



August 5, 2021
City Council Regular/Work Session (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 Bobbie Whitney, Michele Coker, Melissa Bjarnson, Audy Spliethof, Dawn Kinyon and Chrissy Hollett

Staff Present: 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

Councilor Spliethof-would like the Chief to provide a fire briefing

5. Public Comment

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- welcomed the new owners of Rascal's Market

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Attorney billing statement – May 2021

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

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

Councilor Spliethof-wanted to send Dillon a thank you letter for cleaning up around the forests and taking it to the dump all on his dime.

Councilor Bjarnson- read a statement from the Ethics Commission (See attached)

Councilor Hollett- read a statement from the Ethics Commission

Councilor Kinyon-she reached out to the Ethics Commission about whether or not April Allen should declare a conflict of interest because of the rental she lives in for the work that she does for the city. They mentioned that they could come to Oakridge and provide free conflict of interest training if we wanted them to.

7. Business from City Administrator

7.1 OLCC Permit

Motion: Councilor Spliethof moved we recommend the OLCC Liquor License for Rasca's Market be approved. Councilor Whitney seconded the motion.

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

7.2 Lowell Law Enforcement Intergovernmental Agreement

Motion: Councilor Whitney moved we approve the Intergovernmental Agreement to provide police protection services to the City of Lowell at a rate of \$30,415.25 for fiscal year 2022. Councilor Coker seconded the motion.

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

Fire Update-

Chief Martin-gave an update on the Kwis Fire. They are kind of in the mop up status, it has grown a little to the east.

Mayor Holston-wanted to discuss solutions, what can we do as a community to help burned homes, derelict homes etc.

Councilor Kinyon-wants the council to create a report on court fines and how much we actually bring in from the fines with the payments plans and regular payments. Do you automatically get a payment plan or do you apply? Can the city pool money to help these people?

Chief Martin-the way our court systems work is that if you cannot afford the violations you don't have to pay the fines. Pat Melendy our City Prosecutor could explain all of this better, he could come and explain how this works to the council.

Councilor Hollett-she would like to the council to meet with Mr. Melendy and hear his ideas, we should take advantage of his expertise.

Chief Martin-suggested a work session, we should all work together to try to solve this problem.

Mayor Holston-asked if any councilor would like to contact LOC to see how other cities help one another out to meet codes?

Councilor Whitney-she will contact LOC. She would like to know more about the offenders like the demographics, knowing who our frequent fliers are, through her job they can help someone with a onetime payment.

Mayor Holston-we will have a work session in September to discuss this.

Public Comment-

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry Street- she knows a person who can help with small community clean ups.

Mayor Holston-asked Trudy to forward his information to her.

Adjourn-7:53 pm

8. ***Begin Work Session***

8.1 Review of FY21 Revenues vs. Expenditures

Eric- reviewed the email he sent out.

Councilor Hollett-declared an actual conflict of interest, her husband is an employee with the City of Oakridge under a collective bargaining agreement.

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

Eric-continued his presentation. We need to remove the grant money from the General Fund. He will have binders for the grants and how they are used that you can look at.

8.2 Finance Director Comments and
8.3 Supplemental Budget Discussion

Eric-you need to keep in mind the seriousness of this \$630,000 deficit.

Mayor Holston-will our deficit be more next year?

Eric-the deficit will not be \$630,000 the goal is to keep the pressure on and figure out ways to get more revenue, we need to start now and be proactive.

Councilor Kinyon-have we received any of the American Rescue Plan money?

Eric-he got an email, he thinks they are starting to send the money out, they asked him to transfer it to the LGIP account.

Councilor Spliethof-you say we are in a deficit of \$630,000, if we reduce it down to \$281,000 then what do we do next year, have layoffs?

Eric-that's right, the easiest way is to lay people off unfortunately, this is why he is bringing this up now.

Councilor Biarnson-she likes the idea of a levy for the public safety fee, that way we can have the citizen's votes.

Councilor Spliethof-we need to have a work session to go over this and see where we can reduce.

Mayor Holston-we have done that, do you feel you have not had enough time?

Councilor Spliethof-I have but...

Mayor Holston-we reduced travel/training, training in general, parks, PW, Library. We are at the point where we don't anything else to reduce. We can do a Public Safety Fee or personnel, tell me what you want to see.

Councilor Spliethof-if we do a \$15.00 fee will we still have to do another supplemental budget?

Eric-if this is the amount of the deficit then it would be a \$16.00 fee to make it up. He wanted to point out that the last supplemental budget had the public safety fee that had the entire deficit made up, Bryan had already worked that out line by line in the supplemental budget which all the council members have seen.

Mayor Holston-the supplemental budget took care of that deficit.

Eric-you can do a blend too, make supplemental cuts and the public safety fee.

Councilor Spliethof-he would hate to see anyone lose their jobs, when it comes down to it we don't really have any other choice, if the \$16.00 public safety fee would meet the budget then he'd like to see the wording on that cleaned up because it was confusing.

Mayor Holston-she agrees, that language needs to be clear and cleaned up.

Councilor Spliethof-he hates the fee, but he doesn't want to see people get laid off.

Councilor Kinyon-Bryan's original suggestions for the first supplemental that he proposed were going to be enough to make enough of a difference with the \$31.00 fee, she would like to see what the proposal would be for the cuts to equate to a \$16.00 fee.

Eric-the original supplemental budget that Bryan and I worked on about a month or so ago after the public safety fee failed was cutting out all of the requirements needed to make up for the public safety fee by reducing peoples hours and being as drastic as

we need to be. He has not prepared any other supplemental budgets besides that one. How come the council which is in charge of the fiscal responsibility for the city is not making those cuts, you guys have really strong opinions so you should be making the cuts. Why do you give it to Bryan, he is trying to understand the logic.

Councilor Kinyon-because in her opinion it's because Bryan tells us it's his job, he is the one who told us how things were going to happen.

Eric-that was after the budget committee didn't make the cuts that were required, the budget committee knew they weren't going to pass the public safety fee, the budget committee should have made those cuts and then presented that budget to the council.

Councilor Kinyon-yes we really should have done that, but a motion was made to move it to the council and it passed.

Eric-it just seems to him efficiency wise, if the council were to figure this out there wouldn't be the back and forth. It's important that this supplemental and this issue gets taken care of.

Councilor Kinyon-she agrees and as she pointed out before, and why we are here today is because she wants to know what an actual number is that we need to be working on. She was not prepared to make cuts until right now when she found out what the number is that we are working with.

Eric-so now you guys know.

Councilor Coker-we all know that cuts need to be made, we are talking about cuts in one area and we need to be looking at cuts in other areas too.

Mayor Holston-she agrees with Eric that council needs to be more pro-active as to where these cuts are going to be and are willing to do that. The City Administrator is continuing to have negotiations with the unions and they are open to that. We need to do our part. Are we all comfortable with the numbers we have, do you understand that what we are looking at is to come up with this \$287,623 for our supplemental budget.

Councilor Coker-she is comfortable with these numbers.

Councilor Spliethof- if we do the fee, would we still have to make cuts?

Eric-it should take care of the cuts.

Councilor Coker-would this bring back admin at city hall on Fridays?

Eric-he is 90% sure it would bring them back.

Councilor Whitney-she is good with the numbers, she is more interested in the \$16.00 fee and getting more information on that. It's important that we keep as many services as we can, we need all hands on deck. She likes Melissa's idea for a special election public safety levy.

Councilor Bjarnson-she is comfortable with the numbers and she understands them.

Eric-he knows this public safety fee is a big thing to those on council and everyone who lives in Oakridge, he gets that. Maybe the council should determine what the public safety fee should be, what is reasonable and figure out how much revenue would come in from that and then figure out what cuts are required to make up the remaining deficit.

Mayor Holston-she would like to see a way to gain more income from our visitors and recreation.

Mayor Holston-what she is hearing is that we want to have a work session early in the week.

There will be a work session on Tuesday August 10th at 6:00 pm.

9. *****End Work Session*****

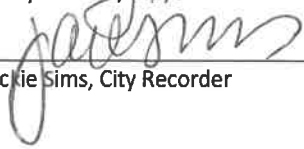
10. Public Comment

11. Adjourn- 9:12 pm

Signed: _____


Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: _____


Jackie Sims, City Recorder