

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
7:00 pm On-site and Virtual via Zoom

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Council members and City staff were able to attend on-site, but encouraged to attend online via Zoom due to the increase in pandemic cases. 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 7:04 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, City Administrator Chad Sweet, City Attorney Peter Watts, Fire Chief Josh Como, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. Councilor Dan Jesse was absent. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Cockrum went over visitor protocols. She gave a reminder that individuals who would like to speak later in the visitor section should email chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com or use the raise hand feature.

There were no conflicts of interest declared by any member of the Council.

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council with a corrections on page three (word spend to spent), MOTION was approved 4-0.

The Council received a Planning Commission report in their council packet prepared by Virginia Dideum, Planning Commission President. Mayor Cockrum requested clarification on what Policy #3 is in the Parks Master Plan. She opened discussion for questions and/or comments. Councilor Warren was also interested in Policy #3 and the specific objections. City Administrator Sweet indicated he would get back to the Councilors.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Cockrum presented her report.

- She wanted to follow up with comments from the blog post by Chief Bowman on tree and vegetation removal from the Ridge Path. Mayor Cockrum expressed concern over the destruction of a tree that provided a natural archway on the Ridge Path. Life in Gearhart is enhanced by natural

beauty and should be preserved. She asked residents to respect the Ridge Path and keep bicycles and chainsaws off of it! There may need to be new signage on the Ridge Path and community education.

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

- Councilor Warren hoped everyone enjoyed the Christmas season and are ready for 2022.
- Councilor Fackerell is continuing her work involving trees. The Oregon State Forestry in Astoria has been a great resource. She has been looking into urban forestry practices.
- Councilor Smith attended the presentation by Gideon For-mukwai on the fire/police hall and strategies for getting a successful story out to the community.

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Chief Bowman did not attend the meeting but the police statistical report information will be blogged out. This last month he posted a notice on the City blog about tree and vegetation removal on City property, specifically the Ridge Path.
- Fire Chief. Fire Chief Como presented information to the Council. He reported information on the number and type of calls; as well as mutual aid given. He discussed the breakdown and the comparison to last year, which has shown a significant increase. He talked about a water tender grant, radio communications, end of year statistics, volunteer hours and deployment revenue.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. Treasurer Hill gave a brief overall financial update on the revenues and expenditures. She reported that the June 30, 2021 audit has been submitted to the State audits division. Councilor Warren asked for clarification on franchise fee payments schedules and the easement payments.
- City Attorney. Attorney Watts reported that all has been quiet in the ongoing Shannon Smith case. He also discussed a question regarding short-term rentals; election law training; fire chief volunteer data, including recruitment and retention; communication pathways for first responders; and land use changes.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Council in advance. He gave a summation of his written report. Specific items discussed were: update on the building official status; main break on highway 101; delay in public works vehicle purchase; certification for public works employee Stephen Petersen; SCADA upgrade; fuel tank implementation process; discussion with ODOT; playground equipment; fire station update, including presentation from Gideon For-mukwai; grants; and, upcoming worksession. Administrator Sweet also clarified about Policy

#3 that Mayor Cockrum and Councilor Warren referenced earlier in the meeting; which he reported has to do with the A2 aquatic zone and parks zoning.

Correspondence. Mayor Cockrum asked Councilors if they had any comments or questions. Councilor Fackerell reiterated her encounters related to the beavers and expressed her empathy for living with wildlife in Gearhart. There was discussion on the location of the correspondence, which is believed to be at the end of Pacific Way and McCormick Gardens Road. Mayor Cockrum requested feedback from the Council on the correspondence related to pickleball courts. There was discussion regarding aligning with the Parks Master Plan, how other local jurisdictions are supporting their pickleball players, the layout of the request and supporting healthy activities. There was consensus to table this topic.

Visitors. Kevin Leahy, Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR), gave a presentation. He went through a slide show and discussed: CEDR 2021 priorities; involvement; budget; and participating members/partners. Mayor Cockrum and Councilor Warren are active participants from the City of Gearhart. Mayor Cockrum thanked Mr. Leahy for his presentation and encouraged CEDR to watch for the State Revenue share program requirements that may be offered in the budgeting process. Other visitors were invited to speak. Michael Hoard (13095 Princeton Court, Lake Oswego) requested an update on the progress of the creation of a beach access map and when it may be available for review. Administrator Sweet said that the City has been focused on the Parks Master Plan so this request has not been a priority. Mayor Cockrum reiterated that it has been discussed as a future item but is not currently on a “to do” list. Josh Lair (1380 12th Ave, Seaside) discussed the creation of a political action committee (PAC) to support the resiliency relocation project. Also present with Mr. Lair was Amy Lair (President of the PAC) and Randy Bowers (Treasurer). They discussed the need for new facilities to deal with increased volume of calls.

Ordinance/Resolutions. None.

Old Business. None.

New Business.

City Surplus Donation Request. Administrator Sweet went over the staff report. He discussed the invaluable contributions that the City of Seaside Fire & Water Rescue (SFWR) program has donated to the City of Gearhart Fire & Water Rescue program. He explained that the donation of the Dodge Durango, which is currently listed as surplus, would be a significant contribution to the

SFWR program. Councilor Fackerell requested an update on the City of Gearhart's water rescue certification. It was reported that certification should be done by the end of this year.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the recommendation of donating the 2002 Dodge Durango to the Seaside Fire & Rescue Water program, MOTION was approved 4-0.

Park Funds Request - Playground Equipment Purchase. City Administrator Sweet went over the staff report, the synopsis and recommendations. There was discussion.


- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the purchase of the Kompan playground equipment through Highwire, Inc, up to \$60,000, MOTION was approved 4-0.

Election Law Training Worksession. There was a reminder that there would be an election law training worksession on Wednesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. The public is encouraged to attend. It will be an online, virtual training done by Attorney Watts.

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 4-0. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the regular Council meeting at 8:29 pm.



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



Mayor Paulina Cockrum