



June 17, 2021
City Council Public Hearing (Via Zoom)
Willamette Activity Center Room 8
47674 School Street
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER- 7:00 pm

Council Present: Mayor Holston, Councilors Dawn Kinyon, Michele Coker, Melissa Bjarnson, Audy Spliethof and Chrissy Hollett

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 councilors present

4. Additions, corrections or adjustments to the agenda-None

5. Public Comment

Aric Higdon- he is concerned about the inability to fund the budget, the fire department depends on their volunteers. He wants the personal attacks to stop.

Dan Barclay- this council has yet to run a meeting following the charter. The crisis is not a leadership issue. He resigned from the Planning Commission.

Mayor Holston-told Dan he needs to submit the resignation in writing to the city administrator.

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- talked about call boxes along Hwy 58. She is stepping down from the Public Safety Committee.

Kristy Ball-talked about the volunteer police and fire departments, the greatest crisis is that we fight with each other. She is passionate about the police department. We need to come together.

Scott Hollett-he is speaking as a citizen, he has been with the fire department for 33 years as a volunteer and paid staff. The fire department has never been self-supporting.

Susan LaDuke 47556 Riverview- she is opposed to the public safety fee, three city councilors have been gas lighting the community. They want to cut everything except their own paychecks close the parks, the library, sell off land, anything they deem a nicety. In their own Facebook page they say the public safety fee is directly from the mayor and the city administrator, which is false.

Nancy Kelly 48228 E 1st Street- asked the council to deny the Keg and Cask alcohol permit.

Laurie Nemode 48229 Hwy 58- the public safety fee will greatly impact her tenants, this is really unfair, several motels and mobile home parks will be greatly affected.

Daryl Tindall 76124 Rigdon Drive- he is trying to unify the community, government people have a stake in the fire department and police department. We just had a tax increase fail because no one wanted it. There is an overwhelming percentage of the budget that goes to the fire department, there is nothing left to cut.

Jan Christensen 47716 W 2nd Street-she volunteered for the budget committee, she is disappointed in the comments and didn't learn a lot. She feels they didn't get as far as they should have. The City Council should have told them about the seriousness of this, the city council needs to work harder at making cuts.

6. Mayor Comments / Announcements / Proclamations

Mayor Holston-read a letter from Mike Rippley from The Sasquatch Duro event.

On June 24, 25 and 26 the Oregon Trail Gravel Grinders will be at Greenwaters Park.

7. Council Comments / Announcements

Councilor Spliethof- there was a business on the 1st Street, the hair salon, they weren't notified in advance of the Sasquatch Duro event and they couldn't get their clients in.

Councilor Kinyon- didn't hear what Nancy Kelly said and asked her to repeat what her comments were regarding the Keg & Cask festival. She thanked everyone who spoke during public comment. She is sad to hear that we have lost volunteers.

Councilor Whitney-followed up on last meeting's fireworks discussion, a couple of years ago there was a fundraiser for fireworks for the city and she asked if there was a follow up on that?

Councilor Hollett- she will reply to this during city council business.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1 Attorney billing

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

Whitney (aye), Spliethof (aye), Bjarnson (aye), Kinyon (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Coker (aye), Hollett (aye). Motion passed 7-0

9. Business from the City Council

Councilor Hollett-addressed the fireworks question, the only money from the city went to the fireworks, the food was donated by Dowell Towing.

10. Business from the City Administrator

10.1 City Administrator Update

10.1.1 Letter of support for Housing Needs Analysis Grant

Bryan- read the issue

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved we approve the letter of support for planning assistance the Department of Land conservation and Development to perform a housing needs analysis. Councilor Whitney seconded the motion.

Mayor Holston (aye), Coker (aye), Bjarnson (aye), Whitney (aye), Spliethof (aye), Kinyon (aye). Motion passed 7-0

10.1.2 Street Closure and alcohol permit application

Bryan-read the issue.

Nancy Kelly-voiced her concerns about alcohol being allowed in the streets.

Amy Kelly-she has spoken with Nancy and listened to her concerns, they are making adjustments and moving the music to the other end of the street. Last year because of COVID they discussed having it at Greenwaters Park, but that is the only reason she brought that up because it is a street festival.

Motion: Councilor Whitney moved we approve the requested street closure and alcohol permit for the Keg & Cask Festival. Councilor Coker seconded the motion.

Kinyon (aye), Hollett (aye), Coker (aye), Spliethof (aye), Bjarnson (aye), Whitney (aye), Mayor Holston (aye). Motion passed 7-0

- 10.2 Finance Director Update-No report
- 10.3 Economic Development Update-No report
- 10.4 Police Update-No report
- 10.5 Fire Department Update-No report
- 10.6 Public Works/Community Services Update-No report

11. Reports of Boards, Commissions and Committees

11.1 RTMP Committee

11.1.1 Recommended Funding Distribution

Bryan-read the issue.

Mayor Holston-the RTMP Committee had very healthy conversations and their decisions to award are what you see in the recommendations.

Councilor Hollett-asked the mayor to explain the rules of non-profit and for-profit organizations.

Mayor Holston-the for-profit organizations can only apply for three years and there is no limit for the non-profit organizations.

Motion: Councilor Whitney moved to approve the RTMP Fund Allocations as recommended by the RTMP Committee. Mayor Holston seconded the motion.

Mayor Holston (aye), Whitney (aye), Coker (aye), Spliethof (aye), Hollett (aye), Kinyon (aye), Bjarnson (aye). Motion passed 7-0

12. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda-None

13. Public Hearings

13.1 Open Public Hearing-Res. 06-2021 Use of State Revenue Sharing Funds-8:19 pm

13.1.1 Statements in Favor

Trudy Hammond-she is in favor of this.

- 13.1.2 Statements if Opposition-None
- 13.1.3 Statements in General-None
- 13.1.4 Close Public Hearing-8:22 pm.
- 13.1.5 Council Discussion

Councilor Coker-she feels this is vital.

Councilor Whitney-she agrees with Councilor Coker.

Councilor Spliethof-he agrees we should do this.

Mayor Holston-asked for conflict of interests.

Councilor Bjarnson-declared a potential conflict of interest, she is on the volunteer roster with the fire department.

Councilor Hollett-declared an actual conflict of interest, her husband is employed by the City of Oakridge under a collective bargaining unit with the union and she will not be voting.

13.2 Open Public hearing-Res. 07-2021 Adoption of the FY 21-22 budget-8:26 pm

Bryan-read the issue.

13.2.1 Statements in Favor-none

13.2.2 Statements in Opposition

Sarah Altemus Pope-it is important that we have budget and that we don't go into furlough. She qualified her statement, she understands the financial emergency we are in. She would like the council to consider looking in to a fire district with Hazeldell, Lowell, Dexter, we have the right skill set for that. She would like to see this go back to the voters through a levy. She does not like a possible three year fee.

Elizabeth Barclay 47501 Hwy 58- award of United States water contract 1939. To the person who came designed the public safety fee, who gave you permission?

Jan Christensen-doesn't feel that she didn't have time to digest the budget, she would like more detail in line items like PERS.

13.2.3 Statements in General

Trudy Hammond-she agrees with Jan and a portion of what Sarah said, she definitely doesn't want the fee for three years.

13.2.4 Close Public Hearing-8:39 pm

13.2.5 Council Discussion

Councilor Coker-her biggest concern is the fee going to be for each motel room, each mobile home and will it include the people outside of city limits?

Mayor Holsten-explained that at this time they are working on adopting the budget, after we pass the budget we will go on to passing the ordinance, if we choose not to pass the ordinance it will have no teeth in the budget.

Bryan-he called the Department of Revenue, if we pass the budget and not the ordinance then we don't have the authority to exercise the fee and then we will do a supplemental budget.

Councilor Kinyon-it would make her uncomfortable passing a budget not knowing about the fee. When would we do a supplemental budget? We need to discuss what our other options are and she has a statement that she wants to read regarding that.

Mayor Holston-we would start the supplemental budget ASAP, it is not going to be an easy one to do. The budget will come into effect on July 1 and then we would do the supplemental budget. If we don't pass the budget come July 1st nothing opens, no police, fire, nothing and she doesn't want to put her community through that.

Councilor Spliethof-where does the fee go? He here's a lot of people saying it is only for the ambulance.

Mayor Holston-right now we are working on the budget, if you want to stop this and move on to the fee which is next.

Bryan-there is a reason there is only the first reading of the ordinance because he wanted people to have time to digest it.

Councilor Spliethof-is this considered a false budget?

Mayor Holston-no it is not, you are reading the chat.

Bryan-he can only tell you what the Department of Revenue told him and that is way it is set up here is fine.

Councilor Kinyon-we should discuss this in the budget portion.

Mayor Holston-we are in the budget portion.

Bryan- Can we just move on the 14.1, the adoption of the budget includes three different issues.

14. Ordinances, Resolutions and Public Comments

14.1 Resolution 05-2021 Certifying Municipal Services

Bryan-read the issue.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved to adopt Resolution 05-2021 certifying the City of Oakridge provides four or more of required municipal services be eligible for state funding. Councilor Whitney seconded the motion.

Whitney (aye), Spliethof (aye), Bjarnson (aye), Coker (aye), Coker (aye), Mayor Holston (aye), Kinyon (aye). Motion passed 6-0

14.2 Resolution 06-2021 Election to Receive State shared Revenues

Bryan-read the issue.

Councilor Kinyon-what is the extra line for state revenue sharing on line 29.

Eric-he can't look at this right now because of being on zoom.

Mayor Holston-it is the state revenue sharing, it depends on each city's population, but she'd like to hear the formal answer.

Motion: Councilor Kinyon moved we adopt Resolution 06-2021, declaring the City's election receive state revenues. Councilor Spliethof seconded the motion.

Councilor Hollett-declared an actual conflict of interest, her husband is employed by the City of Oakridge under a collective bargaining unit through the IAFF union and she will not be voting.

Councilor Bjarnson-declared a potential conflict of interest, she is on the volunteer roster with the fire department.

Mayor Holston (aye), Coker (aye), Kinyon (aye), Bjarnson (aye), Whitney (aye), Spliethof (Aye). Motion passed 6-0

Mayor Holston-it is 9:00 do we want to move forward in 30 minute increments.

The council agreed with a five minute break starting at 9:04 pm

Begin regular session 9:10 pm

14.3 Resolution 07-2021 Adoption of the FY 2021-2022 budget

Bryan-read the issue

Motion: Councilor Whitney moved that we approve Resolution 07-2021 adopting the FY 2021-2022 Budget in the amount of \$8,000,954 and making appropriations and imposing and categorizing taxes. Mayor Holston seconded the motion.

Councilor Hollett-declared an actual conflict of interest, her husband is employed by the City of Oakridge under a collective bargaining unit through the IAFF union and she will not be voting.

Councilor Bjarnson-declared a potential conflict of interest, she is on the volunteer roster with the fire department.

Councilor Kinyon-read a statement.

Councilor Spliethof-why are we transferring funds from the ambulance fund to the fire department if it is supporting itself.

Councilor Kinyon-we do not transfer money from the ambulance fund to the fire department, the only transfers made to fire come from the general fund.

Mayor Holston-no one is pointing fingers at the fire department, we have discussed this in the budget committee. The budget committee passed this budget to move to the city council. The questions that we all had got answered, they might not have been the answers that we wanted. We have been looking at this for two months and we have all made suggestions, in the end the budget committee moved this on to the council.

Aric-told Councilor Spliethof \$565,000 is transferred from the general fund and the remainder of what is transferred is from contract services and ambulance bills.

Councilor Bjarnson-she is uncomfortable passing the budget with this fee in it, we haven't really discussed this since we moved it to council. She feels like the budget committee should have discussed it more. Her concern is we have a little bit of time, what Bryan is saying from the department of Revenue she would like to see that in writing, she wants verification.

Mayor Holston-to say that our City Administrator would willingly lie to us or misrepresent something that was said to him from the state is unequivocally denied at this point. It is inappropriate to suggest that you have to have it in writing in order to believe what he has to say. She fervently would say that this is very out of line.

Councilor Bjarnson-she is not implying that the city administrator is untrustworthy or not to be trusted. In past budget seasons that she has been a part of they have been told things about the budget that didn't happen. This was not an attack on Bryan.

Councilor Kinyon-she agrees with Councilor Bjarnson, she still have ten days and she wants the time to mull this over and decide if she wants to make this decision.

Councilor Coker-she agrees as well, she is not comfortable passing the budget with the fee involved.

Mayor Holston-it is 9:31 it sounds like we need to close this meeting to have time to verify statements and take another look at this.

Bryan-the only this is if we make changes to this budget that increase it by more than 10% we have to do another public hearing.

Mayor Holston-with the agreement of council we will meet on the 21st to meet and reopen this so we can all feel comfortable with going forward.

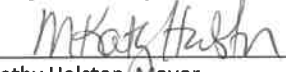
14.4 Ordinance 937 Establishment of a Public Safety Fee-First Reading

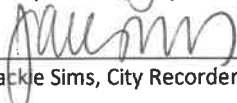
14.5 Resolution 08-2021 FY 2021-2022 Schedule of Fees

15. **Appointments**-None

16. **Public Comment**-None

17. **Adjourn- 9:35 p.m.**

Signed: 
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: 
Jackie Sims, City Recorder