

CITY OF GEARHART
Special Meeting of the City Council
Thursday, March 3, 2022
6:00 pm On-site and Virtual via Zoom

The special meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Thursday, March 3, 2022. Council members and City staff were able to attend on-site. 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 Austin Tomlinson, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Chief of Police Jeff Bowman, Sergeant Ian Brown, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

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

New Business.

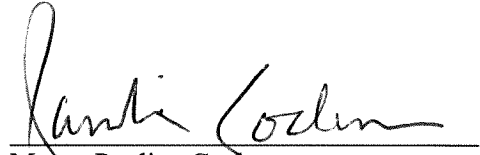
Police Officer Employment. Chief Bowman went over the employment process. He explained this was the second attempt to hire a new police officer due to the retirement of Sergeant Yokoyama. In the first attempt of hiring, there were four applicants; however, by the time oral interviews were scheduled, only one remained. After the interview, it was decided the best course of action was to reopen the police officer position. In this second process of hiring, there were again four applicants, but by oral interviews, only one applicant was available, which was Logan Bieler. The interview was conducted with Chief Bowman, Administrator Sweet, and Sergeant Brown. The applicant did well. Chief Bowman appreciated the straightforwardness and honesty of the applicant's responses. Sergeant Brown, who is a certified field training officer, went to the area where the applicant resides and performed a background and reference check. Sergeant Brown appreciated the applicant's honesty, found him level headed, and felt he was truthful. Sergeant Brown found no criminal records, no driving record, or no negative financial records. Council members were invited to ask questions. There was discussion related to retaining younger police recruits; laws associated with assisting in the protection of newer police hires being recruited by other agencies; the significance of vehicle ownership; housing availability in the local area; employment history; and adjectives used to describe the applicant. Based on the process, Sergeant Brown felt the applicant was thoughtful, deliberate, and determined. Administrator Sweet got the impression that the applicant was a good guy who wanted to help people. He supports the hiring decision of Chief

Bowman and Sergeant Brown. Chief Bowman went over the probation period and mentioned that it may take up to a year before an applicant with no law enforcement experience would be able to be out on patrol alone. He also requested specific requirements be placed in the conditional offer of employment.


- ON MOTION by Councilor Tomlinson, 2nd by Councilor Warren allowing Chief Bowman to offer Logan Bieler a conditional employment offer as a City of Gearhart Police Officer, which includes passing the physical and psychological testing requirements; as well as, securing housing in Clatsop County, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Mayor Cockrum requested adjournment.

ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the special Council meeting at 6:34 pm.



Mayor Paulina Cockrum



Chad Sweet, City Administrator