

CITY OF GEARHART  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
7:00 pm Virtual via Zoom

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, June 2, 2021, online via Zoom, using an accessible electronic device. Individuals could also join the meeting by dialing in on a telephone.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.

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

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2021 Regular 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. Mayor Cockrum opened discussion for questions and/or comments, there were none.

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

- The passing of community member Bill Berg. After talking with his family and to honor his wishes, there is no formal memorial planned. There may be a desire to explore a bench.
- Parks Master Planning Committee continues to work and have discussions on drafted general policies. The target is to bring something to the Council in either the September or October meeting; and, complete the objectives by November.
- CERT team update.
- Playground equipment update. City will continue to explore and track different vendors. To date, funds raised appear to be around \$30,000.
- Received correspondence from the City of Seaside in regard to an invitation to their Prom Centennial in August. Plan is to attend this celebration.

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

- Councilor Fackerell did not have a specific report; however, would like to meet with Mayor Cockrum regarding the overlapping Tree City project with the City's parks master plan.
- Councilor Warren discussed the progress of the Small Business Committee report that will be presented to the City Council. The committee is requesting more time. They have experienced some obstacles that require them additional time to prepare (i.e., scheduling conflicts).
- Councilor Jesse had no new information to report.
- Councilor Smith discussed the LOC teleconference on Shelter and Homelessness. There is a clear difference between the directional needs of larger and smaller jurisdictions. The recommendation is to continue discussion with Chief Bowman and wait to see the outcome of the State's house bill around homelessness.

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Although Chief Bowman was not present, information had been sent to the Council in advance. Councilor Fackerell commented that it would be beneficial to have City Police staff be able to answer questions about the reports submitted (i.e., specifically this month several unresolved thefts). Mayor Cockrum had the same question regarding the report.
- Fire Chief. Interim Chief Josh Como presented information to the Council. He discussed the increase in call numbers this year versus previous years. CERT team is regrouping and moving forward with objectives. Last month's priority and focus was on Mental Health Awareness. Fire department worked with a local Chaplin organization. Also, starting to focus on wildfire preparedness with notification through social media and community outreach. Priorities are in making sure personal protective equipment (PPE) needs are adequate as the wildfire season gets started. Water rescue continues to be a developing program. City of Gearhart department will continue collaboration and training with the City of Seaside until they are able to be independent. Any questions, comments or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the fire department. Mayor Cockrum asked for clarification on the type of social media platforms used. It was clarified mainly on Facebook and Instagram. Councilor Smith asked for clarification on the number of calls last month that were considered medical. Chief Como stated that in the last three years about 52-54% and he felt like the number was probably consistently around 50/50. He was able to comment that of the 68 emergency responses last month, 39 were medical related.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. Treasurer Hill thanked the continued support of city staff. There was brief discussion on the process of the refinancing of current debt service and the need to move the Road District page to the end of the budget. Road

District needs independent resolution and notices. No financial numbers will be impacted by the restructuring of pages in the budget. Councilor Smith expressed the need for clarification on the breakdown of regular fire department expenditures and reimbursed emergency State deployment expenditures. They are currently merged in actual expenditures. There was discussion on the need to separate these expenditures for transparency. He also noted that there are budget appropriation requirements that need to be followed when working with budget law. Treasurer Hill acknowledged there were mandatory requirements. Councilor Fackereil had comments on short-term rental transit tax. Councilor Jesse commented on water collections. Councilor Warren asked for clarifying information on the Gearhart Road District.

- City Attorney. Attorney Watts discussed the current process in terms of the exploration of a new fire station. He discussed the agreement requirements and the additional information from the title company and surveyor that is needed. Current property owners are supportive and collaborative. The new potential site has the advantage of elevation, would provide a safe place for emergency response equipment; as well as a place for citizens to come in case of a catastrophic event. Attorney Watts gave an update on legal issues (i.e., Smith property and the water pipe issue). He also commented that across the State of Oregon, rural destination locations have seen short-term rental occupancy increase during COVID.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Council in advance. Administrator Sweet gave an update on the playground equipment and quarter challenge. He gave a fire station update and expressed the desire to move forward with voter approval in November. There is a mandatory August filing deadline. Administrator Sweet discussed the Ridge Path project and volunteers. He also mentioned the need for a special council meeting June 8. Mayor Cockrum mentioned the Fourth of July parade and the goal to have it this year. There was discussion on the need to follow current COVID guidelines, fire fighters serving hot dogs and the community being able to enjoy our City. Administrator Sweet mentioned that public works has been busy due to water consumption being higher. There was clarification that the increased water usage was not the reason for the recent replacement work on water equipment. He also clarified that there will likely be a campaign to start water conservation plans as outlined by the water master plan. There were additional comments on water production, cost of water and revenues being up.

Correspondence. There was none.

Visitors. Mayor Cockrum went over visitor instructions. Mayor Cockrum individually asked other participants if they had any comments. Jack Zimmerman, 408 W Kershul Circle, wanted additional

clarification from Attorney Watts on the potential fire station property land exchange. It was confirmed that the exchange agreement was not contingent on voter approval of the construction of the project. There was additional discussion on volunteers living in the new fire station; property owners being wary of the plan; consideration for an appraisal of project property; benefits of the property (elevation; water infrastructure; tax revenue for development; housing needs); clarification on wetlands in the project area and collaboration with County emergency preparedness efforts. Mayor Cockrum and Administrator Sweet both clarified that it is a collaborative effort between agencies when planning and implementing emergency preparedness objectives (i.e., storage cache, CERT partnerships, local health care providers volunteering to provide COVID vaccination to our County residents). Discussion was concluded due to maximum time limitations requirements. Mayor Cockrum concluded this section and supports additional follow-up and educational outreach on the fire station project.

Ordinance/Resolutions. Mayor Cockrum asked Attorney Watts for clarification on procedures regarding public hearing. Public hearing continued.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve Resolution 957 stating the City of Gearhart hereby elects to receive State Revenues, MOTION was approved 5-0.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve Resolution 958 adopting the City of Gearhart Budget for the 2021-2022, Imposing Taxes, Categorizing Taxes and making Appropriations for the City of Gearhart, MOTION was approved 5-0.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve Resolution 959 adopting the Gearhart Road District Budget for the 2021-2022, Imposing Taxes, Categorizing Taxes and making Appropriations for the Gearhart Road District, MOTION was approved 5-0.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve Resolution 960 stating fixing the compensation of the following officers of the City of Gearhart: City Attorney, Chief of Police, Auditor, Treasurer, and Judge, and repealing all prior ordinances &/or resolutions fixing the compensation of these officers of the City of Gearhart. There was a discussion. Councilor Smith requested historical clarification on the elimination of the Fire Chief from the resolution. Administrator Sweet explained that based on his knowledge, the Fire Chief position has never been under officer employment status. There was a discussion on if the resolution should be tabled; however, because a motion had already been made, it was recommended that the motion move forward as proposed and be amended at a later date if necessary, MOTION was approved 3-2.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve Resolution 961 stating Budget Category Transfer - Hazard Mitigation Fund, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Old Business. The Employee Handbook was presented with amendment information. It was clarified that the changes are primary typographical errors.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve the Employee Handbook as amended, MOTION was approved 5-0.

New Business. There was a request for funds to purchase a public works truck. There was discussion on the future exploration of electric vehicles and the process of the disposal of surplus City equipment.


- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve the request for funds as recommended in the staff report by the Public Works Director, Mark McFadden, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Feedback. Mayor Cockrum did a participation roll call. Jack Zimmerman expressed appreciation for having Treasurer Hill as part of the City's staff.


Council Concerns. Councilor Fackerell expressed concern over sidewalk repairs within the City of Gearhart and areas that should get focus. She also expressed gratitude for Interim Fire Chief Como's presentation and attendance at the meeting. She felt it would be beneficial, at least occasionally, at Council meetings to have the Police Chief and Public Works Director available to address the Council. Councilor Warren supported Councilor Fackerell's suggestion to have City leaders at Council meetings. He had no other concerns. Councilor Jesse requested clarification on plans to return to in-person meetings. It was clarified that the Special Council meeting would be in-person for Council members; however, the public would still need to connect via virtual and/or telephone. The goal is to return to in-person meetings. Councilor Smith would still like clarification on fire expenditures and revenues.

Mayor Cockrum requested adjournment.

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 8:42 pm.



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



Mayor Paulina Cockrum