

CITY OF GEARHART
Worksession of the City Council
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
6:30 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

The worksession of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Council members, City staff, and the public were able to attend on-site, virtually, or by dialing in on a telephone.


Present were Mayor Kerry Smith, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dana Gould, Councilor Preston Devereaux, City Administrator Chad Sweet, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. Councilor Austin Tomlinson was absent. A quorum of the Council was present. Councilor Fackerell assumed the role of President due to Mayor Smith being out of town and attending the meeting via Zoom. She called the worksession to order at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the worksession was for the Council to discuss a proposed tree planting on City of Gearhart right of ways.

Administrator Sweet went over the proposal submitted by Sharon Kloepfer, Gearhart resident. He explained that she has a strong desire to plant trees to help maintain and restore the natural beauty of the area. The plan does enhance the natural landscape; however, it also creates logistical issues that need to be worked through before the planting occurs. Some of the issues are: correctly installing the trees to ensure survival; placement; and the type of trees allowable. Sharon Kloepfer proposes to plant cherry trees in specific locations. Councilor Gould and President Fackerell also met regarding the plan. Administrator Sweet recommended public participation by taking the proposal before the Planning Commission for approval. President Fackerell requested additional input from Sharon Kloepfer. Sharon has done some research. She talked with the Portland Urban Forestry Program and has their contact information if anyone is interested in reaching out to them. They indicated no concerns regarding the planting of trees in cities. She is willing and committed to watering the trees for two growing seasons. She understands Administrator Sweet's concerns. She is also interested in hearing any objections that the public may have regarding the plan. Councilor Devereaux mentioned complications that often occur with volunteer help. He said there have been projects before where everyone is motivated in the beginning; however, enthusiasm and commitment dwindle. He also has concerns with planting trees in poor, primarily sandy soil with little water retention. Sharon did comment she would be willing to put good dirt around the trees during planting. Councilor Gould has some concern over tree placement and would like to make sure that they are not planted in areas that will create issues later. She also felt that the correspondence submitted by Deb Papadopoulos had valid questions that should be addressed. Attorney

Watts supported the idea of allowing a public process through the Planning Commission. Sharon Kloepfer can submit a formal request to them for review and approval. Mayor Smith had no specific questions and supported the Planning Commission process.

President Fackerell adjourned the worksession meeting at 6:43 pm.



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



Mayor Kerry Smith