



August 6, 2020
City Council Meeting (Via Zoom)
Willamette Activity Center Room 8
47674 School Street
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Council Present: Mayor Kathy Holston, Councilors: Christina Hollett, John McClelland, Bobbie Whitney, Trisha Maxfield, Paul Forcum and Dawn Kinyon

Staff Present: City Administrator Bryan Cutchen, Finance Director Bill Jones, City Recorder Jackie Sims, and Police Chief Kevin Martin

Council President Hollett ran the meeting until Mayor Holston's internet issues were resolved.

1.0 Call Meeting to Order- 7:06 pm

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Roll Call- all present

4.0 Additions, Corrections or Adjustments to the Agenda

Bryan removed item 14.1 the applicant has withdrawn
Councilor Hollett added 9.2 to discuss open council positions
Mayor Holston added 9.2 The Levy and LCOG and 9.3 the PD and Ordinances

5.0 Public Comment

Marge Petrusha 46386 Hwy 58-TSP Plan, you have already heard from the citizens, through a survey the citizens already told the City Council they don't like the TSP Plan. It seems like you are still pushing this when the citizens have said they don't want this, how many times do you have hear no.

6.0 Mayor Comments / Announcements / Proclamations

None-Mayor Holston was having internet problems

7.0 Council Comments / Announcements-None

8.0 Consent Agenda-None

9.0 Business from the City Council

9.1 Select representative to vote at League of Oregon Cities membership meeting

Bryan- read the issue.

Councilor Hollett- is willing to do this again if no one else is interested.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved to appoint Chrissy Hollett to act as the voting member for the City of Oakridge at the League of Oregon Cities Membership meeting. Councilor Maxfield seconded the motion.

Hollett (aye), Whitney (aye), Kinyon (aye), Maxfield (aye) Forcum (aye), McClelland (aye), Motion carried 6-0

9.2 Discuss open council positions

Councilor Hollett- she recently read that the open council seats were advertised as four seats open, two of them being four year terms and two being two year terms. She believes they should be three four year terms and one two year term.

Bryan-after it was posted we realized there was an error and it has since been corrected.

9.3 Levy and LGOC

Mayor Holston- she sent an email to LCOG asking for direction on how to proceed as far as staying within the parameters of the rules and what can we do as a council. Bryan has already shared a packet on what city employees can and cannot do. Mayor Holston shared the questions and answers she asked Howard regarding the Levy. Given this information she would like to send an email to our attorney on Monday sharing Howard's answers. She would like all of the council to have a good handle on this and would like to have extra meetings on this because it is coming up quick.

Councilor Hollett- would this be an opportunity to have a work session with our attorney, she has a lot of questions and she imagines other councilors do as well.

Mayor Holston- she can certainly reach out to the attorney and see if we can set up a work session, we should come up with our questions before that.

Councilor Whitney- is this something we need to have a work session for? Can't we do this at our next council meeting?

Mayor Holston- she hesitates to say yes to that because of the time line involved, the next council meeting is at the end of August.

Councilor Maxfield- she wondered if we could just have a small subset of council meet with the attorney and those that want to and have the capacity can step into that.

Mayor Holston- we can definitely have a small subset meet with the attorney and come back and meet with the council.

Councilor Kinyon- would like to hold a town hall meeting after they get all the information that they can.

Mayor Holston- that is definitely a possibility. We need to determine what our process is to promote the levy.

Councilor Whitney- she very strongly agrees with Dawn's idea and it should be very well advertised.

Mayor Holston- wanted to go back to reaching out to the attorney's, Councilor Maxfield mentioned that maybe a couple councilors reach out to the attorney with questions from everybody and bring them back to our next council meeting. Then we need to determine what our next steps are and how we want to do outreach, that will definitely include a town hall.

Councilor McClelland- he is fine with funneling all of the questions through Mayor Holston, Councilor Hollett and the CA.

Motion: Mayor Holston moved that council permit Council President Hollett and Mayor to present to the attorney questions concerning moving forward with our levy to the public and how council interacts with the public. Councilor Maxfield seconded the motion.

McClelland (aye), Maxfield (aye), Forcum (aye), Kinyon (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Whitney (aye), Hollett (aye). Motion carried 7-0

Mayor Holston- reached out to Frannie Brindle from ODOT to see what our next step is regarding option #2. She hasn't heard back from her yet, but asked if a councilor would like to meet Frannie with her.

Councilor Kinyon- she would like to meet with Frannie too.

9.4 Police Department Ordinances

Mayor Holston- in the past we have talked about ordinances that need to be changed, modified or created to assist our police department in the execution of our laws and codes in the community. She asked the CA to give us an update during his report.

10. Business from the City Administrator

10.1 CA Update

Bryan- with mayor's permission he'd like to put Travel Lane County first.

10.2 Informational presentation from Travel Lane County

Andy Vobora- from Travel Lane County gave a report on direct travel impacts in our area and Lane County. He explained how the TRT Funds are distributed.

10.1 City Administrator Update

Bryan- introduced our new Finance Director Eric Kytola.

Eric- introduced himself, he is happy to be here, he has been mountain biking in this are for many years.

Bryan-in response to the Mayor's questions about police activity, the Chief of Police has presented questions to our City Prosecutor Pat, what is left is for the Chief, Pat, Matt and himself to get together and write recommendations on how to write ordinances and code, the City charter changes area will be more significant.

Bryan-we had a citizen complaint regarding significant odors surrounding A Vant Garden's that are located next to the Nazarene Church. Matt Dahlstrom took a close look at all of the Conditional Use Permits that were written, the owner invited them to come down and staff did a walk through and interestingly enough the plants were in full bloom and he couldn't smell anything. Bryan found they are within their CUP.

The new 2020 wood stove exemptions are available at city hall.

The Strategic Plan survey is out, they are at the library and were sent out in water bills.

The Triple Summit Challenge on September 25-27, Bryan looked over their COVID Mitigation Plan and it is pretty vigorous, he was impressed.

The Sasquatch Duro is also partnering with Oakridge on October 3 and again their COVID Mitigation Plan is pretty vigorous.

10.3 Gas tax staff report

Bryan-read the issue.

Mayor Holston- council wanted to look at this to see what the impact to our budget will be. Bryan did a good job putting the information together. She would like to open this up for discussion before a motion is made.

Councilor McClelland- when Bill brought this up in a previous session he quoted a number of \$239,000 for the entire year, is that still a correct number?

Bryan- these numbers came from Bill, he was using fiscal year 2019 consumption, and we get money from the state also.

Councilor McClelland- he was looking at this and his motivation behind wanting us to look at it this is a way to fund the road repairs for the city and not put the whole burden the residents of the city. This is the only way of gathering a tax where we are taxing people who don't live here. We need to do something to help gather funds to take care of our decaying roads situation, he would be in favor of not higher than two cents, but a shorter period of time, but he doesn't know how that works, but during the tourism time to minimize the impact on the community, in particular those who are economically challenged.

Mayor Holston- her thoughts on this is it seems like a bad time to be raising taxes, but that money will go directly to our community. Having said that, she is not advocating for doing the tax or not doing the tax she just thinks that John's point is a way to pull in income from those who do not live here as well as those who do live here.

Bryan-he would recommend the May 2021 election for the time frame.

Councilor Kinyon- she doesn't think that two cents is going to do anything for getting any roads done in Oakridge. We would need so much more, in five years we have done one road, that's what we can afford. This is not a good thing to put on people especially when we are putting on a Levy for our safety services in Oakridge.

Mayor Holston- the money will accrue over five years and then we would be able to repair roads.

Councilor Whitney- even though it wouldn't accrue a lot, it would bring in enough for us to make a match for grants that do help us repair our roads. Hopefully things will be a lot better in May and this will be doable for people. It makes a big difference that we have a gas station on the other side of the highway. She hates adding to people's pocket books, but two cents is a very small amount and it helps spread out the need for revenue.

Councilor Maxfield-she agrees with everything that has been said, gas tax is the most direct tax to the end user. She doesn't see where it's going to hurt other than the staff time to prepare the ballot measure. It is ultimately up the community taking the vote.

Councilor Hollett- she feels like we have asked for a lot from our community this year for her the timing is bad. She would hate for anything to deter from what they are trying to do with the Levy.

Councilor McClelland- if we look at Bryan's timeline we are really not even looking at trying to do this for another year and if you look at this, for a full tank fill up you are still only talking about \$1.00 depending on your tank. He always buys his gas in Oakridge now that he is more educated on this.

Councilor Kinyon-she would really like to look at what we are going to do with the money and how our budget looks for the street department. We should really be looking at stipulating how the money is going to be spent before we ask people to pay more.

Mayor Holston- with any gas tax it is required to be spent on road maintenance, it can't be used any place else. This could help us and it will help us solve some of our road issues that we have had for many years. She would like be more willing to do the tax for 12 months out of the year rather than just some months, we do get a lot of traffic.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved to direct the City Administration to do further research on the gas tax option for street repairs. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

Councilor Maxfield-she agrees with Councilor Hollett that the timing isn't great, she doesn't know that it would fully impact getting the Levy passed, but she thinks that is a priority.

Councilor Whitney-agrees with Councilor Hollett also, this timing isn't great. Maybe after May of next year, that is when we seriously look at putting this one on and we can do more research. It is important that we find a way to get some additional revenue for the city.

Mayor Holston- are you feeling like you would rather wait until next year to readdress this issue or address this issue now and wait until next year to put it on the ballot?

Councilor Whitney- she believes May is too close, she does want to continue looking at this and researching it, she doesn't want to lose it.

Councilor McClelland-he agrees that the timing is not great, but when is the timing ever good to ask people to pay more money. This seems like the council just kicking the can down the road again and not taking any passion to help the community as a whole. We would be better off to make a motion to take this to the ballot the following May if we all agree that this May is too soon and let the City Administrator get started on this and he has a very full plate and this will give him more time to pull all of this together.

Councilor Whitney- she doesn't think we are kicking the can down the road, the timing isn't perfect right now. She doesn't see it happening if we follow too close to the Levy.

Councilor Hollett-putting this on the forefront could jeopardize both of them and in her opinion probably both of them will fail. She has personally seen the discussion for the last ten years on social media people talking about how bad the city streets are here. If we had some type of prioritized list that we are really looking into and put that out to the citizens. Putting this on May is just too close to the Levy and our focus needs to be on the Levy.

Mayor Holston-if this does come to fruition sometime in the future, indicating what specific projects that we are going to do with the tax is not wise and probably something we can't even do. Prioritization of street repairs is a function of public works.

Mayor Holston- suggested a friendly amendment to the motion to specify the research that is being asked for by the city administrator.

Councilor Kinyon-she would like to see the council have more discussion about our needs for street repairs in the City of Oakridge, she would also like to see as far as research goes information from the city what we do to maintain roads throughout the year and why are we adding more staff to that department.

Mayor Holston-she hesitates to combine that with this, this is specific to a gas tax.

Amended Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved to direct the City Administration to do further research on the gas tax option for street repairs to include repairs we are doing now, maintenance and prioritization of the needs for street repair. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

McClelland (nay), Mayor Holston (aye), Forcum (aye), Kinyon (aye), Maxfield (aye), Whitney (aye), Hollett (aye).
Motion carried 6-1

10.4 Grant staff report

Bryan-gave an update on grants that we applied for.

Councilor Kinyon-what is the status on the IMBA Grant?

Bryan- we got the notice to proceed from ODOT, which means we can start executing funds. He is meeting with the parks committee on Monday to decide where the pavilion can go at Diamond View Park and then they will order it.

11. Reports of Boards, Commissions and Committees

11.1 Administrative Advisory Committee

Bryan- Administrative Committee met, they chose a Pro-tem Chair until we get the resolutions passed. We will bring the resolutions to the next council meeting.

11.2 Planning Commission

Bryan- they had a work session last month on short term rentals, mainly on the zoning side of them, if we want them in residential areas or not.

12. Items removed from the Consent Agenda- none

13. Ordinances, Resolutions and Public Comments-none

14. Appointments

14.1 Administrative Advisory Committee application- removed from agenda

15. Public Comment

16. Adjourn- 9:04 pm

Signed: 
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: 
Jackie Sims, City Recorder