

CITY OF GEARHART
COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

On-Site & Virtual via Zoom

A worksession of the Gearhart City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Present were Councilor Gould, Councilor Fackerell, Councilor Devereaux, Councilor Kloepper, City Treasurer Justine Hill, City Administrator Chad Sweet, and Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker.

City Administrator Chad Sweet provided maps of the 4th of July parade setup and advised of the council goals discussion. At the last Council meeting, Councilor Gould had requested a discussion on security coverage for both the Street Dance and 4th of July weekend, and also to discuss volunteer efforts for clean up after the events. Council had gone through the list of goals during the March 22, 2023 worksession. Councilors were to put the goals list in their preferred priority order for a discussion tonight before adopting at a later date. Mayor Smith requested the 4th of July be discussed first.

Mr. Sweet went through the parade blockades, fire department events (hot dogs, merch, fire truck tours), and possible CERT involvement. Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. with lineup at 10:30 a.m. between 7th and 10th on Marion. Mayor Smith will be Grand Marshall.

Street Dance setup includes tables, lighting, photo booth, trash cans, and porta-potties (by the fire station conex). The dance is Monday, July 3rd from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Councilor Kloepper questioned the legality of fireworks. Councilor Devereaux feels no matter how many officers are on staff, fireworks are going to be part of the day. Councilor Gould agreed and recommended a flyer/stuffer of firework safety reminders be blogged and also sent to (vacation) rentals. Councilor Kloepper requested the addition of pets to the flyer. Mr. Sweet recognized some folks in town love fireworks and some hate them; the goal is balance.

Councilor Gould segued to July 5th clean up efforts. The GA would like to assist in a beach cleanup, offering drop boxes and sharp containers. She requested the City look into the cost of a porta-potty near 10th street, and offered to draft a blog post. As far as signs, she requested not just mentioning firework safety, but reminders to clean up. Signs that could be re-used year after year to help educate would be ideal. Sign size and location based on ordinance was also noted to be considered. The Council would consider a size exception, if necessary. Signs should be up the week before to be effective.

Mayor Smith moved on to goals, requesting a call for priorities. Councilor Kloepper cited changing department head terms, water, new Police Chief department policy review, and EV considerations for City vehicles as priorities. Councilor Devereaux suggested a memorial wall on the east side of Lesley Miller Park in lieu of benches as a priority. City Administrator Sweet suggested water rights, water rates, water conservation/usage and water agreements (Warrenton/Seaside) be the priority as water affects other topics and multiple departments. He also noted the intention to level Trail's End Park. Councilor Fackerell requested the bench project be completed because the buyer funds the plaque. Mayor Smith pointed out there are only so many spots left for benches, and a new style would need to be found. He requested it be added to an agenda so citizens could weigh in on the location of additional benches. The Mayor intends to create and appoint a citizen ad hoc committee to oversee the project. Councilor Gould felt all of her priorities had already been addressed.

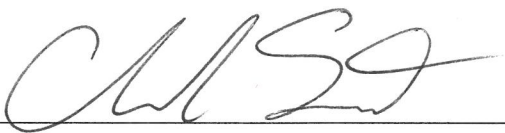
Mayor Smith stated he is unhappy with the goals list. He feels there are too many and most are staff goals, not Council goals. Mr. Sweet shared a sheet of items that are important right now that could be used to help reshape the list. The Mayor and City Administrator will meet to condense the list and bring it back to Council at another worksession.

Mr. Sweet also gave updates on the emergency cache (stocked, CERT organization welcome) and zip code request (continued silence). Councilor Gould asked if the fire station relocation will start from scratch this year, and Mayor Smith confirmed the process would slowly begin. Councilor Devereaux said now that the Police Chief search has concluded and the homeless encampment has been vacated, he's ready to revisit the fire station.

Mayor Smith adjourned the worksession at 7:48 p.m.



Mayor Kerry Smith



Chad Sweet, City Administrator