

CITY OF GEARHART
Meeting of the Budget Committee
Thursday, May 5, 2022
5:00 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

The meeting of the Gearhart Road District and City Budget Committee was held Thursday, May 5, 2022. Budget Members, City staff and the public were able to attend on-site, virtual, or by dialing in on a telephone.

Mayor Cockrum called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, Councilor Austin Tomlinson, Budget Member Sharon Kloepper, Budget Member Eric Halperin, Budget Member Charles Iverson, Budget Member Curt Penrod, Budget Member Dianne Widdop, City Administrator Chad Sweet, and City Treasurer/Budget Officer Justine Hill. All Council Members are also members of the Budget Committee. A quorum of the Budget Committee was present.

There were no conflicts of interest declared by any member of the Budget Committee. There was discussion regarding the State Revenue Sharing and potential conflicts of interest when awarding grant funds to organizations where members of the Budget Committee participate. Budget Member Widdop noted she was involved in the Seaside Airport Committee and Councilor Fackerell noted she was involved in the South County Food Bank.

Mayor Cockrum called for nominations to elect a chairperson to lead the Budget Committee.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the recommendation of Councilor Warren as the chairperson for the Budget Committee, MOTION was approved 10 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren, Halperin, Iverson, Kloepper, Penrod, Widdop) - 0 nays.

Budget Chair Councilor Warren called for nominations to elect a secretary/recorder to document minutes for the Budget Committee. Councilor Fackerell motioned to recommend Budget Officer Justine Hill, Mayor Cockrum seconded; however, after discussion regarding her already being the Budget Officer, the motion was withdrawn.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approve the recommendation of City Administrator Sweet as the secretary/recorder for the Budget Committee, MOTION was approved 10 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren, Halperin, Iverson, Kloepper, Penrod, Widdop) - 0 nays.

Budget Chair Councilor Warren opened the public hearing for the State Revenue Sharing. Mayor Cockrum noted that some representatives from the applicants signed in to speak.

- George Mareina, St. Vincent De Paul - Our Lady of Victory Conference - Gearhart Food Pantry. They provide food and financial aid to clients, including those living in Gearhart and surrounding areas. They are located in the North Coast Plaza in Gearhart, Oregon. Councilor Fackerell asked for clarification on rent subsidies and operational fees. Mareina confirmed that there is emergency monetary assistance given to people in the area to assist with housing. He also explained that they are part of both a State and National organization that does require membership fees.
- Darren Gooch, South County Community (SCC) Food Bank. The SCC Food pantry serves clients from all over south Clatsop County, including Gearhart, Oregon. They have built relationships and partnered with many local grocery stores (e.g., Costco, Grocery Outlet, Safeway). Budget Member Widdop asked if there was still local representation in the organization. Gooch confirmed that the Casterline family was still very much involved; as well as many other Gearhart residents, including Councilor Fackerell.
- Darren Gooch, Sunset Parks & Recreation Foundation. He explained that the foundation is built around supporting the mission and work of the Sunset Parks & Recreation District (SEPRD). The grant request was specifically for providing SEPRD scholarships to struggling families and seniors. Councilor Warren asked if it was feasible that grant funds could specifically be allocated to scholarships for Gearhart residents. Gooch said this may be feasible, but it would be a foundation board decision.
- Kassia Nye, North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC). Their goal is to connect the landscape of the Oregon Coast, from the Columbia River to northern Lincoln County, by acquiring or otherwise managing lands for their habitat value. Their grant request is to support their signature event, Coast Walk Oregon, which invites visitors on a three day guided hike. Visitors are encouraged to lodge, dine and shop locally for the duration of the event. This year, Gearhart is the final destination. Councilor Fackerell inquired how the grant funds would be spent. Nye explained the financial commitment that it takes to create the event. Funds would go to transportation for the visitors, and food and water along the trail.
 - ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to close the public hearing for the State Revenue Sharing program, 10 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren, Halperin, Iverson, Kloepper, Penrod, Widdop) - 0 nays.

Budget Officer Hill explained her objective was to read the budget message and directly transition into the budget document using the budget narrative. She welcomed comments, questions and input after the entire budget document was reviewed. The Budget Committee would then transition into discussion and the selection of the State Revenue Sharing grant awards. There was consensus that this was an acceptable

pathway to reviewing the budget. Budget Officer Hill proceeded to read the budget message and go over the important or significant changes in the budget document, which were outlined in the budget narrative document.

Budget Chair Councilor Warren transitioned the Budget Committee into awarding the State Revenue Sharing grants for the 2022-2023 budget year. There was discussion on the way to approach the awards.

Administrator Sweet provided a digital, working spreadsheet for the Committee to see current grant amounts, proposed City Staff amounts for next year, and an approved column for decisions made by the Budget Committee for next year. The Budget Committee went over applications and had discussion. Several Budget Committee Members were concerned over conflict of interest. It was clarified that a voting Budget Committee Member only has a conflict of interest if they influenced a governmental decision in which they, a family member, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated will receive financial gain. It was decided that although Budget Committee Members participated in local organizational groups that were being awarded grants, the Members would not be financially gaining by voting on the grant awards. The Budget Committee reallocated some of the proposed ending fund balance to increase the amount of the grant awards, which does not impact the total State Revenue Sharing budget.

At 7:18 pm a five minute recess was called. Meeting resumed at 7:24 pm.

The Budget Committee was invited to ask questions and share their input on each page of the budget document. There was discussion on administrative legal fees, audit requirements, insurance amounts, technology/software requests, one dollar allocations, conflagration/mobilization, street light clarification, land purchase, General Fund administrative materials and services summary total, public works director salary, State Street materials and services summary expenditures, allocation of reserve funds, salary correlations on the supplemental salary information page, and revenue for the Gearhart Rural Fire Protection District (GRFPD) in the General Fund. There was an adjustment in the Budget on page 1. An increase in the general fund, line 22 GRFPD to \$230,720 as per contractual agreement and decrease in line 23 Other - Miscellaneous to \$38,280 to offset the increase in revenue and maintain a balanced budget.

Budget Chair Councilor Warren opened the meeting for public comment on the proposed budget. There was no public comment.

Budget Chair Councilor Warren requested a motion to approve.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to approved the 2022-2023 Budget as amended by the Budget Committee, MOTION was approved 10 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren, Halperin, Iverson, Kloepper, Penrod, Widdop) - 0 nays.

- Budget Officer Hill read the approved motion that the Gearhart Budget Committee approved the amended 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of \$23,496,860.33, which includes a permanent tax rate limit levy of \$1.0053 per thousand of assessed value, general obligation debt service; as well as, approval of the Gearhart Road District proposed 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of \$227,406.39 with a permanent tax rate limit levy \$0.0602 per thousand of assessed value.

The Budget Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.