

AUGUST 2, 2017

Following the public hearing the Gearhart City Council meeting was called to order on Wednesday August 2, 2017 at 8:10 p.m. by Mayor Matt Brown. Present were Councilor Lorain, Councilor Jesse, Councilor Smith, Mayor Brown, Councilor Cockrum, City Attorney Peter Watts, City Administrator Chad Sweet and City Treasurer Gail Como.

Mayor Brown advised we will be adding to the agenda an additional 3 minute opportunity for visitors to speak after new business if Council agrees and they did. Council also agreed to extend the Council meeting past nine if necessary.

There was no conflict of interest declared by any member of the council.

Councilor Cockrum and Councilor Smith asked for corrections for the Public Hearing meeting minutes for July 5, 2017. ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes for the Public Hearing on July 5, 2017 as amended, MOTION was approved 5-0.

ON MOTION by Councilor Cockrum, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes for the City Council meeting on July 5, 2017, as written, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Each member of Council was given a copy of the Fire Dept. report, Planning Commission report and City Treasurer report.

Mayor Brown attended a CEDR board meeting and learned they have a program called Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Clatsop Community College that offers advise on small business strategy, training, marketing and planning and he encouraged any Gearhart business to apply for this program.

Councilor Lorain attended a CREST board meeting where they are working on projects and planning a field trip in Sept.

Councilor Jesse reported that some CERT members along with citizens went on a community walk to look at native vegetation and how it might help us medicinally.

Councilor Smith reported the last dune vegetation meeting was July 7th and the vote 9-1, 1 absent for the recommendations which are in your Council packet and later in the meeting George Van Hoomissen a member from the dune committee will discuss the recommendations.

Councilor Cockrum reported working on an action plan for emergency preparedness regarding communications, radios and cache for CERT.

City Administrator Chad Sweet reported working on a job description to hire an administrative person and hopefully have that to you in Sept.

George Van Hoomissen stated that the discussions and research on the management of the vegetation on the dunes has been going on long before the committee was formed. Mr. Van Hoomissen explained that the committee continued that work and brought you those recommendations and hoped they will be useful to come to a reasonable resolution.

Sharon Kloepfer P.O. Box 2512 questioned why George Van Hoomissen is the only person speaking at the City Council work session. City Attorney Peter Watts advised at a work session no binding decisions can be made and it is simply an opportunity for education and the Council can invite guests to speak to aid in the discussions.

Bill Berg 698 2nd St. mentioned coastal forests act as a barrier from the force of a Tsunami and gave handouts to the Council and asked Council to add them to your considerations.

Jack Delaney 1250 N. Ocean stated there were people on the dune committee who did not even live in Gearhart and two couples which is basically a two for one vote and felt the committee was miss-represented and was also disappointed that the committee did not use the local experts or ask them to give testimony.

Bill Corti agreed with Jack and felt the panel was unbalanced. Mr. Corti stated the Croatian professor was not accurate with his information that if you cut a pine tree it won't grow back and stated that the pines on his property were cut in 2013 and have grown back and need to be cut again. Mr. Corti and his neighbors would like to get their view back and asked Council if they can thin and top the trees. City Attorney Peter Watts advised there are two ways to look at the code. (1) if you have twenty trees you can remove 10 trees (50%) or (2) you can remove 50% of each tree. Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Corti for serving on the committee and his patience in the matter and advised this is a complicated issue which will take time to resolve.

John Green P.O. Box 2597 felt there was a lot of controversy on the dune issue and it was a tough decision for the committee to make. Mr. Green stated much of the property belongs to the City of Gearhart and the citizens of Gearhart and thought the Council should consider all the citizens of Gearhart when making the decision. Mr. Green would also like to see a moratorium for cutting on public property.

Council discussed the revisions to the findings of the lottery at Gearhart Crossing. ON MOTION by Councilor Lorain, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to approve as revised the findings to the lottery at Gearhart Crossing, MOTION was approved 4-1.

Council will schedule a work session to discuss the recommendation from the dune committee and will divide into three topics. (1) Noxious weeds, (2) native vegetation, (3) trees.

Mayor Brown mentioned the City of Gearhart's 100th birthday next year and forming a committee to plan a party. Bill Berg stated it was a major event in the creation of the City of Gearhart and leaving behind the destination resort and becoming a real community. Mr. Berg advised that if the Townsend measure passes in Nov., it would be the end of the City as a community and it would go back to being a destination resort.

Stewart Schultz, from Croatia, corrected Jack Delaney's comment and stated he is an ecologist, has a PHD in ecology from the University of British Columbia, teaches classes in ecology

and workshops on coastal dune ecology along the NW coast and stated he looked but could not find anyone who would recommend topping trees.

Judd Todd disagreed with the changes to the findings. Mayor Brown stated it is a description and Mr. Watts thought it would protect the City.

ON MOTION by Councilor Jesse, 2nd by Councilor Smith to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Matt Brown

Chad Sweet, City Administrator