

CITY OF GEARHART
Special Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
6:00 pm On-site and Virtual/Telephonic

A special meeting of the Gearhart City Council was held Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Council members, City staff, and the public were able to attend on-site, virtually, or by dialing in on a telephone.

Present were Mayor Kerry Smith, Councilor Preston Devereaux, Councilor Reita Fackerell, Councilor Dana Gould, Councilor Sharon Kloepfer, City Administrator Chad Sweet, City Attorney Peter Watts, Sergeant Brown, Executive Assistant Krysti Ficker, and City Treasurer Justine Hill. A quorum of the Council was present.

Mayor Smith called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Mayor Smith requested, by consensus, that the standard regular City Council meeting agenda be modified.

- By consensus, the City Council agreed that the special meeting agenda could be modified (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepfer, Smith).

Public Communications - Written & Oral. Mayor Smith read the oral public comment statement on the agenda. There was written correspondence submitted by Deb Papadopoulous (Questions on New Public Safety Building Project). There was no additional public communication.

Ordinances/Resolutions.

Resolution 992 - Advisory Vote Gauging Support for a New Public Safety Building Downtown;
Resolution 993 - Advisory Vote Gauging Support for a New Public Safety Building North of
Downtown; and Resolution 994 - Advisory Vote Gauging Support for a New Public Safety Building
Amenities. Mayor Smith opened the discussion. Administrator Sweet explained that the three resolutions are to gauge public support through advisory ballot titles. He went over the election timeline and process; and, explained these advisory ballot titles could go on the May election. Councilor Gould requested additional input from Attorney Watts. Attorney Watts explained the information provided by the advisory ballot titles may assist in answering some of the speculative questions of why prior public safety bonds have been unsuccessful (e.g., location, cost, amenities). The focus in drafting the documents was to gain clarification from voting community members on: support, types of amenities, and location. He also went over regulatory requirements that impact City

staff once the advisory ballot titles were officially submitted. He explained that public employees may not use their work time to engage in certain types of political advocacy, which may impact Town Hall participation. He also suggested the ability to wait until the November election to submit the advisory ballot titles. There were continued discussions on public employee involvement; timelines; perception of advocacy; and Councilors' advocacy roles during an election period.

There was continued clarifying discussion, which included: the value of opinions from property owners that are not allowed to vote in Gearhart; importance of all residents' input; continuing due diligence in information gathering; election costs May versus November; relevance of building placement in/out of the inundation zone; DOGAMI information; addition of new Councilors and their lack of exposure to previous relevant data; unknown impacts of HB 2605; changes in Gearhart's population; placement of any public facility in parks; grants (federal, State, private); course of action depending on advisory outcome vote; and the overall essential need for community support.

Councilor Kloepfer requested clarification on if the elevation and/or being out of the inundation zone would improve any chances of receiving grants, which was unanswerable at that time.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Gould, 2nd by Councilor Fackerell to take no action at the special meeting on the resolutions, 5 yeas (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepfer, Smith) - 0 nays.

Mayor Smith requested adjournment.

- ON MOTION by Councilor Gould, 2nd by Councilor Kloepfer to adjourn the meeting, MOTION was approved 5 yeas (Devereaux, Fackerell, Gould, Kloepfer, Smith) - 0 nays. Mayor Smith adjourned the special Council meeting at 6:35 pm.



Mayor Kerry Smith



Chad Sweet, City Administrator