

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 22, 2020

The Special Meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, December 22nd, 2020, online via Go-To-Meeting using a computer, a tablet or a smartphone. Citizens could also join the meeting by calling in on a landline telephone. Mayor Paulina Cockrum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Cockrum, Council President Smith, Councilor Fackerell, Councilor Warren, City Attorney Peter Watts, and Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker.

Councilor Jesse declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the old business discussion agenda item as a Gearhart business owner.

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the December 2nd, 2020 City Council regular meeting minutes; MOTION approved 5-0.

ON MOTION by Council President Smith, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the December 16th, 2020 Special City Council meeting minutes; MOTION approved 4-0, 1 abstention.

No correspondence was received prior to or during the meeting.

No visitors were signed up or requested to comment.

Mayor Cockrum advised the purpose of old business was to have a final discussion on the allocation of the \$40,000 federal CARES Act funds for small businesses in Gearhart. She summarized the staff report and read the recommendation, legal analysis, and financial analysis aloud. She stated 25 applications were received and one withdrawn; was there a motion to open discussion? Council President Kerry Smith motioned to open discussion.

Council President Kerry Smith felt all 24 applicants were businesses affected by COVID and that Council should accept all 24 and divide the money accordingly at a calculation of \$1,666.67 each.

Councilor Fackerell questioned whether more than 20 applicants could be awarded per verbiage on the application. City Attorney Peter Watts advised that the “20 applicants up to \$2,000” was a placeholder and there was significant flexibility with how Council chooses to spend the funds.

Councilor Warren questioned the business owner who applied twice. Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker confirmed that there are in fact two separate restaurants, locations, business licenses and FEINs. Ms. Ficker confirmed that if awarded, the application missing the Federal Employment Identification Number would be obtained.

Councilor Warren also asked if the City could re-allocate part of the \$10,000 CARES funds the City was retaining to award all the applicants. Ms. Ficker explained that the \$10,000 had already been spent and submitted for reimbursement. General funds would need to make up the difference if the Council awarded all 24 applicants. Council President Smith expressed concern over using general fund dollars with being behind in the budget due to outstanding wildfire task force reimbursement.

Mayor Cockrum voiced support for the option to award all 24 at \$1,666.67 each. Councilor Fackerell stated she originally supported all \$50,000 in CARES funds going to the small businesses. She suggested all 24 applicants be awarded \$2,000 each and the City make up the difference. Councilor Warren supported the suggestion feeling there is room in the budget.

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to remove \$8,000 from

the City budget to provide for the COVID Relief Fund for small businesses, so that every business that applied will be eligible for \$2,000. Mayor Cockrum asked, was there any further discussion? No further discussion. MOTION passed 4-0, 1 abstention.

Upon final check, still no request to comment from visitors.

Mayor Cockrum questioned check preparation. Ms. Ficker advised checks would be prepared in the morning for distribution after the lunch hour. All Councilors volunteered to help deliver checks. Councilor Smith declined to wear a Santa hat. :)

Councilor Warren questioned the need for an acknowledgement form. Mr. Watts advised we keep it as simple as possible but yes, they should sign for receipt of the check. He also reminded those delivering to urge the importance of cashing the checks as soon as possible to avoid the need for a legal argument over whether or not the City spent the funds.

Mayor Cockrum asked if anything further on the subject? Nothing further.

ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to adjourn the meeting;
MOTION approved 5-0. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.



Mayor Paulina Cockrum



Kerry Smith, Council President