



August 1, 2019
City Council Meeting
Willamette Activity Center Room 8
47674 School Street
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Council Present: Mayor Kathy Holston, Councilors, Christina Hollett, Donald Hadley, Paul Forcum, Bobbie Whitney and Trisha Maxfield.

Staff Present: City Administrator Bryan Cutchen, Assistant City Recorder Jackie Sims, Community Services Director Rick Zylstra

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Roll Call

4.0 Additions, Corrections or Adjustments to the Agenda- Strike Executive Session

5.0 Mayor and Council Comments / Announcements / Proclamations

Mayor Holston announced that the drop off area for tree limbs will be closed after September 15 and we will not be reinstating the chipper program.

There will be a joint work session on September 17, 2019 with the Planning Commission on the TSP Study.

The Mayors Round Table was hosted in Oakridge, we had Mayors from Veneta, Creswell, Coburg, Eugene and Springfield. The County is looking at writing a bond to help with the housing problem that we have in Lane County.

Mayor Holston asked for the council to put down their thoughts in writing about what the housing needs are in our community and send them to her to be used to discuss this issue at the October 3 worksession.

6.0 Business from the City Council

6.1 Filling Council Vacancy

The City Councilor applicants Stephen Ball, Dawn Kinyon, Audy Spliethof and Larry Sweet addressed the council and answered questions from the council and mayor.

The Mayor and Council filled out ballots to vote on appointing a city councilor.

Action: I move that we appoint Dawn Kinyon to serve on the Oakridge City Council for a term ending in December 2020.

Motion: Hollett
Second: Hadley
Vote: Passed-Unanimous

6.2 Swear in new Councilor

Jackie Sims swore in Dawn Kinyon.

7.0 Public Comment on Items on the agenda – 30 Minutes

Dennis Patterson 47871 W 1st Street- Four summers ago the city declared a drought, we were told we needed a new well at an estimated cost of 2.7 million dollars, the tank on TV Butte was added at a cost of 5.4 million dollars. He would question any increase in the water rates at this time, we have paid enough, don't get greedy.

8.0 Executive Session ORS 192.660 (2) (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation to litigation likely to be filed.- Strike from agenda

9.0 Business from Community Services

9.1 Water Rate Study

Edward Hodges our City Engineer presented the Water Rate Study. He worked closely with the financing agencies so he knew how much this was going to cost. They developed a strict amount that the water rates were going to increase in order to fund the debt service for this project. In October of 2016 the city passed a rate increase of \$4.00 on the base rate, in the Resolution it states it is for debt services. Here we are today, we have had some issues with the project, and the primary one is the well that was contaminated with tetrachloroethylene. We decided to get another grant and loan package, a very small one to do test boring across from Greenwaters Park. In the process of doing this we submitted an application to the funding agency and around February they contacted Ed and said they have looked at the water fund in Oakridge and we don't like what we are seeing, we don't think it can support the debt service that is due this year, \$81,000. That was a pretty big surprise to Ed, he didn't see how that was possible with the rate increases, all the information he heard from the City was that the fund was very healthy.

Councilor Hollett said we can never really go to our citizens again and ask for money after this.

Mayor Holston asked Ed if this should have appeared in the audit, isn't debt services supposed to be its own fund?

Ed said yes, it should be broken out into its own category. The State of Oregon has a signed contract with the City of Oakridge for repayment of this loan and the first payment comes due at the end of December. That payment has to be made, it states in the contract that the City has to have proof that they have a revenue stream in place that will pay for that debt service.

Councilor Kinyon asked Ed how many business and household connections do we have?

Ed said we have around 1503, it is one of the reports.

Ed said he already talked to the financing agency about this, they said they could prorate this for us that will allow us to build up reserve. We have enough in reserve to cover the \$84,500 payment, but that would just take another big chunk out of our reserve.

Councilor Hollett said it already sounds like we've made a decision to raise our citizen's water rates, why don't we have a CPA to look at our books and see if the money is sitting in the water fund? If it is it needs to be pulled out and put in the debt services fund.

Mayor Holston said she is not advocating a rate increase. The money is sitting in there, it was used to pay expenses.

Bryan said there is still a reserve in the Water Fund, but we just don't want to take it down to zero.

Ed said he does think we need to have an auditor look at this that would be a good idea.

Councilor Hadley asked if the State was looking at this.

Mayor Holston said no they are not looking at it.

Councilor Kinyon said she'd like to propose that either the administration on their own or with council sit down and look at how much was this budget budgeted for and how much we have spent already and what kinds of things have we added that weren't in the original proposal. Also, where we stand financially in our water account because we have transferred significant amounts of money to cover problems in other departments. We need to figure out how to make this right.

Mayor Holston said she doesn't disagree with her at all, we have to look at this and find out where the money went.

Bryan said this weekend he plans to go to the CPA at LCOG and go through the budget line by line and hopefully get some of these answers that you are looking for.

Mayor Holston said this council will take responsibility and they will make corrections so that we won't end up with no water or a failed well that will cost us twice as much because we didn't do the maintenance. But, in the meantime, we have an obligation to one another as well as to the community to be able to say exactly where did the money and why was it not proportioned correctly so we don't repeat the mistake.

Bryan said it is very important that we get the water fund by itself self-sufficient.

Councilor Hollett said she feels that a Town Hall meeting would be really beneficial for this, this is going to upset a lot of people and she wants our public to understand what's going on and hear what happened.

Action: To direct the City Administrator to cause an audit to be done on the water fund that accurately shows where our expenditures are and comparing them to the Engineers audit with a timeline due by September 19th.

Motion: Hadley
Second: Forcum
Vote: Passed-Unanimous

Dave Crist 48385 Dennison Lane- Why has the Pope and Talbot aquifer been shut down?

Mayor Holston said we have limited water rights to that.

Ed said we wanted to refurbish the pipes and the Forest Service said no and the State said no, that is unbelievable water.

Councilor Kinyon asked Rick about his proposal to fix well #2.

Rick said the best way to take #4 off line was to rebuild #2 with a different motor. Nothing ever came of that proposal.

The council would like to see the proposal and get an answer to that.

9.2 Fee Waiver Request for Community Picnic

Mayor Holston read the issue.

Councilor Maxfield asked if this is open to the public.

Kent Dockery said yes it is and it is a free event.

Action: I move we approve the fee waiver for the use of Greenwaters Park Amphitheater for the Community Picnic on August 25th, 2019 and transfer from TRT Funds for grounds maintenance.

Motion: Maxfield
Second: Whitney
Vote: Passed-Unanimous

10.0 Business from the City Administrator

10.0 Emergency Services

10.1.1 IGA with Westfir for Fire Protection Services

Bryan read the issue.

Action: I move to authorize the City of Oakridge to enter into an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Westfir for Fire Protection Services.

Mayor Holston asked if this amount covers the cost to provide service for Westfir.

Motion: Whitney

Second: Hollett

Bryan said there is a lot of ways to look at this, we use one of their fire engines, and they have given us a special washer that will extract all of the bad stuff out of the clothing. Bryan will work on next year looking at what Westfir pays, he's looked at other creative ways to help pay for that. We will keep working with Westfir to find a figure that is more equitable.

Vote: Passed-Unanimous

11.0 Upcoming meetings and events.

Keg and Cask – August 10th

Community Resource Fair – August 14th

National Night Out- August 6th

City Council Meeting- August 15th

City Council Retreat- August 26th

Councilor Hollett said last summer she remembers that there were bids given for an auditor and she thinks this would be good time to start looking.

Mayor Holston said we got a new auditor, we don't need to go out for a bid for this year.

Councilor Hollett is suggesting that we talk about it, listening to Ed there was clearly something that was missed.

Councilor Whitney said she thinks that is a good idea.

Councilor Kinyon said she thinks it's a good idea for the Audit Committee to meet and review the audit and report back to the council.

We have vacancies on committees that need to be advertised.

Councilor Whitney said we had an executive session a while back regarding a personnel matter and we haven't received any follow up information.

Mayor Holston said they will be brought up to speed on that.

12.0 Public Comment

Dave Crist 48385 Dennison Lane- This pertains to the TSP plan, during fishing and hunting season it could take up to 20 minutes to get out onto the highway, this is with single lanes and no traffic light. He knows the congestion that two lanes make. Traffic has tripled, if not more and we will be making a big mistake by going to two lanes. We also have a problem with speeders, he can go there any given time and he have people passing him going 45+, we need to write more tickets.

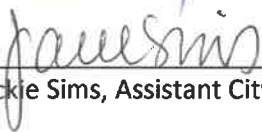
Dan King 76383 River Road- Speed is a heck of a problem and he doesn't want to see any more people get killed on that highway.

Audy Spliethof- Asked if we can get a ticket machine?

Mayor Holston said she asked Chief about that and we have one, but it is irreparable. We have had a discussion with ODOT and discussed sharing with other communities. They are meeting with ODOT on August 14th to continue discussion.

13.0 Adjourn – 8:57 P.M.

Signed:  _____
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed:  _____
Jackie Sims, Assistant City Recorder