

CITY OF GEARHART
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
7:00 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

The regular meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Council 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 7:03 pm. Present were Mayor Paulina Cockrum, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Kerry Smith, Councilor Brent Warren, Councilor Austin Tomlinson, City Administrator Chad Sweet, City Attorney Peter Watts, Police Chief Jeff Bowman, Fire Training and Operations Officer James Hutchinson, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

There were no conflicts of interest declared by any member of the Council.

There were two sets of minutes that needed to be approved.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Fackerell, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2022 regular meeting of the City Council, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 special meeting of the City Council with corrections, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.

Planning Commission Report. The Councilors received a Planning Commission report in their council packet prepared by Virginia Dideum, Planning Commission President. Mayor Cockrum opened discussion for questions and/or comments and mentioned it contained information on a partition and a variance.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Cockrum presented her report.

- She clarified the visitors' section held during public City meetings. She went over protocols (stating name, address); the ability to email Chad Sweet (chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com) if visitors would like to speak; City staff watching for the "hands up" feature on Zoom; everyone refraining from having dialogue conversations; and visitor communication being held to five minutes. If additional follow-up is needed, City staff and/or the Council will handle this outside of the visitors section.
- She attended the League of Oregon Cities Women's Caucus.
- She has been continuing to support and work with the Gear Pac 2022.

- She has been providing citizens the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns at her Mayor's Coffees.
- She did an interview with KOIN 6, regarding the fire/police bond project.

Councilor's Reports. Mayor Cockrum opened discussion for each Council member's report.

- Councilor Tomlinson had nothing new to report.
- Councilor Smith had nothing new to report.
- Councilor Fackerell has been working with Necanicum Watershed. There are plans to enhance the Ridge Path trail by removing invasive vegetation species and planting native ones. The focus will start with the north side of the Ridge Path. There will be canvassing along the Path to pass information on to property owners about the project.
- Councilor Warren attended the last Mayor's Coffee, which provided a good time to exchange information and talk about the fire/police project. He is working on the idea of a capital campaign and who would be the most appropriate fiscal agent (City, Gearhart Fire Association or both).

City Officer Reports.

- Chief of Police. Chief Bowman went over the police statistical report information. He highlighted a specific incident where a concerned woman came in to talk about encounters with her neighbor, which she felt were harassing and intimidating. Chief Bowman had a discussion with her regarding freedom of speech and how often poor interpersonal skills can be perceived as a violation; however, they do not violate any specific laws. The woman was frustrated with the situation and felt that there was an "evil streak" running through Gearhart. Chief Bowman stressed that people often throw "verbal stones" and that Gearhart residents are not "evil." He felt they had a productive conversation and he reminded everyone that the police office is always open! Councilor Warren requested follow-up on the police recruitment process. Chief Bowman explained they are again in the background process of a new candidate since the last one declined an employment offer.
- Fire Chief. Chief Como was unavailable so Fire Training and Operations Officer, James Hutchinson presented information to the Council. He gave an April data report, including a call breakdown and mutual aid given. He talked about community events (e.g., open house, egg hunt), which included Representative Suzanne Weber touring the current fire station. He briefly went over training, dispatch and radio communications, and grants. Councilor Fackerell inquired why she keeps hearing there is a drought in Oregon while it was the wettest month on record. Hutchinson explained that it has to do with the specific geographical area being referenced in Oregon. Currently, much of central and eastern Oregon remains in extreme to exceptional drought.
- City Treasurer. Financial reports were submitted in the Councilors' packets. Treasurer Hill reported that in revenues, the Gearhart Rural Fire District has made their annual contractual agreement

payment. There were quarterly taxes submitted for marijuana tax and transient room tax; as well as, renewals for annual short-term rental permits. In expenditures, there has been a transfer from parks personnel services to water personnel services part-time help. This was an adjustment because the work was specifically water expenditure related (maintenance of fire hydrants). There was also a public works expenditure for the purchase of a new public works vehicle, which the Council approved in June 2021. All Budget Committee applicants were invited to a 30-minute voluntary meeting at City Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to go over the meeting process, basic terminology, and format of a City's budget.

- City Attorney. Attorney Watts gave an update on the continuing US Bank / Shannon Smith case. He also discussed information on the land swap project. Items he talked about were: having accurate buildable lands inventory, community growth, talking with State officials regarding populations growth numbers and equity, water system redundancy, free property for parks and fire/police station, alternative sites, and the land use formal application process. Political signs and the land swap seems to have captured the attention of residents because he has been hearing about both topics.
- City Administrator. Information had also been sent to the Councilors in advance. He gave a summation of his written report. Specific items discussed were: the Clatsop County May 10 meeting, the upcoming Budget meeting, the F Street water break, water conservation plan, the playground equipment being delivered and working on getting quotes to finish the project, the upcoming worksession, the 4th of July parade, and the street dance.

Correspondence. Mayor Cockrum went over correspondence. There was late correspondence submitted (Phipps, Smith, Morey). Lisa Phipps, DLCD, emailed in regards to the DLCD 2022 land use legislation report. Judith Spears emailed regarding more accountability with traffic speed on Gearhart Loop. Jeanne Mark emailed regarding playground equipment. David Smith emailed that he was resigning his position on the City Planning Commission. Bob Morey emailed regarding the UGB land swap. Mayor Cockrum mentioned that a new Planning Commission member would probably be recommended at the June meeting. Councilor Smith commented that David Smith was a great asset to the Planning Commission. Councilors agreed and wished him well.

Visitors. Mayor Cockrum reminded visitors of the protocol. Ken Shonkwiler, Senior Region Planner, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), was asked to speak first.

- Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT (Astoria, Oregon) gave an update on the US 101 Gearhart Facility Plan, which builds on Gearhart's Transportation System Plan to identify specific changes to US 101. He talked about feedback on the two alternatives presented to the community. He discussed next steps, public involvement, and funding. He mentioned that the round-about idea was liked; however, it would remain as an aspirational objective. When specifically asked if a traffic signal was feasible

around Highlands Lane, he explained that the area would probably not warrant a traffic signal because it is very difficult to meet the specification and criteria.

- Shannon Smith (774 Pacific Way, Gearhart) expressed some concerns over speed issues. She feels that cars are increasing their speed in the community. She also mentioned the City may be interested in exploring the USDA rural development grant.
- Jack Zimmerman (408 W Kershul Circle, Gearhart). Administrator Sweet acknowledged Mr. Zimmerman's public records request. There was discussion on the ability to review the data and directly contacting City data providers. Mr. Zimmerman requested a status update on the Olstedt property with Clatsop County. Attorney Watts gave an update. He explained that the developers did not continue their process with the County because they were going to pursue options with the City of Gearhart.
- A time check was called. There was a last call for visitors.

Ordinances/Resolutions. Ordinance #932 adoption of the City of Gearhart Parks Master Plan was introduced. Mayor Cockrum noted that the City Planner, Carole Connell would not be in attendance. It was noted that the Staff Report had been updated. There was discussion and consensus on items such as: correspondence section being updated; Section 1.C being removed; Section 1.B on the dunes; the highlighted area and adjustments on page 17; the appropriateness of using the specific last names of current property owners as parcel references; demographic information on page 42 Section 7.D.1(1); and, language change on page 18 regarding licensed environmental official versus using the appropriate State agency for approval.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to adopt the draft as amended and with a second title only reading, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays.
- Administrator Sweet read by title Ordinance #932, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE GEARHART PARKS & MASTER PLAN (PRMP) AND AMENDING THE CITY OF GEARHART COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ZONING AND SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE PRMP.
- Councilor Fackerell thanked everyone for their hard work on the Plan.

Old Business. None.

New Business. The Budget Committee has openings and needs new members to be appointed. There were eight applicants that submitted information; however, two have voluntarily withdrawn (Shortman, Zimmerman). There were six applicants (Halperin, Iverson, Johnson, Kloepper, Penrod, Widdop) remaining, but only five positions available. Mayor Cockrum invited applicants to speak, which Curt Penrod, Dianne Widdop, Charles Iverson, and Eric Halperin chose to do. Mayor Cockrum noted that Matthew Johnson did

mention on his application that he would be okay if others were selected and he would continue to look at other ways to support his community. It was also noted Sharon Kloepper is currently serving on the Planning Commission. Mayor Cockrum recommended the following applicants for the Budget Committee: Eric Halperin, Charles Iverson, Sharon Kloepper, Curt Penrod, and Dianne Widdop. There was discussion on Matthew Johnson's application.


- ON MOTION by Mayor Cockrum, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the recommendations as presented by the Mayor for the Budget Committee members, MOTION was approved 3 yeas (Cockrum, Smith, Warren) - 2 nays (Fackerell, Tomlinson).

Council Concerns.

- Councilor Tomlinson had no concerns.
- Councilor Fackerell had no concerns.
- Councilor Smith had no concerns.
- Councilor Warren had no concerns except the continued social media/facebook post misinformation.
- Mayor Cockrum had no concerns.

Mayor Cockrum requested adjournment.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Smith, 2nd by Councilor Tomlinson to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Cockrum, Fackerell, Smith, Tomlinson, Warren) - 0 nays. Mayor Cockrum adjourned the regular Council meeting at 8:36 pm.



Mayor Paulina Cockrum

Chad Sweet, City Administrator