



November 19, 2020
City Council Meeting (Via Zoom)
Willamette Activity Center Room 8
47674 School Street
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call – all present

4. Additions, Corrections or Adjustments to the Agenda

Addition- 9.1 Water Tower Discussion

5. Public Comment

Joy Kingsbury – she would like to see that we proceed with the proposed lettering for our water tower, creative artists can find a way to embellish any lettering that is available to them and she would hope that you would approve of the wisdom of having our name, Oakridge, up there immediately.

Audy Spliethof 47587 Teller Road- he thought council already decided to put out to the public to see if anyone wanted to put something different on the tower.

Mayor Holston- yes, we agreed in council and voted back in May and we agreed at the last meeting that we would continue what we put out in May.

Sissy Cutchen- read a letter in support of painting the water tower.

Robert Killen Director of the Lane Small Business Center, Coburg Oregon- provides help and tools for small businesses, when your business needs help they will help you get it. He is asking businesses to be a Lane Business Link Partner, he can send a link through the city so you can explore this yourself and he would like to request a statement of support from the city so he can share that at a partner summit on December 10 and he get this news story out to all of Lane County.

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- encourages council to stick with the original motion on the water tower; who says an artist is going to charge; maybe we can find someone to volunteer.

Dillon Sanders- supports original motion

Lynda Kamerrer 48375 E 1st St-she understands why you tabled the proposal to paint *Oakridge Welcomes You* on the tower, but then again here we are, this is a privately funded project that is ready to go and it would provide a positive message that our community would see every day and pass through traffic would begin to notice, this would be good for citizen moral and it would enhance the front porch. *Oakridge Welcomes you* is a very good message for us to be sending out at this moment, we all need something positive these days.

Mick Garvin- he is the President of the Uptown Business Revitalization Association and he is speaking as an Oakridge business owner. He is also the artist coordinator the Oakridge Arts Council and he has to say that the idea that someone is going to go up that tower as a donation is possibly naïve, the murals that are on Inbound and on his building cost over \$1000 each and we are not even talking about working at 80ft plus. This is completely funded with a surplus that could be applied to a later art project.

Rick Wiemholt- agrees that the City of Oakridge should get a letter of support to Robert Killen in support of what he is doing and he agrees with most of you that we need to get *Oakridge Welcomes You* on the water tower, it's money that is already there and we have volunteers lined up who were going to do this project. It is very important that we get it done, he has traveled around the United States a lot and one thing that you notice is that is if there is a water tower in the town it always has the city's name on it. Any artist can work around the lettering.

Raj-from the perspective from one of your nonprofit partners involved with economic development work it does strike them as having some kind of public facing welcome would he create an atmosphere of excitement and invitation out there.

Bryan- read letters from citizens supporting painting *Oakridge Welcomes You* on the water tower:

Jackie Taylor 78195 High Prairie Road
Louis Gomez 76336 Rainbow Road
Doug and Gloria Bates 76703 Bugle Loop
Tony Schweiker
Judy Rowland

Michele Coker 48485 E Meadow Way-why is it OK for us to be going through this when it was already voted on?

Mayor Holston- the reason is because we have community members who are expressing their opinions in public comment and that is their right as we have seen the community to come to council many times before and ask them to do something.

Michele Coker 48485 E Meadow Way- her opinion is it should stay like it is, why keep going backwards, why keep having to redo things that are already voted on and as for the citizens would hope they think the same way.

6. Mayor Comments / Announcements / Proclamations

We will not be putting up lights on City hall this year, we do not have the extra money to do that.

You all got an email today from Patience Wingham, the Emergency Management Coordinator for Lane County, regarding the Wildfire Evacuation Planning Project that is beginning. Please check your emails and read this.

Wants to put the water tower discussion on the agenda. There was consensus from the council except for Councilor Kinyon.

Covid update- our Covid numbers are increasing, this is not a reason to panic, but you should double up your efforts to keep your masks on and wash your hands and social distancing.

Encourages the community to reach out to your councilors when you have questions, let's just make sure we are not sharing information just to argue with one another about what you should or should not do, let's be encouraging and be comforting to each other.

7. Council Comments / Announcements

Councilor Hollett- the volunteer association met and the light parade will go on this year on Saturday December 5th, but there will be changes due to Covid. They are also taking donations for Toys for Tots.

Mayor Holston-our public works will be putting up the tree and putting the lights on it, while we can't have our usual gathering she encourages the community to visit during the month of December with your family.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1 Oakridge Westfir Chamber of Commerce Memorandum

Motion: Councilor Whitney moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Forcum seconded the motion.

McClelland (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Kinyon (aye), Hollett (aye), Forcum (aye), Whitney (aye). Motion carried 6-0

9. Business from the City Council

9.1 Water tower discussion

Mayor Holston- we will bring this back considering the number of people who have written letters and spoken about the water tower.

Councilor Hollett- she appreciates everyone's comments and being respectful, she heard some misinformation tonight and there were a lot of things that were not true. It seems that there were a lot of decisions made outside of council. Councilors were never notified that it was being painted, had there been an invitation she would have been there. She reached out to local artists about volunteering and never spoke to an artist who was going to charge us.

Councilor McClelland- he agrees that we did decide to put this out to the community as an activity to gain more community involvement, he doesn't see the two as mutually exclusive, his fear is that we are going to kick the can so far down the road it's going to get lost, and the artists aren't going to step up, and the funds won't be there, and the tower will remain blank for years. He agrees with Ms. Cutchen that it can always be painted back over. He doesn't see any reason not to proceed, there are more pros to proceed.

Councilor Forcum- putting something on there is better than nothing, he agrees with Councilor McClelland, it could be months before we get something done. They have the volunteers and funds now and people wanting to do this.

Councilor Kinyon- she appreciates everyone's comments about the tower, she believes that the individuals who wrote the emails have been misinformed about what happened and wants everyone to remember that motions are binding. No one had a right to solicit for donations with any promises and it is not this council's fault that they did. We need a motion to solicit for artists to present drawings and we will discuss this in the future.

Councilor Whitney- her biggest concern is the divide it is creating in our community, a lot of people are talking about who said what and when. She would like whatever we do we that we value our volunteers. She hears all the concerns and regardless of how this all happened she just wants something positive for the community. Motions are binding, but we can always change our minds, a lot has happened since May and all of this feels awful. As Councilors, Mayor and Staff she would like to see us change the direction of this and make it positive environment. With that said, she is fine with putting the letters on the water tower, by doing that you are valuing all of the volunteers who did all of this with positive intent. Motions can be changed and decisions can be changed. We need to make decisions based on what's good now and change our attitudes and be more positive, that is what everybody wanted out of this.

Mayor Holston- she thinks what Councilor Whitney just said are very wise words, we want to honor our community who have come out and donated and also expressed their concerns. At the last meeting we acknowledged that there were missteps made, motions while binding can be changed, we can soften something, we can add to it to reflect the will of the community and the will of the council to work together. She understands how fun it will be to have a nice mural up on the water tower and that is what our intent is, the important thing here is that we move forward positively and she believes it would be in the best interest of our community to move forward and put the word Oakridge on with the understanding that we are going to solicit for designs and murals whether donated or we have to pay for it. We know it's possible, but we need to know how much it is going to cost.

Motion: Mayor Holston moved to put on the water tower the name Oakridge using the materials that have already been secured and that it is only a holding place for a mural that is the end result at zero cost to the city. Councilor Whitney seconded the motion.

Kinyon (nay), Forcum (aye), Hollett (nay), Whitney (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), McClelland (aye). Motion carried 4-2

10. Business from the City Administrator

10.1 City Administrator Pro Tem – removed from agenda given the two week freeze from the Governor

10.2 City Administrator update

Tomorrow we are having pallet units delivered to the WAC for the warming center to mitigate the Covid impact and as soon as we get the electricity hooked up we can begin to use them. These will be easier to clean and better habitat for the individuals who will use them.

The city is currently in receipt of two small city allotments, we have \$100,000 for Garden Road and \$100,000 for Berry Street, he has asked the city engineer to descope the projects so that there is no cost to the city.

Public works will be getting a tree for the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

We are sending out the notices for business licenses for 2021 and due to the Covid situation he will be delaying payments until June.

The Community building and the caretaker's home at Greenwaters Park both need roof repairs or a new roof, we don't know yet.

Mayor Holston- regarding the \$100,000 for the roads, when we go to the city engineer does that come out of the grant money?

Bryan- yes, but he's already done the full scope for Garden Road and Berry Street it's just a matter of de-scoping so he doesn't anticipate a huge cost.

Mayor Holston- she wanted to add that all city businesses are required to apply for their business license, if you don't make over \$5,000 a year there is no cost to you.

Councilor Whitney- weren't we going to put out an RFP for a new engineer?

Mayor Holston- we have discussed but we haven't made any direction about that. We can take a look at the contract and bring this back to council.

Bryan- he is still the city engineer, but if the council wants to put out an RFP we can do that.

10.3 Finance Director Update

Eric- we are still working on the audit, he got a recap today from the auditor and everything is going smooth and they only had a few questions left so that was a nice surprise.

10.4 Police Department Update-

Chief Martin- they are going to try to do a different version of Shop with a Cop this year, he will get back to us when he knows more at the next meeting.

10.5 Fire Department Update

Bryan- they have been busy. With the levy not passing he has started looking at alternatives to ambulance transportation so he can pull this into the budget cycle and see what the financial impact of the alternatives is.

We did some work with Hazeldell, Scott took a group up there to exercise some of the equipment and we are working well with the Hazeldell board.

Councilor Kinyon- she would like to add the ambulance discussion to a later agenda.

Bryan- to what end? I don't know what we would accomplish.

Mayor Holston -did you want to talk about its future or what we do currently?

Councilor Kinyon- she will think on this and send out an email.

Bryan -to reiterate, this is staff work to look at this and nothing more than that.

10.6 Community Services/Public Works Update

Bryan- he has asked a couple of folks to stay home because they started to exhibit COVID symptoms. We have worked our way through and now things are getting back to normal.

10.7 Economic Development Update

Grace- she has been getting up to speed the last couple of months working with the Chamber and RAIN. She is looking at marketing the OIP, workforce housing opportunities and tourism.

11. Reports of Boards, Commissions and Committees- none

12. Items removed from the consent agenda-none

13. Ordinances, Resolutions and Public Comment

Bryan- since we have David Helton here he would like to move 13.3 up.

13.1 Ordinance Amending Ordinance 932 to correct a scrivener's error

13.2 Ordinance Amending Ordinance 933 to correct a scrivener's error

Bryan- read the issue.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved to adopt Ordinance 934/935 at a single reading read by title only and then in full. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

Bryan- read the Ordinance 934. The council was ok with not reading ordinance 935 since it was nearly identical to 934. Bryan read Ordinance 934 by title only.

Hollett (aye), Forcum (aye), Whitney (aye), McClelland (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Kinyon (aye). Motion carried 6-0

Motion: Councilor McClelland moved to enact Ordinance 934/935. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

McClelland (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Forcum (aye), Kinyon (aye), Whitney (aye), Hollett (aye). Motion carried 6-0

13.3 Ordinance 936 City of Oakridge Transportation Systems Plan

Bryan -read the issue.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved for the first reading of Ordinance 936. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

Whitney (nay), Kinyon (aye), McClelland (nay), mayor Holston (nay), Hollett (aye), Forcum (nay). Motion failed 2-4

Motion: Councilor McClelland moved to adopt Ordinance 936 in a single reading by title and then in full. Councilor Hollett seconded the motion.

Bryan- read by title.

Councilor Kinyon -is opposed to the reading by title only.

McClelland (aye), Forcum (aye), Kinyon (nay), Mayor Holston (aye), Whitney (aye), Hollett (aye). Motion carried 5-1

Motion: Councilor McClelland moves to enact Ordinance 936. Mayor Holston seconded the motion.

Kinyon (nay), Forcum (aye), Hollett (aye), Whitney (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), McClelland (aye). Motion carried 5-1

14. **Appointments-none**

15. **Public comment**

Audy Spliethof- asked how he can get into contact with Toys for Tots.

Councilor Hollett- she will get him the information.

Sissy Cutchen- thanked the council for passing the water tower painting and she saw on the news tonight that small towns are the number one place that COVID is going crazy, she wants to make sure we are all making an extra effort and this thing is real.

Councilor Hollett- are we going to have the second council meeting this December since we usually don't?

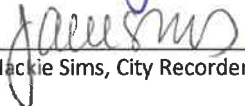
Mayor Holston- we will leave this open and decide at the next meeting.

16. **Adjourn 9:07 PM**

Signed: _____


Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: _____


Jackie Sims, City Recorder