



August 23, 2019
City Council Work / Special Session
Willamette Activity Center Room 8
47674 School Street
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Council Present: Mayor Kathy Holston (via telephone), Councilors, Christina Hollett, Donald Hadley, Paul Forcum, Bobbie Whitney, Dawn Kinyon and Trisha Maxfield (via telephone)

Council President Hollett ran the meeting since the Mayor was not present.

Staff Present: City Administrator Bryan Cutchen, Finance Director William Jones, Assistant City Recorder Jackie Sims, Community Services Director Rick Zylstra and Chief Kevin Martin

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Mayor and Council Comment-

4.0 Additions, Corrections or Adjustments to the agenda

Councilor Forcum requested to add 8.4 Fire Department

5.0 Consent Agenda- None

6.0 Administrative Services

6.1 Information session regarding the recent Water Rate Study

Bryan introduced our new Finance Director William Jones.

Bryan asked Bill to look at the Water Study done by Curran McLeod and see if he agrees with the findings and to look at the Water Fund itself and how it has been budgeted for as well as the surrounding funds, transfers in and out. He started on it, but he has only been here for four days.

Bill thanked everyone and said he looks forward to being our Finance Director and he is looking forward to working with everyone here.

Bill presented his findings that he came up with so far. He is up to FY 18 and he's been trying to update for FY 19 and also look at the 2020 budget.

In the study it was assumed that to satisfy the loan we had to have 110% of net revenue and that revenue had to be 110% of debt service, but that actually needs to be 120%.

Councilor Kinyon asked if when he is talking about loans, is he talking about adding to the existing loan?

Bill said the loan we have is a revolving loan, we would be adding to that.

Councilor Forcum asked if we are looking at increasing the water rates.

Bryan said we are looking at having to increase above the amount that Mr. Hodges recommended.

Councilor Kinyon distributed and explained a report that she created.

Bill said we have spent between 2.6 and 2.7 million on the project and we have recovered in loans about 2.5, we haven't requested reimbursement for everything yet, so there is a difference of about \$146,000.

Mayor Holston asked Bill if he will be providing council a written report when he is finished with his report.

Bill said he will have a report and he will give them a presentation also.

Councilor Kinyon said based on the work she has done, she does not believe we should consider raising rates right now.

Councilor Hollett said in your presentation it mentioned that you wanted to do a water rate study and she is wondering, because your conclusion seems to be already to raise rates higher than what Mr. Hodges suggested.

Bill said he doesn't know that he'd call it a water rate study, but he does want to review the numbers. There were a few things that he noticed related to the study that need to be adjusted.

Councilor Kinyon asked Bill how much time he would need to really dig through this and come up with a better recommendation how much time would you need?

Bill said he should have that accomplished by the next council meeting.

Bryan said how about the 3rd Thursday of September?

Bill said that would be fine.

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7.0 Public Comment on Items on the agenda- None

8.0 Administrative Services

8.1 Action Regarding Water Rate Study

8.2 Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane Transit District

Bryan read the issue.

Councilor Hadley said he asked the driver how many riders we have and he said we have a lot. The ridership is up for Oakridge.

Action: I move we accept the Intergovernmental Agreement between Lane Transit District and the City of Oakridge and direct staff to carry out and fulfill the City's part of the IGA.

Motion: Kinyon
Second: Whitney
Vote: Passed- Unanimous

8.3 Resolution 07-2019 A Resolution Adopting by Reference the 2018-2023 Lane County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, specifically adopting Annex 5 – City of Oakridge

Bryan read the background.

Bryan read Resolution 07-2019.

Action: I move we adopt Resolution 07-2019, a resolution adopting by reference the 2018-2023 Lane County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, specifically adopting Annex 5 – City of Oakridge.

Motion: Whitney
Second: Kinyon
Vote: Passed-Unanimous

8.4 Fire Department

Action: I move to reinstate every fire fighter and EMT that was let go from the last administration back on our fire department.

Councilor Forcum said this is not the first time we had a total loss.

Mayor Holston called point of order, it is not within the council's purview according to Charter to discipline, remove or appoint or reinstate personnel, to supervise or control the Administrators appointees and their service to the city. She would say this is an illegal motion. She agrees that fire, life, home and safety are of the utmost importance.

Councilor Kinyon said Mayor Holston made a point of order and it is up Councilor Hollett to accept it or not.

Councilor Hollett accepted the point of order, it is valid and the motion needs to be changed.

Motion: Forcum
Second: Kinyon
Vote: No vote

Councilor Hadley asked if we can recommend the City Administrator to bring back all of the fire fighters that we had.

Mayor Holston said what we can do is ask Bryan to look at all of the options available to him to increase the personnel at the fire department including reinstating any of those who have been dismissed and are qualified to be reinstated.

Bryan said if there is any blame to be placed it is on him, He has made some actions, he asked Aric to provide a compressed advertisement and hiring schedule and to create a que so we don't have to repeat the whole hiring process. He wants to do a deliberate and methodical hiring of a Fire Chief and he is now looking at an Interim Fire Chief.

Councilor Kinyon said as far as being the fire chief goes it does say in the personnel manual it says that we as a city prefer to promote from within.

Councilor Hollett declared a conflict of interest with this discussion, she is related to someone at the fire department.

Bryan said with only two people actually doing the work in the fire department to immediately take one of those two and make them a fire chief is impossible in the short term. In the long term he is happy to take any application for fire chief, including from within.

Bryan said regarding the volunteers he and Aric are interviewing two next week. We have the application posting on the website. Two of the previous volunteers have put their applications in, he will tell you that when he interviews them and if he offers them a position he will have them sign something with expectations on participation, training and personal conduct and he will sit down with the current volunteers and have them sign the same document.

Last week he sat down with fire chiefs of Lowell and Dexter and they talked about not building walls between the cities as we go through these hard times we are having right now. With Union and liability pieces it is really difficult to borrow a fire fighter.

Aric said he has been contacted by at least two people for the department positions, he hasn't seen any applications yet, we are advertising for both a part time position and a full time position.

Bryan said he could accelerate the volunteer interview process and do as many as he can on Tuesday.

9.0 Public Comment

Larry Sweet 76361 Jones Road- He believes Bryan will get things fixed at the fire department. We do not need to have any more property or life loss. He asked if Louis Gomez is still working for the City?

Bryan said he resigned last week.

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- She appreciates Bryan expediting the volunteer process.

Audi Spliethof 47587 Teller Road-He paid for life flight that is a guarantee of service. All of the houses he has seen burn, they all go down, and we don't have enough staff. What happens in a case of a house that is burnt, do they hold the city liable because they didn't give proper fire protection, if his house burns down he is going to sue the city. He has paid his life flight, they are guaranteeing him that the fire department will save his house the best they can.

Councilor Kinyon said life flight is for ambulance service, not fire service.

Councilor Hollett said his taxes that he pays goes to the fire services.


Mayor Holston said we have been talking about water rates, the budget and deficits and while it is not an excuse one of the reasons we are in the position we are in is because we do not have enough money to run the fire department, all fire departments run in a deficit mode. If you want to have a better fire department be willing to pass a bond or increase your taxes, that is not what people want to hear, but that is one way to solve some of the problems we are having now. She hopes that is not what we have to do.

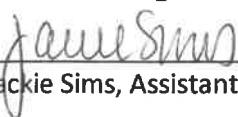
Robert Baker 48767 McFarland Road- With today's events we are facing a crisis in the fire department. We are a small town, under budget and understaffed, he proposes that we have our police officers first on seen at a fire, be able to fight the fire.

Dennis Patterson 47871 W 1st Street- The luck today was that there was no wind yet, the wind did kick in a couple hours later. It is inconceivable that we should base the safety of our citizens on luck. We need our volunteers back yesterday.

Bryan said he will be at the fire house tomorrow if any volunteer wants to come in and take an interview at 10:00 a.m.

10.0 Adjourn- 7:36 P.M.

Signed: 
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: 
Jackie Sims, Assistant City Recorder