond on the fatal fire we had because they didn't have enough people to cover. Unfortunately your call was the fourth call of the day, that doesn't make it feel any better. When we talk about not covering our town, our town is covered, you have examples of the last month where our volunteers and paid staff are doing a very good job covering the area with the resources we have. It is unfortunate for your situation and hopefully that never happens again. One of the things that we did do was to make sure all of our paid staff reviewed the mutual aid agreement which has been in place for a number of years and remind them that mutual aid is just that they are asking for a request, but we need to take care of home first.

Councilor Hollett said what she said about Friday was that she felt he shouldn't have left Friday as a management standpoint if you know the staff wasn't adequately covered for Saturday. She said she was given the calendar by the crew there and they told her that the calendar was not covered for the month. And they pointed out that there wasn't staff coverage for that weekend.

### **8.2 Police Services Report**

Chief Martin gave his police report for February 2019.

They got briefed on the double homicide that happened on February 8, 2019.

## **9.0 UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

## **10.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Trudy Hammond thanked the police department for helping her neighbor during the storm. They had been fixing their food outside on the propane, the transport was vital.

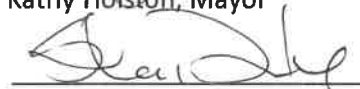
Audy Spliethof 47587 Teller Road- He has a complaint and he should probably put it on paper but, he wanted to make the chief aware that his people that took him to the hospital couldn't draw blood from him. Scott Hollett never had a problem doing that.

Mayor Holston said he could fill out a complaint form.

Audy said he can do that too, he just wanted to make him aware.

**11.0 ADJOURN 7:58 P.M.**

Signed:   
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed:   
Susan LaDuke, City Recorder