

FOSSIL CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
TELECONFERENCE  
December 8, 2020

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

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

**Staff Present:** Bill Potter and Brooklynn Griffith.

**Community Present:** Deputy Hines and Terri Hunt.

**Approve/Amendments to Agenda:** Councilor Knox-Lyon moved to approve the December 8<sup>th</sup> agenda with the addition of Childcare and the IGA Cares Act; Councilor Burlingame seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Approval of City Council Meeting minutes:** November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were not yet available for approval.

**Approval of bills from November 7<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Councilor Sperry made a motion to approve the bills from November 7<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

**Anderson-Perry Project Update:** A walkthrough has been completed on the ASR Project, and now Anderson & Perry will be moving onto the design phase. The Wastewater Project is at a halt at the moment due to sicknesses on the Beam Excavation crew. The project should start back up at the beginning of January.

**Industrial Park:** Donnie Peterson has delivered all the base rock and gravel to the site, and the road is now usable. PWD still needs to reach out to Tenneson to readjust the lot within the Industrial Park.

**Ordinance Fee Schedule:** City Recorder is to reach out to Attorney Sumner to check on the status of the fee schedule.

**Abatement Process:** Property owner appeared in Court and was fined, having until December 15<sup>th</sup> to remove everything from the right-of-way. If items are not removed, City employees will work to abate the items in the City right-of-way. Council would like the abatement date to immediately follow the deadline for the property owner.

**Holiday Light Contest:** Another contest will be held as in years past; lights must be up by December 20<sup>th</sup> to be included in the contest. An anonymous judge's panel will go around and judge that day. Prizes will go to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Residential as well as Commercial, and a People's Choice Award which can be voted on at the Merc.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**COVID Relief funds:** Wheeler County has been given a large sum of money to provide COVID relief funds to business owners in the county. Any business owners should be sure and get their application into the county. Funds will be administered by the County, and are taxable income. These funds will help folks recoup some of the monetary losses due to COVID restrictions.

**Library Purchase Request:** The library would like to purchase a new desktop utilizing the donation money that has accumulated over the last 3 years. The library board recommends the purchase to Council. Mayor MacInnes will contact Solutions, CPA to figure out the best way to get the donation money from an income line item into an expense line item. Councilor Sperry makes a motion to approve the computer purchase for the library; Councilor Burlingame seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Childcare:** The Mayor was approached by a community member regarding the lack of childcare within the area, it is hard to bring in families to work when there are no childcare options. It would be beneficial to look into options to provide daycare facilities in Fossil. At one point, the school had offered up a room within their building to use; but they would have no involvement aside from offering a place to work out of. Mayor would like to compile a questionnaire to gather the level of interest from folks in the community. Though daycare can be expensive to startup, it could be an extremely beneficial opportunity to the community. The Mayor will complete a draft questionnaire.

**CARES Act:** There are currently COVID relief funds available to cities in the amount of \$50,000, however small cities like Fossil have a hard time fitting into the criteria needed to seek these funds. An option would be to establish an intergovernmental agreement between the County and Fossil, which would allow for the County to accept the funds on behalf of Fossil and then distribute the money down without stipulation. Attorney Sumner will be working with the County Attorney to draft up an agreement, as Judge Morley is in favor of this. Councilor Sperry made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the County once it has been received from Attorney Sumner; Councilor Knox-Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### ACTION ITEMS:

**Small City Allotment Agreement:** This agreement sets forth all the proceedings of the Small City Allotment project to come. After this agreement has been signed and returned to ODOT, the next steps will be underway and paving should take place in the Summer of 2021.

### REPORTS:

**Councilor Knox-Lyon:** No water update. The Library has a new board member, Amber Jaeger, but they are still looking for other board members. They reviewed the library purchase and sent their recommendation to Council. Councilor Knox-Lyon would like to thank Council for their help in making her time educational and a pleasure!

**Councilor Sperry:** OHA has finally responded regarding the psychomotor skills test for the EMT students and a date is being set for this to be accomplished. Three of the four students have passed their written exam and have their provisional licenses. October was a busy month with 8 runs, and 2 runs in November. Some of the equipment is becoming outdated on the ambulance and Susan is asking for permission to replace these items over the next 6 months, Council would like to see a more itemized list of the things needing replaced.

**Councilor Beckham:** No update.

**Councilor Burlingame:** No update.

**Mayor MacInnes:** The Tree Lighting Ceremony was a huge hit, roughly 40 community members came out to celebrate! The library was able to read a Christmas Story with the full attention of the kids. Sally's Alley was a big hit, the food was delicious, and spirits were bright! Special thanks to everyone who decorated throughout time, and helped set-up for the Tree Lighting. Mayor would also like to thank Councilor Knox-Lyon for her time spent on Council!

**Public Works:** Thank you to everyone that helped set-up for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Would like to request the 15<sup>th</sup> of December to January 4<sup>th</sup> off, will come in and help with the abatement.

**City Recorder:** Would like to touch base on the background check for the Library board. Council agrees to move forward with the background check, city recorder will reach out to Matt Davis with the County to have the background check completed. Mayor would like to know if there is anything additional Council could help Brooklyn with - city recorder requested the mail and utility envelopes be opened by someone before she goes in at the end of the week to reconcile bills. Council believes they will be able to accomplish this on days before she comes in.

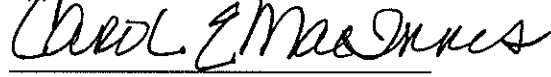
**Ordinance Officer:** Property owner has gone to court for their abatement process, and the abatement deadline has been set for December 13<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Hines will post notices that the abatement process will immediately follow that deadline. The County received a large shipment of COVID PPE supplies, which will partially be distributed to emergency workers within Fossil.

**COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS:** Terri Hunt has requested more information regarding when she is swearing-in. Mayor let her know it will be taking place at the Wheeler High School Gym.

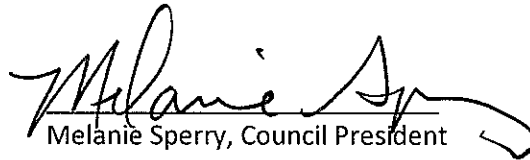
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

January 12, 2021

Approved



Carol E MacInnes, Mayor



Melanie Sperry, Council President