

AUGUST 7, 2019

The Gearhart City Council meeting was called to order on Wednesday August 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Matt Brown. Present were Councilor Fackerell, 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 an additional 3-minute opportunity for visitors to speak, if the Council agrees. The Council agreed.

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

Councilor Cockrum noted a correction on the July 3, 2019 City Council minutes. ON MOTION by Councilor Cockrum, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the July 3, 2019 City Council minutes as corrected, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Each member of Council was given a copy of the Police report, Fire Dept. report, Planning Commission report and City Treasurer report. Mayor Brown mentioned the Planning Commission is looking at commercial zones C-1 & C-2 and suggested holding a work session before a public hearing is held.

Mayor Brown announced that there was an alarming threat made on social media. A local Facebook, page a post suggested shooting one of our city officials. The post was engaged by one of its' founding members and liked by one of its' administrators. We take threats of potential violence very seriously. A report was filed with the Gearhart Police Department and the information was then forwarded to the District Attorney's Office. Mayor Brown emotionally noted that one of Gearhart's strengths are that there are many avenues for folks to give civil and constructive feedback on the issues. We may disagree on policy, however propagating threats and hatred is not the Gearhart that we all know and love.

Mayor Brown has been asked what the city is doing to prepare for an emergency?

1. The city has developed a hazard mitigation plan and is involved with Clatsop County and FEMA.
2. Has applied and won a State Homeland emergency supply grant for \$54,306.
3. City council approved the purchase of two conex containers to be placed on high ground in the city limits to store emergency and medical supplies.
4. Participated in a joint naval exercise where a hovercraft was dispatched from the US Naval ship to simulate bringing emergency supplies to the shore.
5. The city has been working with DLCD on tsunami overlay zone updates to prepare for the State Grant Resiliency process.
6. Thanks to the CERT team for working to keep us prepared. The CERT team is working on a cache program and emergency ham radio communications.
7. If a new fire station and resiliency building was built above 60 feet in elevation it would make a safe vertical evacuation space for 95% of all cascadia events and would double as an emergency communications center.
8. The city purchased a pallet of (MRE) meals ready to eat (no heating necessary) for \$400.00 from a surplus of the State of Oregon. The meals have a 30 year shelf life and may be for citizens, employees and first responders called out on wildland fires and will be stored in the conex.

Councilor Cockrum reported additional details for the cache container program which the CERT team hopes to begin this fall. The program offers 55 gallon drum and a 5 gallon red bucket and a 5 gallon blue bucket for residents to purchase to store personal supplies in the conex on high ground. The city already has 3 caches on high ground. Ms. Cockrum advised we have worked on emergency food and shelter and next we will focus on sanitation. Chad Sweet added we are equipped with a sand point system and can tap into the aquafer. With the grant money we will be buying two water purification units and a water storage container. Ms. Cockrum added that currently in our caches we have enough bleach to disinfect water as well as some homestead books that have good information on old fashioned ways to take care of ourselves.

Councilor Fackerell plans to volunteer in Seaside at the volleyball tournament. This year they are eliminating all plastic water bottles and next year there will be no plastics at all.

City Attorney Peter Watts is working with the Palisades Association regarding the land at High Point.

City Administrator Chad Sweet appreciates Mayor Brown's passion regarding this unfortunate event. The staff, family and friends appreciate the Mayor for standing up for us. Thank-you.

City Administrator Chad Sweet reported:

- Fire station update; we received the Geotech draft results and they showed that High Point is a good site. We will have a detailed report later.
- Oregon Solutions is working with the city on elk management.
- Duncan's Crossing; the joint application was submitted and reviewed. The city now has a design for the bridge crossing which Councilor Jesse studied and suggested using volunteer labor to cut costs.
- Online water payments are now available as of August 1, 2019. Go to the city of Gearhart website to see the box for online payments. You will have a quick pay option or register and login to view your account, print statements and pay your water bill. Your payment will automatically be applied to your account and electronically deposited in the city bank account. Online pay will eliminate about 10 steps for staff.
- The Parks Master Plan we are waiting for the results.
- The Great Oregon Shake Out will be on 10-17 at 10:17. We are working with CERT simulating a tsunami event and we will go to our assembly areas. It will be fun and educational.
- The Short-Term Rental status update report shows fiscal year number of permits, STR fees, Transient tax, complaints, revenue charts and graphs.

Bebe Michele 661 10th Street reported having a table with emergency preparedness information to help educate folks and encourage having to go bags ready to evacuate to high ground.

Wilson Mark 1209 N. Cottage reminded the City Council that in the past the pickleball requests to spend city money to convert courts were turned down. Mr. Wilson questioned should the funds be spent on something else. He was also concerned that many residents do not know that there is a request for \$10,000 to convert the tennis court to a pickle ball court and thought the residents and tennis players should know about this request.

Alice Lane 1108 S. Holladay is in favor of pickleball and asked the city council to approve the \$10,000 request for the pickleball court.

Patrick Oshea 3120 Sunset Blvd. is in favor of pickleball and thought you would be doing your city a favor.

Denele Sweet business owner of Encore Dance Studio in Gearhart who came to support the City Administrator. We love Gearhart and love the people but, we are very concerned by this groups actions, so thank-you Mayor Brown for your opening statement and support.

ON MOTION by Councilor Cockrum, 2nd by Councilor Smith to move forward on the pickleball on the east court spending up to 10k, less if possible, and using short term rental jail tax and donated funds, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Judd Todd 313 Nita is in favor of pickleball and noted the tennis courts are often empty. He also mentioned the elk regarding cutting and clearing of the dunes.

Councilor Cockrum had concerns with tree cutting in the dunes. A MOTION by Councilor Cockrum to suspend permitting tree cutting for 1 month. City Attorney Peter Watts advised council that would you would need to publish a notice to allow time for public input. Councilor Cockrum withdrew her motion.

ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.


Mayor Matt Brown


Chad Sweet, City Administrator