

MONROE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 26, 2020 6:30 PM City Hall Meeting Room

1. CALL TO ORDER: Acting Mayor Floyd Billings called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Acting Mayor Billings asked Councilor Baker to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present was Acting Mayor Billings, Councilors: Tony Baker, Jeanni Cuthbertson, Lonnie Koroush and Frank Thayer. Staff present: Steve Martinenko, Tracy Floyd and Laurie Eastridge. Planning Commissioners: Fred Cuthbertson, Tim Eastridge, John Greydanus, and Dan Sheets. Also, in the audience were Todd Nystrom, Lorrie O'Hare, Bobby Eastridge, Nicholas Ritch, Terry Koroush, Rayna Waltz, Christina Wickstein, Llyn Peabody and Tommy Sheets. Junction City Police Officer Erik Markell.

Acting Mayor Billings asked Steve Martinenko to read the first paragraph on the agenda regarding the public comments during the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments made

3. STAFF REPORTS and Presentations:

3.1 Police Report: Junction City Police Officer Markell gave a report of services provided. He has noticed that the code enforcement has been down. Councilor Cuthbertson mentioned that it was because the codification project wasn't complete and they were told JCPD could not enforce it. Reminder to call if we need assistance during the holidays.

3.2 Finance Report: Tracy Floyd gave Treasure Report and final Audit Report. Pleased to say the Audit went well this year. Acting Mayor mentioned that the General Fund will be looking really good after the taxes are paid. Question was asked by Terry Koroush about what fund the money come out of to pay Rick Hohnbaum's settlement. It was split into three funds: General Fund, Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

3.3 Steve Martinenko, Water Treatment Plant Operator/HR Coordinator/Planning Report: Brief report on water test results at clear well site, we have a lot of organics in the water. The state has purposed more frequent hydrant flushing at various places throughout town. One solution is to look at the potential well water to use. Councilor Thayer mentioned that we need to start looking for other water sources. Steve also reported the planning issues at Red Hills, lots 26-27 and grading was done correctly. Also the potential joint Council & Planning Commission work session to discuss SDC Methodology.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Bills and Minutes: Councilor Thayer made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Baker. Discussion: Councilor Koroush asked who keeps calling the lawyer? There is \$4,620 this month for the lawyer. Steve M. answered that it was for Personnel, Red Hills

land usage, and the school drainage issues. Councilor Thayer mentioned that he thought at one time the Council had decided that access to the attorney should go through a procedure so not everyone can make phone calls to the attorney. Councilor Koroush thought so too. Acting Mayor Billings mentioned that he thought these issues were going through the mayor. Vote: Ayes: All

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Republic Services New rates for 2021. No new rates for garbage service, but recycling fee could be charged if there are wrong items in recycling bin.

5.2 The Sharing Garden: Llyn Peabody asked to have their water fee waived because they are not connected to city water, other than the sewer system. The question was asked about how many households in Monroe are in the same situation, have a well system, but are paying for water. Acting Mayor Billings suggested we table this item until next council meeting, so we have time to investigate how many wells are being used inside city limits and come up with a plan, so everyone is treated equally.

5.3 Utility Accounts Change: Rayna Waltz is asking council to change her building utility accounts. She currently is being charged for 3 single units and 1 commercial unit. However, at this time, she is only using one of the single units. Acting Mayor Billings told her she needed to get with planning, and Steve M. for discussion.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

6.1 Haunted House: Lorrie O'Hare is requesting permission to go on the property to do a wellness check. She is willing to sign a permission slip if needed. Steve M. mentioned that we have a city volunteer form to sign. The Council was in agreement to allow Lorri O'Hare to check on the property, once a permission slip was signed.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

7.1 Councilor Comments: Councilor Koroush asked if Steve was spending more time in the City Hall Office or the Water Treatment Plant. Steve's answer: No, my main office is in the Water Treatment Plant. Councilor Thayer would like to get us back on track with the City Ordinances project. Acting Mayor Billings suggested that if he doesn't have the people on the committee to complete this task that he get some. Councilor Cuthbertson mentioned she thought they were almost done with it, just needing a little bit more to have it completed.

7.2 Committee Reports: PARKS Councilor Koroush and Commissioner Eastridge on Parks Committee. Acting Mayor Billings asked Councilor Baker if he would like to be on the Park Committee. Councilor Baker said yes he would assist. Acting Mayor Billings said Councilor Koroush would be the leader and call the meetings. Acting Mayor Billings said the Parks structure is done. The inspections have passed. The plans now to begin the application process for the RV Park Host. Councilor Cuthbertson made improvements to RV Host description. One of the concerns that Councilor Cuthbertson has was the issue with the owner's pets and what liability that would put the city into. Councilor Thayer made a motion to accept the RV Park Host Description as presented, Councilor Koroush seconded. Vote: Cuthbertson-No, Thayer-Yes, Koroush-Yes, Baker-No, Billings-Yes, Motion carries.

7.3 Public Works: Councilor Cuthbertson mentioned she is the only one left and there hasn't been a meeting for quite some time. Acting Mayor Billings asked Councilor Cuthbertson if she would be

the chair for that committee and she responded yes. Councilor Baker asked since the election is so close, why are we appointing now. Acting Mayor Billings replied that we still have November and December until new Council member are sworn in.

7.3 Committee Reports: PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE The Personnel & Finance Committee met on October 21, 2020 and went over financial and audit reports. A Request from the Administrative Assistant, Laurie Eastridge to continue on the health insurance coverage while working just part time hours. Laurie is willing to pay half of the monthly premium and ask for the City to pay the remainder portion. The City amount would be \$391, monthly. This was included in the current year budget. Councilor Koroush mentioned that we do this only for Laurie and no one else. Councilor Baker made a motion to have Laurie Eastridge receive medical benefits at half cost specific to her employment. Seconded by Councilor Koroush. Discussion: Councilor Cuthbertson asked if there is an hour cut off minimum to receive insurance. Steve M. responded that 17.5 per week is required. Vote: All Yes, Motion carried.


7.4 Grants: John Greydanus gave report on Safe Routes to School Grant and a new opportunity by The Oregon Community Pass Program. This would improve the old railroad line starting at Alpine Cutoff Road to Kelly Street. A letter of intent needs to be drafted and submitted before a formal application is made. The Council agreed that John can proceed with letter of intent for this grant. He also mentioned that the improvements for Orchard Street will include new crosswalk marking and push activated flashing lights.

7.4 Mayor's Comments Acting Mayor Billings reminded everyone that with the upcoming election, by resolution the new members will be sworn into office on the first Monday in January, 2021. So, they are ready to take over the duties at the January City Council Meeting. Councilor Koroush and Thayer expressed thanks to Acting Mayor Billings for his many hours and commitment to making the City Park Project happen. Acting Mayor Billings mentioned that new rock is being donated, and thanked Todd Nystrom for the donated table.

8. ADJOURN: Acting Mayor Billings adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:50 PM.

Approved by Council Action on November 23, 2020.

Acting Mayor Floyd Billings  DATE: 11-23-20

Attest:  _____

Steve Martinenko, City Recorder