

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE
August 11, 2020

Mayor MacInnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Council Present: Julie Knox-Lyon, Melanie Sperry, and Jerry Beckham. Councilor Burlingame was absent.
Staff Present: City Recorder Brooklynn Griffith and Public Works Bill Potter.

Community Present: Paul Sumner and Marsha Holly by phone.

Approve/Amendments to Agenda: Additions to the agenda include correspondence from Senator Findley and Credit Card Processing as well as Collections under old business. Councilor Sperry moved to approve the August 11th amended agenda; Councilor Beckham seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of City Council Meeting minutes: Councilor Knox-Lyon made a motion to approve the July 14th City Council meeting minutes; Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of bills from July 15th to August 11th: Councilor Knox-Lyon made a motion to approve bills from July 15th to August 11th, 2020, Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of financial statement for July 2020: Councilor Sperry made a motion to approve the financial statement for July 2020, Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Senator Findley: Mayor MacInnes read a letter from Senator Findley congratulating the City on their approval of the loan/grant for the Water Improvements Project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anderson-Perry Project Update: We have received the award letter from BusinessOregon on the funding for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. Through PWD Potter, Brad Baird requested Councils approval to proceed with the next steps of the ASR project, Council approved. Additionally, the pre-construction meeting with Beam Construction and Anderson Perry engineers will be held to discuss the timeline for the Wastewater Improvements project; it is slated to start August 17th.

Industrial Park: After talking with Dan Meader and an additional engineer from Tenneson, it was suggested that the City move forward with building the road prior to having the new lines surveyed. Since the lots are owned by the City this would be the easier route, and after completion a minor partition could be done; Council agrees to this route. Base rock can begin to be hauled in beginning the week of the 17th. Residents in the area seem excited for the additional access/egress route, when the project gets underway a letter will be sent out to neighboring properties in regards to the minor partition.

Credit Card Processing: City Recorder presented a company utilized by other local entities that processes credit cards at absolutely no cost to the City; PayGov.us. The company will allow us to accept payments via a website, in-person, over the phone, or via their app. Being able to offer such a service to our

customers will hopefully mitigate the number of past due accounts, and bring the City up-to-date with current technology. Councilor Beckham made a motion to go forward with utilizing PayGov.us as our credit card processing company, Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Collections: One credit collections company was presented to Council, Credits Incorporated out of Hermiston. There is no fee to the City to utilize the company, a percentage of the cost is tacked on top of the amount being collected which pays Credits Incorporated. The same company is being utilized by Wheeler County. Councilor Sperry made a motion to proceed with collections through Credits Incorporated and/or small claims, Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department Purchase | Potter: As planned for in this year's budget, Fire Chief Potter would like to purchase equipment for the fire department; totaling \$1,800. Councilor Jerry Beckham made a motion to approve the purchases to upgrade and improve the fire engines, Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approve Resolution No. 433 | Rate Increase for Wastewater Services: Mayor MacInnes read into record Resolution No. 433, which sets forth the wastewater rate increases effective August 1, 2020. As this date does not provide much notice to Fossil residents, Council would like PWD Potter to confirm with BusinessOregon what date the rate increase must be effective by to align with project funding. If we can wait, Council would like the rate increase to be effective September 1st. Councilor Knox-Lyon made a motion to approve Resolution No. 433 based on the above criteria, Councilor Sperry seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS:

Councilor Knox-Lyon: Would like to congratulate Mayor MacInnes on her acceptance onto the Oregon Mayors Association Board of Directors, we appreciate you being the voice for the East side of Oregon. No other updates.

Councilor Sperry: No update.

Councilor Beckham: No update.

Councilor Burlingame: Absent.

Mayor MacInnes: Attended the OMA Summer Conference via Zoom. It was held virtual which was a little different, but they did a great job at holding roundtable discussions in smaller chatrooms. Overall, the conference went well but the Mayor hopes to gain more East side Mayors for the coming conferences. This addition would allow for a greater voice from this side of the State, something that currently appears to be lacking. Wheeler County is still COVID-free, but tourists are still making their way into the community so please remain vigilant and safe.

Public Works: The new transducer has been installed in Well 3, but they still need to come back and adjust some additional things. With a little dialing in, it should be good to go soon! Beam Excavating would like to utilize a couple of the lots in the Industrial Park to stage equipment/materials for the Wastewater project.

City Recorder: An email string came out through OCCMA discussing the NLC Service Line Warranty, many other cities had positive things to say about the company but there were downfalls like utilizing the Cities logo for advertisement and pricing. They are a private company and can do their own advertising within

the City if they like. Requesting use of a scholarship that LOC is offering to attend the annual conference in October which will be held virtually, Council approved City Recorder to use the scholarship. Census enumerators will be working through local neighborhoods beginning August 11th. GorgeNet is being installed at City Hall and the Fire Department this week, Council would like to switch the Library over to a new phone line and also have their own internet/WiFi. John Irzyk with CBEC will be coming over to hang the new downtown banners on Friday. The City is receiving a standard payroll field audit through CIS this year, it normally happens every 3 years and is a free service. Requesting Thursday, the 20th off, and working Friday the 28th; approved. Once the auditors have received our final July reconciliation, they will be doing an exit interview, Council requested Jeanne Burch be at the exit interview.

Paul Sumner got on the call to discuss the nuisance ordinance he has drafted up; it is designed to have a nuisance abatement officer and go through a hearing. Another route within the ordinance is abatement, where the City would take everything and then seek payment on the costs associated with abating. An additional request was to look at how to handle violations within the City parks and ballfield, which will need to be under its own ordinance. An idea is to have a parks enforcer for these violations, which likely the Sheriff's Office will oversee. Right now, Council is looking to get a fee schedule set up for the current ordinance enforcement officer. City Recorder brought up our current nuisance ordinance, which Council would like sent over to Paul for review. We may just need to make amendments to the current ordinance.

Ordinance Officer: Deputy Hines was absent, but provided a document for Councils review.

COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS: Marsha Holly is excited to receive the new fiber internet, other folks she has talked with have been pleased with their new service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

September 8, 2020

Approved



Carol E MacInnes, Mayor



Melanje Sperry, Council President