

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, September 6, 2023
7:21 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

A regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Council members, City staff, and the public were able to attend on-site, virtually, or by dialing in on a telephone. The meeting had a delayed start due to a preceding Executive Session meeting running longer than anticipated.

Present were Mayor Kerry Smith, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dana Gould, Councilor Preston Devereaux, Councilor Sharon Kloepper, City Administrator Chad Sweet, City Attorney Peter Watts, Police Chief Gregory, Fire Chief Josh Como, Police Officer Jeremiah Mares, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Smith called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 7:21 pm.

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

There was a swearing in of the new Police Officer, Jeremiah Mares, who accepted the oath. There were a variety of local agencies that came to support Police Officer Mares.

Approve Minutes.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Kloepper to approve the amended minutes of the August 2, 2023 regular meeting of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepper, Smith) - 0 nays.

There were no questions or comments on the Planning Commission report in the Councilors' packets.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Smith had nothing new to report; however, he noted that there had been lots of meetings going on around town.

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

- Councilor Gould attended the League of Oregon Cities Small City Regional meeting in Warrenton. There was a round table legislative update at the meeting. Information was shared about House Bill 3113 that appropriates funding to the Oregon Department of Transportation for improving safety and increasing access to walking; Great Streets Program; State ODOT projects; homeless funding request was not funded; Tillamook water issue; and Clatskanie sewer treatment plant issue. She mentioned there may be an increase in military activity in the area, which could result in some temporary beach access closures.

She and Administrator Sweet also met with Oregon Parks representatives to try and start a collaborative effort to enhance beach enforcement. During the meeting, they also discussed potential future garbage dumpster placement and joint advertising efforts to target people to clean up after themselves when leaving the beach. She also commented on Helping Hands.

- Councilor Kloefer also mentioned Helping Hands and the financial support extended by Governor Kotek. She requested that the City assist Helping Hands any way possible. She met with Police Chief Gregory over some concerns. She appreciated his time and attention. She reminded everyone that CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) has finished the community emergency supply inventory questionnaire, which was mailed out in the August water billing cycle and will go out in the September billing cycle.
- Councilor Fackerell has been continuing to meet with Administrator Sweet regarding the Bench Committee. She has learned a lot of information and history. She talked with Tyler Blanchette, Ocean Shores Permits, regarding the relocation of benches on the dunes. She also had the privilege of riding along on a Recology Collection Dump Truck. She was surprised by how much extra work it is for drivers on properties that pay for the side yard service. She encouraged other Councilors to take advantage of the offer to ride along!
- Councilor Devereaux had nothing new to report.

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Police Chief Gregory mentioned Sergeant Brown being fully recovered. He expressed confidence and satisfaction in Police Officer Mares training progress. He appreciates Police Officer Mares' positive attitude and willingness to learn. Police Officer Mares will also be training with Sergeant Brown and is scheduled to attend the DPSST Academy in December. He went over the police statistical data and gave a Lexipol project update.
- Fire Chief. Fire Chief Como went over his August data report, including a call breakdown and mutual aid. He mentioned mobilizations, a surf rescue, a beach dune fire, a RV fire, and medical calls. He also discussed the repair costs of an apparatus that came in lower than originally anticipated.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. Treasurer Hill mentioned the auditors site review; quarterly franchise fee revenues; an added general fund technology fee account; state revenue apportionment; an added fire purchased service expenditure account; water rate increases effective August 2nd; and an August water consumption comparison.
- City Attorney. Attorney Watts mentioned a new federal litigation case in San Francisco, California regarding the homeless. He also talked about House Bill 2984, which allows conversion of commercial use to residential use under certain conditions.
- City Administrator. Administrator Sweet's report was sent to the Councilors in their packets. He has also had conversations with Helping Hands regarding their financial status. There has been code enforcement

on various signs, vegetation, junk accumulation, and zone violations. Other topics he touched on were: public works; water consumption and conservation; draft water ordinance; Council goals; Seaside water agreement; short-term rentals; grants; the In A Landscape event; Gearhart Association meeting canceled; and fire department celebrating the memory of Bob Chisholm.

Visitors. There were two visitors that spoke.

- Steve Donovan, President of Donovan Enterprises, went over a presentation on water conservation pricing. He covered the definition of Gearhart water conservation data sample; frequency distribution of raw data; reconstituted frequency distribution in 10 ccf unit blocks; invert block pricing on historical consumption patterns; and sample water conservation rates in Oregon communities. There was continued discussion.
- Kathleen Zimmerman, Bench Committee, thanked Councilor Fackerell and Councilor Kloepper for involving her in the Committee. She gave a history of the benches, their placement, and the waiting list. She went over the Committee's accomplishments. Items covered included the number of Committee meetings; identifying, mapping, and inventorying the current and new bench locations; benches on the dunes; options for alternative styles of benches; teak benches in the downtown area; contact with all waiting list people; exploring bench agreement options; and recommending three different park benches as per the Parks Master Plan. Administrator Sweet mentioned the park beautification donation, clarified some bench waiting list details, and talked about moving benches to regain an ocean view. There was follow-up discussion of the benches being referred to as "commemorative" and other alternative forms of remembrance (e.g., wall, tiles).

Public Communications - Written & Oral. Because no one had requested to speak in advance, Mayor Smith invited the public to comment. There was written correspondence submitted by: Meghyn Fahndrick, LOC (Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act); Mayor Teri Lenahan, North Plains ("If I Were Mayor" Contest); Mike Davis, Helping Hands (Important Message); Amy John, Oregon Audits Division (Municipal Audit Law); Abby Roller, ERG, Contractor to EPA's Green Power Partnership (Blue Sky); and Palmer Mason/Alexis Biddle, Department of Land Conservation and Development (2023 Land Use Legislation Report). Councilor Kloepper expressed hearing additional information on the EPA's Green Power Partnership correspondence.

- Peter Battjes (1351 Dooley Ln) was interested in information on the timeframes for resident tsunami evacuations. Administrator Sweet recommended viewing the Oregon Tsunami Evacuation Map. There was continued discussion on local alert apps and other notifications.

Ordinances/Resolutions. None.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Mayor Smith invited the public to comment on any new business item.

Police Department - Reserve Funds Request. Police Chief Gregory went over the staff report. Safety was the focus of the request. He covered several items on the patrol vehicles that are needed: front a-pillar spotlight; in-cab overhead LED dome light; overhead emergency lightbar; and MPH Python dual KA band radar.

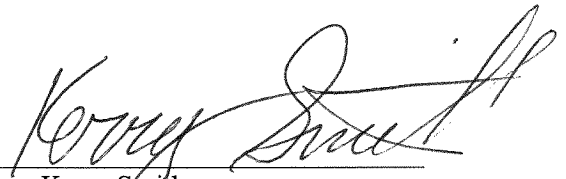
- ON MOTION by Councilor Devereaux, 2nd by Councilor Gould to approve Police Chief Gregory's request for reserve funds up to \$18,000 for Day Wireless Systems to upfit the police vehicles, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepper, Smith) - 0 nays.

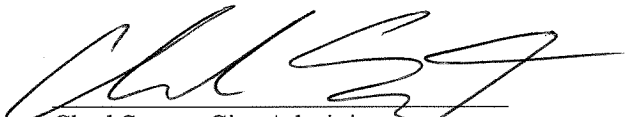
Council Concerns.

- Councilor Devereaux reported no concerns.
- Councilor Fackerell reported no concerns.
- Councilor Gould reported no concerns.
- Councilor Kloepper reported no concerns.
- Mayor Smith reported no concerns.

Mayor Smith requested adjournment.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Gould, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepper, Smith) - 0 nays. Mayor Smith adjourned the regular Council meeting at 8:56 pm.



Mayor Kerry Smith

Chad Sweet, City Administrator