

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
7:12 pm Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, May 5, 2021, online via Go-To-Meeting, using an accessible electronic device. Individuals could also join the meeting by dialing in on a landline telephone.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dan Jesse, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, City Attorney Peter Watts, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present. Mayor Cockrum gave a welcome and went over visitor instructions.

There was no conflict of interest declared by any member of Council.

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 Regular meeting of the City Council, as well as, the April 12, 2021 Special Meeting of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5-0.

The Council received a Planning Commission report in their council packet prepared by Virginia Dideum, Planning Commission President. Councilor Fackerell requested clarification on the Banta Land Partition waiver. City Attorney Watts discussed process and waiver information.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Cockrum presented her report. Her presentation included information on:

- Quarter Mile Challenge. An update on the progress of Berkley Sturgell's quest to help fund a children's playground in Gearhart. To date, funds raised appear to be around \$19,065. A playground vendor from Portland has emphasized the importance of inclusiveness. Noise concerns have been brought up in terms of location.
- A plea to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are widely available and will stop community spread.
- Fourth of July Parade. Prioritize safety. There should be a focus on social distancing, masks and crowd control. Planning is still in the early planning stages. City will need to keep current on State mandates.

- Parks Master Plan Committee. Reviewing data provided by the survey. The group responses indicate that the City's proposal is on the right track. The map of responses shows that residents on the east side of highway 101 did not actively participate. Perhaps doing more outreach or an open house to these areas may be beneficial.
- CERT members. James Hutchinson has been helping out with the CERT program. Group will start meeting in the firehall.

Councilor's Reports: Mayor Cockrum opened discussion for each Council member's report.

- Councilor Smith provided information on Homeless program development. He has been in discussions with Police Chief Jeff Bowman. City will need to continue to be aware of State legislation that may significantly impact homeless requirements and look for information from City Attorney Watts. There is still ongoing discussion to update parking ordinance.
- Councilor Fackerell discussed her involvement in gathering information in regards to Tree City, USA. She has been waiting on a manual that covers guidelines, parameters and goals for cities to participate in the program. She stressed that Gearhart's current focus is on heritage trees and does not feel a micro-managed program is an objective.
- Councilor Jesse had no new information to report.
- Councilor Warren discussed the Small Business Committee. He discussed the process of potentially adding new applicants and the decision of the Committee to delay adding new members. They did have three applicants and Jenny Frank was going to send a thank you applicant letter. He also discussed survey information and the goal to present information to the Council next month.

City Officer Reports

- Chief of Police. Although Chief Bowman was not present, information had been sent to the Council in advance.
- Fire Chief. Information had also been sent to the Council in advance. Mayor Cockrum clarified working on the fire report submitted regarding clarification on the terminology "no aid given." It does not mean that the fire department did not provide assistance. She also introduced Interim Chief Josh Como. Interim Chief Como gave some personal background information. He discussed some local calls (structure fire, vehicle fire); the lucas device, which had financial support from the LightHouse Church; and assistance provided to other county fire districts. There are agreements amongst all county departments to provide support to each other in times of need. He also provided clarification on the call log and stressed that local staff does provide

patient care until the medix arrives. Other things he mentioned are mental health awareness, water rescue maintenance on vehicles. Chief Como welcomes questions and concerns anytime.

- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors packet. No additional information was presented.
- City Attorney. Attorney Watts discussed a potential litigation situation in regards to a water issue. The City's insurance provider, CIS, has assigned an attorney and will be handling the case. City is sympathetic to the homeowner and Attorney Watts clarified that there is no easy solution based on the circumstances. He discussed HB 3115 that is currently in legislation. It is relating to the regulation of public property with respect to homelessness. He focused on the terminology in the bill associated with public property that is open to the public that must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness. When looking at implementing any programs or regulations, the focus should be on health and safety of people, both housed and non-housed. City needs to keep everyone safe. There was also discussion on the Cottage property in relation to the new fire station location. Attorney Watts discussed progress on a property agreement, which will be reviewed by the Council. There has been exploration on hiring planners, need for urban growth boundary reasonable location studies, and getting an independent perspective.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Council in advance. Chad Sweet mentioned that the City was looking at geotechnical companies and architects to provide support to the exploration of the new fire station location. He clarified that he would be working on additional information regarding the fire revenues/expenditures. He discussed the hope for a Fourth of July celebration and how the focus would be on safety. He solicited volunteers and welcomed any support. He went over code enforcement (trees, building permits, requests on property use, neighbor issues). Other topics he covered were: Budget committee members; American Rescue Plan potential revenues; Gail Como officially retiring as City Treasurer; Pipe extension; fire station update; Ridge path; Noise; Homelessness; Signs for contractors around town; Classical music concerts in Lesley Miller Dunes Meadow Park; and financial audit.

Correspondence. There were two items. One email from Bob Morey with a subject of "Park at the former Gearhart Elementary School" and John Nagle regarding Gearhart's Small Business Committee. Councilor Warren was given approval to respond to Mr. Nagle's inquiry.

Visitors. Dave Larmouth, Recology Western Oregon, discussed rate reviews for the upcoming year. Rates will remain the same with no increases scheduled. In relationship to his organization, he discussed

the COVID pandemic impacts and solutions. Please feel free to contact him but note that email correspondence is currently the best way to communicate. Mayor Cockrum individually asked other participants if they had any comments, no responses.

Ordinance/Resolutions, no active business during this meeting.

Old Business, no active business during this meeting.

New Business, no active business during this meeting.

Feedback, Mayor Cockrum did a participate roll call but no responses.

Council Concerns. Councilor Fackerell expressed concern over wildlife damage to property. She was not requesting any action. Councilor Jesse had no concerns. Councilor Smith had no concerns. He requested acknowledgement that he was not the only person who had expressed interest in exploring the Cottage property. He stated that Mayor Cockrum also expressed interest. Councilor Warren was interested in any information pertaining to Gearhart having its own USPS zip code. He is interested in the process. He also noted that the small business survey mentioned that there is a lack of affordable housing, which has a negative impact on local businesses attracting and retaining employees. Attorney Watts mentioned that data from the US Census may reveal information for the City. He felt that reviewing the housing data over the last five years may have beneficial information and that a new housing needs analysis may be needed.

Mayor Cockrum thanked all the participants.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Cockrum with no further business, adjourned the regular Council meeting at 8:21 pm.



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



Mayor Paulina Cockrum