



September 2, 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: City Administrator Bryan Cutchen, Finance Director Eric Kytola, Police Chief Kevin Martin and City Recorder Jackie Sims

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call-Councilor Hollett joined the meeting at 7:12 pm

4. Additions, corrections or adjustments to the agenda

5. Public Comment

Trudy Hammond 47752 Berry St- commends the council on their hard work and hard decisions.

Dan Barclay 47501 Hwy 58- there should be an apology for the way council has treated each other and for their misconduct while making a sincere effort to do better.

6. Mayors Comments / Announcements / Proclamation

Mayor Holston-she gave a brief fire update; they are very professional and organized.

7. Council Comments / Announcements

Councilor Whitney- wanted to acknowledge an email the council received from one of our Patrol Officers, Valerie Miller, and would like it entered into the record.

Councilor Spliethof- gave a shout out to the fire fighters and helicopter operators, they were giving tours of the helicopters.

Councilor Hollett-just arrived, asked if we had public comment yet and if Jan Hooker spoke? Councilor Hollett read a question from Jan Hooker. She will put this in writing and send it to Bryan and Chief Martin.

Bryan-they will respond at the next meeting.

8. Consent Agenda-None

9. Business from the City Council

Mayor Holston-the Oregon Legislature is redistricting, possibly our district will be redrawn where we will be in with Eugene and Portland. We want to stay in a more rural district. Mayors are encouraged with city council approval to send letters to stay in a rural area. The hearings are next week on Thursday.

The council all agreed they want to stay in a rural area.

Mayor Holston-the Great Willamette Cleanup is coming up and we need to decide on a date, Westfir is doing theirs October 9th.

We have a citizen who is concerned about the lack of masking in our local businesses. You can go to the OSHA website and report businesses who are not following the mandate.

10. Business from the City Administrator

10.1 CA Update

Bryan- CIS inspection conducted a wildfire risk assessment. Due to the degraded material condition, they are dropping the property insurance on the WAC. We are appealing the decision with the assistance of the city insurance broker.

We have had a positive Covid test in the admin department, for right now we can maintain regular hours, but he is not sure how long.

There was a report of someone dumping gray water in the wrong manhole at public works. Investigating what reporting is required and my whom.

We did receive the \$374,000 ARPA money, Bryan and Eric will a expenditure decision package to another council meeting.

Mayor Holston-asked Bryan about the ethics training from CIS.

Bryan-it is about harassment prevention and the instructor would prefer to do it in person. It will be given at a later date.

11. Reports of Boards, Commissions and Committees-None

12. Items removed from the Consent Agenda-None

13. Ordinances, Resolutions and Public Comments

13.1 Ordinance 937 Adopting a Public Safety Fee and Effective Date

Mayor Holston-she would like to have discussion before we have a motion. She read to the council the cuts that were being recommended by the city administrator.

Councilor Kinyon-we haven't seen all of that in a proposed supplemental budget.

Bryan-he can't produce an accurate supplemental budget to consider without an anticipated revenue figure.

Councilor Kinyon- read an analysis that she came up with. (See attached)

Bryan-how anyone thinks the city doesn't have a significant problem and can just kick the can another year he doesn't understand. It's a council decision, he'd like to see your analysis, and he would have liked to have seen it ahead of time.

Mayor Holston-at every meeting we ask if everybody is satisfied with the numbers and then we come back with not being satisfied. Councilor Kinyon's analysis was very well put together, your numbers brought it down to only needing \$48,000.

Councilor Kinyon-that didn't include the \$32,000 from the 32 hour work weeks so that brought it down to \$14,000.

Mayor Holston-you think our shortfall is only \$14,000?

Councilor Kinyon-yes and we can borrow from wastewater or water like we have done.

Mayor Holston- that number doesn't match what our finance director and CA say, we need to check the numbers, that's just too far apart and it needs more analysis. Something has been missed.

Councilor Kinyon-we did discuss this at the August 5th meeting, the significant portion of what the city administrator is asking us to ignore and go back to the \$540,000 number.

Bryan- understand that the beginning balances include the \$374,000 ARPA funding that you can't apply all of that to daily operational expenses.

Mayor Holston-what she hears councilor Kinyon saying is that the numbers we have been given are not accurate and are not legitimate and that has been your push the whole time and they really need to be explained. Yet we have heard them explained over and over again, at some point we have to do something about this. It concerns her that your numbers are so consistently different from what our finance director is putting together and showing us.

Councilor Whitney-she doesn't even know what to say, we aren't listening to our hired professionals. She feels that we need a fee and wants to move forward, she is very frustrated.

Councilor Spliethof-he would like to see Dawn's information, it is taken right out of the budget, and he would like for Dawn and Eric to get together and go over the numbers and bring back to the council.

Councilor Bjarnson-it's time to make a compromise, she agrees with Bobbie that we need to move this forward, what we have left is too much to lose. She apologized for her misunderstandings and the politicizing.

Mayor Holston-our finance director is a professional, he is not bringing us false numbers. At this point because the numbers are so far apart we have to have some common ground. The level of distrust in our community is tenuous. As we move forward we need compromise and to agree on what basis that solution is. What should the public safety fee be? The fee turns into money and a paycheck. She has faith in the numbers from the city administrator.

Bryan-read the issue.

Motion: Councilor Spliethof moved that we do not adopt Ordinance 937, Adopting a Public Safety Fee and establishing an effective date. Councilor Kinyon seconded the motion.

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

Councilor Hollett-declared an actual conflict of interest, her husband works for the City of Oakridge under a collective bargaining unit.

Councilor Whitney-she wanted to express her extreme frustration

Spliethof (aye), Bjarnson (nay), Kinyon (aye), Coker (nay), Mayor Holston (nay), Whitney (nay). Motion failed 2-4

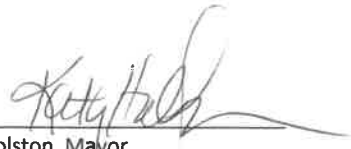
13.2 Resolution 09-2021 Establishing the FY 21-22 Public Safety Fee

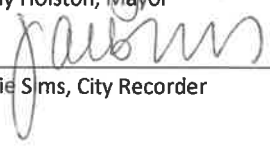
13.3 Resolution 11-2021 City of Oakridge Employee Handbook

Motion: I move to adopt the City of Oakridge 2021 Employee Handbook. Councilor Coker seconded the motion.

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

- 14. Public Hearings
- 15. Appointments
- 16. Public Comment
- 17. Adjourn

Signed: 
Kathy Holston, Mayor

Signed: 
Jackie Sims, City Recorder