

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE
May 21, 2020

Mayor MacInnes called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Council Present: Julie Knox-Lyon, Melanie Sperry, Jerry Beckham, and Cindy Burlingame.

Staff Present: City Recorder Brooklynn Griffith and Public Works Bill Potter.

Community Present: Deputy Rodney Hines, Steve Bray, Dan Bubb, Brad Baird

Approve/Amendments to Agenda: Amendment to agenda with the addition to surplus office furniture under new business, as well as the addition of Tenneson Engineer and GEODC under correspondence. Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to approve the amended agenda; Councilor Burlingame seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of City Council Meeting minutes: Councilor Sperry made a motion to approve the March 12th City Council meeting minutes; Councilor Burlingame seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of bills from April 15th to May 12th: Councilor Knox-Lyon made a motion to approve bills from April 15th to May 12th, 2020, Councilor Sperry seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tenneson Engineering: Provided update to their planning staff report, Kirk Fatland has joined the planning team at Tenneson. Current planner Dan Meader hopes to retire by the end of 2020.

GEODC: Finishing up their 5-year Comprehension Economic Development Strategic Plan and looking for ideas from Council of projects that might need funding down the road. Council discussed daycare as a high need in the community, Councilor Sperry mentioned that the School District might be a good cooperator to bring in on such a project. Councilors are to provide City Recorder with a few more ideas before they will be compiled and sent on to GEODC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Banners: The City received an additional donation from Bank of Eastern Oregon of \$500 for the Downtown Banner Project. A request was made of Council to pick which theme they would like for the banners; this will help narrow down the options. Council settled on choosing two banners of a Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter theme, and would like the City Recorder to choose the actual banners.

Anderson-Perry Project Update: Brad Baird provided an update to the Wastewater System Project. The Recycled Water Use Report has been filed to DEQ. The draft design for the improvements went out the week of Council, they are slightly behind on the timeframe but expect completion in December of 2020. Currently working on the funding application for the Water System Improvements Project, which is through BizOregon for half-loan, half-grant. With this funding, the City does not anticipate having to raise water rates in the immediate future. Funding is expected in the next couple months, with permitting and design occurring this Fall and Spring, and construction completion in Summer of 2021.

Herb Wright EMS Building Sign: Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Fiber to Home (Dan Bubb): GorgeNet has moved forward with beginning the construction process, they are working efficiently with CBEC to move the project along. The system will be fed with a fiber backhaul, not a wireless backhaul. They are hoping to turn service up by the end of June 2020. The Franchise Agreement has been reviewed and most items were agreeable, there are currently a couple sections that the City Attorney and GorgeNets Attorney are working through at this time; the biggest item regarding a third-party beneficiary. Hoping to have a draft in the coming week that everyone on both sides will be happy with. Dan Bubb did remark that if we reach an impasse on certain issues, he will probably cave on it; details within the franchise agreement aren't worth wasting any one's time and if GorgeNet operates appropriately, the franchise agreement won't even come up. GorgeNet would like the community to feel comfortable with contacting them if any issues arise or community members have questions. The best way to do this is through Dan Bubb at dan@corp.gorge.net or via phone at 541-386-3723. They would also like to hire a local individual that they can train to do service installs and troubleshooting.

Community Clean-up Day: Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Industrial Park: Discussion tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

BEO Disaster Documentation: The Bank of Eastern Oregon is looking to update its documentation stating that an agreement between Wright Chevrolet and BEO, to operate solely out of Wright Chevrolet in case of a natural disaster that forces them out of their current building, is accepted by City of Fossil. The letter is just to inform the bank of the City's approval of the agreement between BEO and Wright Chevrolet.

ACTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 417 Variance | 1000 C Street: The consensus was that Council would not be approving the variance at 1000 C Street at this time.

Surplus Office Desks: The desks were originally purchased from State surplus, with the office remodel happening it would be nice to surplus the desks. Councilor Beckham made a motion we surplus the desks at City Hall, Councilor Burlingame seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS:

Councilor Knox-Lyon: No update.

Councilor Sperry: The ambulance AED needs to be repaired, a cost of \$450. The parks are still closed in the area, it's still up in the air regarding swim lessons in Condon for the Summer at this time.

Councilor Beckham: No update.

Councilor Burlingame: No streets update. The Planning Commission for the City seems to be getting low again, any ideas or suggestions on folks that might be willing to join would be great. City Recorder will post an ad for City Planners on the City website as well as Facebook.

Mayor MacInnes: Looking at relaxing social distancing guidelines, businesses will be opening up by the end of the week, and the Mercantile is instilling new personnel protection guidelines as mandated by Governor Brown. Mayor suggests that folks protect themselves as much as possible, with the reopening of the State more and more tourists will be coming to town. This week, Mayor MacInnes will be calling

community members to check in and discuss the current guidelines. The County has submitted their application to enter into Phase 1 of reopening, a high possibility as we have had no cases thus far.

Public Works: Requested May 13th off. Discussed when Council would like to open up the public bathrooms, no decision made at this time. Fire restrictions will probably fall into place on June 15th. Resident Rodney asked of PWD Potter what he foresaw as far as water restrictions; he does expect some restrictions but maybe not as much as in years past.

City Recorder: LGPI is changing hands from LOC to LGOC. Brooklynn would like to extent a thank you to Jeanne Burch for helping with the budget, it was greatly appreciated and tremendously beneficial. The proposed budget is prepared and will be presented at the budget meeting at the end of the week. The sale of the industrial lot is final and has gone through, we did receive payment for that. The Library is still awaiting word on whether or not they're able to open, waiting for the Governor to make a decision by weeks end.

Ordinance Officer: Deputy Hines provided Council with an updated tracking form, which was graciously accepted. He is working diligently through his nuisance violations, and community members have been great at abating their nuisances; several cases have been able to be closed. Mayor MacInnes updated that the City Attorney is very close to finishing up the fee schedule.

COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS:

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

June 9, 2020

Approved



Carol E MacInnes, Mayor



Melanie Sperry, Council President