

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
7:00 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Council members, City staff and the public were able to attend on-site, virtually or by dialing in on a telephone.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, Councilor Austin Tomlinson, City Administrator Chad Sweet, City Attorney Peter Watts, Fire Chief Josh Como, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, 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.

There were several sets of minutes that needed to be approved.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2022 regular meeting of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2022 budget meeting of the Budget Committee, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.

The Council received a Planning Commission report in their council packet prepared by Virginia Dideum, Planning Commission President. There were comments on Commissioner Taggard being elected Vice-President of the Planning Commission.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Cockrum presented her report.

- She reported that it was time to move forward from the fire/police station bond measure and focus on the next steps to provide a safe environment for our firefighters and adequate space for our police officers. She presented a timeline and tasks through mid-August 2022; discussed the need to develop and complete a city-wide survey regarding the building of a new fire/police station; suggested exploring an education plan around the relationship between GRFPD and City of Gearhart's volunteer fire department; and, requested the City Council's input.
- There was consensus to move forward with plans and discussion on Mayor Cockrum's fire/police relocation ideas. Councilor Warren agreed her plan was workable and that everyone needed to move

forward with an action plan. Councilor Smith felt there needed to be Town Hall meetings with audience input that could be immediately reviewed. He mentioned equipment that the City of Scappoose has that is a voting tool with immediate results. Councilor Smith said focusing on scientific reasoning should be the emphasis, not on an emotional one. Councilor Fackerell liked the idea of instant voting results and felt the questions asked of residents needed to be unbiased. Councilor Tomlinson fully supported moving forward. He felt that having a facilitator with a neutral voice may bring forward new perspectives.

- Mayor Cockrum requested that Fire Chief Como prepare a report for the July meeting that would provide some options for temporarily improving the health and safety needs of the City's firefighters; move forward with Town Hall meetings and look into the feasibility of the instant feedback; and, explore the option of creating an ad hoc group to help develop questions.
- Attorney Watts talked about reviewing the buildable lands inventory in Gearhart, working with State legislators and census information.

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

- Councilor Smith attended a county-wide housing taskforce meeting. Clatsop County and city leaders met to discuss affordable and workforce housing, micro housing and services for the homeless.
- Councilor Warren commented on it being a rough week. He had a debriefing with the firefighters over the loss of the measure. He mentioned the capital campaign project for grants. He noted that many of the Councilors have experience and backgrounds in non-profits, fundraising, and grant processes.
- Councilor Tomlinson had no new information to report but did comment he had grant experience.
- Councilor Fackerell had no new information to report but did comment she had grant experience.

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Although Chief Bowman was not present, the monthly police report was distributed.
- Fire Chief. Fire Chief Como presented information to the Council. He gave a data report, including a call breakdown, mutual aid given and community events. He mentioned the cancellation of the annual Firefighters' Ball and hoped it would return next year. He gave an update on the county communication process.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. Treasurer Hill mentioned deposits in State Revenue Sharing, State Street, and Hazard Mitigation. In expenditures, two new accounts were added for water consumption. The playground equipment has been received by the City, which required a final payment from Parks Capital Outlay Equipment. Backflow compliance is still a priority.

- City Attorney. Attorney Watts talked about housing, land swap area, planning, and Clatsop County rezoning. He talked about the Nollan and Dolan decision, which crafted a two-part test for evaluating the constitutionality of a development exaction.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Councilors in advance. He gave a summation of his written report. He talked about Necanicum Watershed Council seeking volunteers to assist with invasive species removal along the Gearhart Ridge Path as part of a project they are heading up, in partnership with the City of Gearhart and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation. He mentioned the 4th of July parade and Street Dance.

Correspondence. Mayor Cockrum went over correspondence. There was an email received regarding Gearhart Elk and Wildlife (Stocks). There was late correspondence submitted (Zimmerman, Morey - two, Cameron, Gearhart Residents - Cameron, Gable, Gable, Dawson-Leach, Sigler, Shortman).

Visitors. Mayor Cockrum reminded visitors of the protocol and established a speaking order.

- Recology spokesmen, Scott and Chris, gave an operational update and rate increase request. They mentioned hiring challenges, opening store doors in Warrenton, and supply chain issues.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve the rate increase as presented by Recology, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- Beth Cameron (2906 Pine Court) read her statement submitted as correspondence. She talked about the fire/police bond failure. She gave her thoughts on the situation, which included Town Hall meetings, the issue of anonymity, surveys, questions, community needs, Councilor responsibility, and moving forward.
- Jeanne Marks (1209 N Cottage) gave thanks to current and past Mayors, Fire Chiefs, and staff that worked on the bond effort. She feels that moving forward in getting a new station should continue. She wants our first responders to have a safe workplace.
- Bob Morey (271 D Street) went over his statements submitted as correspondence (dated June 1). He talked about six points: the May 31 Council working session; the UGB land swap; how the fire department operates using the existing fire station; pending information requests; recall election efforts (registered voters); and, vote of no confidence efforts (non-resident property owners).
- Patricia Roberts (366 N Ocean) spoke about the election and the successful turn-out of voters. She mentioned that voters are interested in letting City Council and City staff know what they think.
- Jack Zimmerman (408 W Kershul Circle) spoke on the fire/police relocation bond issue. He feels comments made in meetings implies that Gearhart residents are not able to be critical thinkers, which he disagrees with. He feels the term “tsunami fatigue” implies voters have a syndrome and can be “cured.” He feels that the Council has failed the people of Gearhart and should set an example.

- Shannon McKenna Smith (774 Pacific Way) talked about the concept of a historical walking map for the City of Gearhart. It could include items that are not written in books, but are contributions from “local” historians (residents). It could share a unique history of the community. She also talked about the idea of a town vision and being inclusive of all types of groups (schools, residents, visitors). Town visions help set new foundations.

Old Business. None.

Ordinances/Resolutions.

- Mayor Cockrum introduced Resolution #969 - A Resolution Granting Budget Appropriation Transfer. Treasurer Hill talked about the reasons for the needed appropriation adjustments.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve Resolution #969 granting budget appropriation transfers, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- Mayor Cockrum opened the Public Hearing for 2022-2023 State Revenue Sharing at 8:30 pm. There were no conflicts of interest declared. There was a call for public comment, which there was none.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to approve Resolution 970 stating the City of Gearhart hereby elects to receive State Revenues, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- Mayor Cockrum opened the Public Hearing for 2022-2023 City of Gearhart Budget at 8:37 pm. There were no conflicts of interest declared. There was a call for public comment, which there was none.
 - Treasurer Hill explained the two options that were presented based on the direction of the City Council due to the failure of the fire/police relocation general obligation bond. There was discussion.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve Resolution 971 (Option 1) - adopting the City of Gearhart Budget for the 2022-2023, Imposing Taxes, Categorizing Taxes and making Appropriations for the City of Gearhart, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Tomlinson, 2nd by Councilor Warren to approve Resolution 972 adopting the Gearhart Road District Budget for the 2022-2023, Imposing Taxes, Categorizing Taxes and making Appropriations for the Gearhart Road District, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve Resolution 973 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, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.

New Business.

Political Sign Ordinance. Mayor Cockrum requested direction on exploring the option of the City of Gearhart imposing a political sign ordinance. Attorney Watts discussed how political signs receive special treatment and Cities need to be cautious when trying to regulate them. There are free speech laws at both the Federal and State levels. Councilor Smith recommended that specific restrictions may include things such as nailing political signs to City trees. There was Council consensus to explore options for a political sign ordinance.

Planning Commission Appointment. Administrator Sweet read the Staff Report. Mayor Cockrum explained she reviewed her detailed notes from previous Planning Commission applicants and is recommending John Mesberg for Council approval.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Warren, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve the recommendation of John Mesberg as Planning Commissioner, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.

Council Concerns.

- Councilor Smith had no concerns and thanked the people who spoke at the meeting.
- Councilor Warren had no concerns and appreciated the feedback from the speakers.
- Councilor Fackerell had no concerns and welcomed the new Planning Commissioner, John Mesberg.
- Councilor Tomlinson had no concerns.

Mayor Cockrum requested adjournment.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the regular Council meeting at 9:04 pm.

Mayor Kerry Smith

Chad Sweet, City Administrator