

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, December 1, 2021
6:00 pm On-site and Virtual via Zoom

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Council members and city staff were able to attend on-site and/or online via Zoom. The public was able to attend online via Zoom. Individuals could also join the meeting by dialing in on a telephone.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dan Jesse, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, Interim Fire Chief Josh Como, Police Chief Jeff Bowman and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Cockrum explained that the Council would be conducting Planning Commission interviews and went over the process. There were six applications received (Mike Cranston, Chris Gluck, John Mesberg, Bob Shortman, Don Frank, Karl Leigh). Five questions were asked of the applicants: *1) Do you believe that the Comprehensive Plan as written is still applicable? Does it need to be changed? If so, how?; 2) What are your thoughts for now and the near future for Gearhart - please be as specific as possible and address Gearhart maintaining its residential community feel or would you prefer additional commercial and tourist growth and how they pertain to the comprehensive plan.; 3) How do you see your role as a Planning Commission member in city government? Describe your understanding of the relationship and interaction between the Planning Commission and the City Council.; 4) Are you aware of any present or future conflict of interest you might have as a member of the Planning Commission? If a situation should arise, would you excuse yourself from voting?; 5) Do you, as a candidate for the Planning Commission, have a question of any of the members of the City Council?* In a roundtable format, applicants responded. One applicant was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted written responses to the questions, which were read aloud by Administrator Sweet. One applicant did not attend the meeting. Mayor Cockrum thanked the applicants that interviewed for their willingness to participate and stated that a recommendation would be made later in the meeting.

There was discussion on a short adjournment. ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to adjourn the meeting until 7:00 pm, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the regular Council meeting at 6:40 pm with the intention of resuming at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All participants from the 6:00 pm meeting were in attendance. Attorney Peter Watts and Planning, Building, Court Assistant Angoleana Brien joined the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest declared by any member of the Council.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council with a correction on page four (4) regarding the land swap, MOTION was approved 5-0.

ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 special meeting of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5-0.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 executive session of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Cockrum presented her report.

- Has served the City of Gearhart as Mayor for a year!
- Attended the fire station open house in November. She was able to connect with the community and have positive conversations.
- Attended a Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) meeting. Topics included the Investment and Jobs Act, workforce housing and tax credits.
- Stressed the importance and plea for vaccinations and boosters. Vaccinations are readily available and improve the health and well-being of our community.

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

- Councilor Smith met with Councilor Warren on general City financial matters; continues to have conversations about the new fire/police station; and, discussions with Bob McEwan and the old Postmistress regarding the Gearhart zip code topic.
- Councilor Jesse had a discussion with Jay Raskin, Architect, working with PIVOT Architecture on the current fire/police station project.
- Councilor Fackerell reported that she was unable to attend the special meeting and executive session last month; however, was able to listen to the recordings and felt comfortable being able to vote.
- Councilor Warren mentioned he also attended the CEDR meeting. He hopes the initiatives being brought forward will be advantageous. He also stressed the impacts of COVID on the health care

community. He continues to research the potential of Gearhart getting its own zip code, and attended the fire station open house in November.

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Chief Bowman went over his monthly statistics. He discussed an increase in crime activity over the last month, which included vehicle break-ins and thefts. Residents should be aware that they are more vulnerable when they leave valuables in unlocked vehicles. Chief Bowman encouraged citizens to be observant and report suspicious behavior.
- Fire Chief. Interim Fire Chief Como presented information to the Council. He reported information on the number and type of calls; as well as mutual aid given. The fire station open house was very successful. There were lots of people and tours of the old station. Gearhart fire participated in the Seaside Parade of Lights. The fire departments continue to work with Clatsop County on developing a better communication system.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. The auditors spent a few days on-site gathering and preparing information for the June 30, 2021 financial audit. The City anticipates another audit comment on appropriations. There was general information on the current Revenues & Expenditures report. Treasurer Hill announced that the safety committee has had a reboot; and, that beyond health and safety, goals are to build collaborative relationships between departments, develop leadership/mentor roles and understand the complexity of job responsibilities, legal requirements, and public relations.
- City Attorney. Attorney Watts gave a brief update on the US Bank/Shannon Smith case. The case continues to have setbacks. He would like to educate staff and Council on the upcoming election. He feels transparency is important and that training will help provide clarity.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Council in advance. He gave a summation of his written report. Specific items discussed were: terminating the current building agreement contract; restructuring of City positions with a staff retirement; vacation rentals; playground equipment; fire/police station update; grants; and, work session schedule.

Correspondence. *Additional documents were submitted and distributed to Council members (Cuttino and Warren).* Mayor Cockrum noted that there was late correspondence and asked Councilors if they had any comments or questions.

Visitors. Mayor Cockrum went over visitor protocols. She requested that visitors online use the raise hand function. Administrator Sweet said that there were no emails submitted by visitors requesting to speak.

Ordinance/Resolutions.

- Mayor Cockrum introduced Ordinance #965 - An Ordinance regarding Gearhart Zip Code Request. Council received a staff report, heard the synopsis and recommendations.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Mayor Cockrum to approve Ordinance #965 to pursue an individual zip code with the United States Postal Service (USPS), MOTION was approved 4-1.
 - There was discussion. Attorney Watts explained that the City would need to provide evidence that mail service would not be diminished and that there was community support. Attorney Watts explained that the Council could make the approval contingent upon retaining mail delivery in Gearhart.
- Chief Bowman went over Resolution #966 - Gearhart Police Vehicle Purchase. Council received a staff report. Chief Bowman explained that due to COVID, the decision making timeline for making vehicle purchases has been significantly impacted. After talking with the City's auditors, it was recommended that a resolution to authorize Chief Bowman to purchase a new vehicle up to \$67,000 from the Police Car Reserve Fund was the most transparent pathway. This purchase should follow procurement rules. There was discussion on procurement liability and vehicle replacement.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve Resolution #966 - Gearhart Police Vehicle Purchase, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Old Business. None.

New Business.

Planning Commission Appointments. Mayor Cockrum made the recommendation to appoint Don Frank to the Gearhart Planning Commission.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve the recommendation to appoint Don Frank to the Planning Commission, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Fire Chief Interview Follow-Up. City Administrator Sweet went over the staff report, the synopsis and recommendations. He said that a contingent offer has been made pending approval by the Council.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve Josh Como as the new Fire Chief for the City of Gearhart, MOTION was approved 5-0.

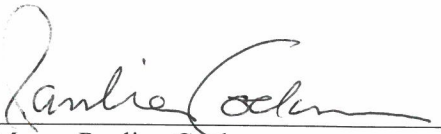
Council Goals / Projects for 2021-2022. There was discussion on the Goals being a working document. If anything needs to be modified throughout the year, it can be done through Council approval.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve the Gearhart Council Goals / Projects for 2021-2022 as presented in the spreadsheet, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Council Concerns. There were no concerns discussed by any Councilors.

Mayor Cockrum requested adjournment.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the regular Council meeting at 8:35 pm.



Mayor Paulina Cockrum



Chad Sweet, City Administrator