

JULY 5, 2017

Following the public hearing the Gearhart City Council meeting was called to order on Wednesday July 5, 2017 at 9:14 p.m. by Mayor Matt Brown. Present were Councilor Lorain, Councilor Jesse, Councilor Smith, Mayor Brown, Councilor Cockrum, City Attorney Peter Watts, City Administrator Chad Sweet and City Treasurer Gail Como.

Mayor Brown advised we will be adding to the agenda an additional 3 minute opportunity for visitors to speak after new business if Council agrees and they did 4-1.

Council agreed to extend the council meeting past 10 pm.

Councilor Jesse stated he is the liaison between the City and Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Club and advised he has had communications about tonight's presentation and even though it may not be a conflict of interest he wanted it stated.

Councilor Cockrum suggested deleting two words from the June 7, 2017 minutes. ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Lorain to approve the minutes for the City Council meeting on June 7, 2017 as amended, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Each member of Council was given a copy of the Police report, Fire Dept. report, Planning Commission report and City Treasurer report.

Councilor Lorain reported there will be a Fire Hall Committee meeting on Monday July 10, 2017 at 6:45 pm.

Councilor Smith reported the final Dune Vegetation meeting is July 7, 2017.

Councilor Cockrum reported CERT purchased 6 radios for communications in a disaster.

City Attorney advised there was no appeal for the LUBA decision.

City Administrator Chad Sweet advised there will be a public hearing for the Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) on Thursday July 13, 2017 at 6 pm. at the Planning Commission meeting.

Chief Bowman reported the 4th of July parade went well but he had a lot of people unhappy with the changes to the parade route and he stated he has been the parade chairman for 23 years but he officially resigned as chairman effective tonight which dissolves the parade committee.

John Green 1250 N. Ocean read a letter regarding dune vegetation. (see attached)

Margaret Green P.O. Box 2597 advised the date is cut off of the emails in the council packet.

Dianne Widdop read her letter regarding “whose quality of life”(see attached) and she stated if you pass the measure tonight, to place this on the ballot, then she plans to activate a PAC (political action committee) and once a measure number is assigned she will take it the Secretary of State’s Office.

Jeannie Mark P.O. Box 2627 welcomes taking the initiative to the voters that will allow the time to educate people about Ordinance #901 on how well written it is and how well it is working for the City of Gearhart. One of the main principals behind the glossy mailer is to maintain the quality of life in our city is David Townsend a California political strategist who, with a group of outside investment property owners, sponsored this initiative to repeal and replace our current STR laws. Their ordinance calls for unlimited rentals and no regulations, turning Gearhart into a commercial property community while they make more profit; it is about the quality of life of their bank accounts. We have a comprehensive plan and zoning laws that guide the city on making decisions. The comp plan on page one says: **“The City will recognize the importance of the cities residential neighborhoods and the need to protect them from the negative impacts of the transient rental of property and to discourage increased levels of traffic and similar disruptions.”** Ms. Marks advised a no for their initiative will put this to rest.

Sharon Kloepfer P.O. Box 2512 reported that 3 lots were mowed south of Pacific Way, behind the houses, all the way to the fire road. Ms. Kloepfer reported they broke the city zone laws by mowing 80 to 90% of the grass, and also it is nesting season which is not a good time to do that and she asked that more attention be paid to monitoring and enforcing city laws.

Dana Gandy President of Sunset Empire Radio Club described their group as retired military, retired engineers and tech. people interested in community service, emergency service and emergency service communications Mr. Gandy advised the group would like to put a radio repeater at the Gearhart water tower on Salminen Lane and thought it is an outstanding location about 190 feet above sea level. Mr. Gandy advised there is not much burden to the city but they ask for the city to place a water proof hut or conex box, bring power to it and place a pole on site.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Cockrum to engage Dennis Conner as the auditor for the City, MOTION was approved 5-0.

City Council discussed the initiative and the options. ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Lorain to reject the initiative and submit the measure to the city voters at the next election, MOTION was unanimously approved 5-0.

Bill Berg thanked and commended all of you for the vote you just took and with that you are a part of a tradition that is 100 years old of resisting the greed of the speculators who want to create a gold mine out of their own property and that is why we are the City of Gearhart because in every case the City Council has opposed it and that is why we have survived as a community, so thank-you.

Jeannie Marks advised now that you have voted this way and now that a measure number will be issued we can formally be a PAC (political action committee) and educate the people and support the Council and ORDINANCE #901.


Councilor Jesse questioned if we should put on the ballot, a change the charter, to allow an additional visitor comment section. Mr. Sweet advised the deadline for putting anything on the ballot is August 10th.

Councilor Smith thanked Sharon Kloepfer for mentioning that lots are being mowed in the dunes.

The City Council scheduled a work session for Tuesday July 18, 2017 at 7 pm at City Hall.

Councilor Cockrum requested money for CERT to purchase extra battery packs for the new radios. ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Lorain to give CERT the money, MOTION was approved 5-0.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.



Mayor Matt Brown



Chad Sweet, City Administrator