

MINUTES
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
150 WEST COE AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Stanfield City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor McCann at the Stanfield City Council Chambers, located at 150 West Coe Avenue, Stanfield, Oregon.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Mayor McCann, Council President Don Tyrrell, Councilors Scott Challis, Del Manley, Susan Whelan, Jason Sperr, and Ralph Parrish. City Staff present were Finance Director Jerry Carlson, City Clerk Sandy Endicott, Public Works Director Scott Morris, Library Director Cecili Longhorn. Chief Bryon Zumwalt was absent.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor McCann led the audience and members of the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 16, 2019

Mayor McCann asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Mayor McCann approved the minutes for the July 16, 2019 City Council as written.

STAFF COMMENTS

Police Chief Zumwalt – Is at the fairgrounds this week.

Public Works – Scott Morris reports that we hired a new public works employee the first of August. We also surveyed Howard Street for a new trail from Stage Gulch down Howard to Ball Street. Some neighboring property owners have encroached on the street right of way, and we need to send letters out to let them know that they need to move their fences back. Harding Street project should be starting soon, but he had no details right now. Cascade Gas is not replacing the line at this time, since there are no fumes present.

Interim City Managers – Jerry Carlson requested we start with Idapro first in the executive session, so that Assistant Clerk Nikki McCann can take part in the discussion. Mr. Carlson also informed the council of his wife's health issues, and the fact that he could be called away to Colorado at a moment's notice if her health declines suddenly. Mr. Carlson also stated that he and Ms. Endicott would like to have Nikki McCann working full time at least until a new City Manager can come on board and make the decision as to whether we can afford to keep her on full time. He stated that we have funding that was budgeted for the City Manager that is not being used presently, and could be used to pay for her added hours.

Sandy Endicott gave an update on 170 S. Main. She spoke of the progress they have made in remodeling, and that they should be opening soon. She also stated that Attorney Brandon Foy has been replacing doors and windows at 165 W Coe, and has begun clearing out the inside of the old Elephant's Trunk building, so we should see some good things happening there soon.

Councilor Whelan asked if there has been any news concerning 110 N Main, there is nothing new to report.

Sandy Endicott informed the council that the West End Umatilla County Trails project will have a public hearing at the High School on October 9th from 5:00-7:30 pm. Scott Morris added that there will be four meetings that week; one in Stanfield, one in Echo, one in Umatilla, and one in Hermiston. By that time there should be a route for the proposed trail.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

David Keltz Jr. was the only audience member, and he had no further comment as he had already submitted his comments in a letter to the council in support of the “road diet”. The council thanked Mr. Keltz for his letter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jerry Carlson requested for some reaction from the council regarding whether to have Nikki McCann work full time.

Councilor Whelan asked if we have money in the budget for that. Jerry Carlson stated that we had already budgeted \$80,000.00 for the City Manager’s salary, only part of which is being used to pay himself and Ms. Endicott. Even paying Nikki the extra hours, we are still coming out ahead.

Councilors Tyrrell and Manley motioned and seconded to have Nikki McCann work full time until a new City Manager is hired. Ayes: Challis, Manley, Sperr, Whelan, Parrish, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jerry Carlson brought up the restoration of the old water tower by Pittsburgh Tank. We have money allocated to start the project in this year’s budget. We may need to update the cost estimate, and select the contractors, but we need to know whether the council would like to pursue that at this time. The money we have budgeted should cover the issues addressed by OSHA for use of the tower by cell phone companies. Or, we can wait until we have a new City Manager on board.

Council discussed the benefits of starting the project now such as good weather, rising costs if we wait, the contractors may have scheduling delays anyway, and the uncertainty of a start date for a new City Manager as Mr. Patterson has backed out. Mayor McCann expressed concern that having too many projects going at once would over-tax the employees and create a construction nightmare. Scott Morris said that contractors will do the Harding street project, the Housing Authority is doing the subdivision north of the canal, and ODOT won’t start our project for about a year. Councilor Whelan asked the employees how much of their time would be required for these projects. Mr. Carlson said most things won’t take much of our time. Scott Morris said that city employees can begin doing some of the smaller projects themselves, such as clearing debris from the tower supports.

Councilors Sperr and Manley motioned and seconded to get updated cost estimates for the water tower renovation project. Ayes: Challis, Manley, Sperr, Parrish, and Tyrrell. Councilor Whelan abstained. Motion carried.

Sandy Endicott said she talked to ODOT after the public hearing, and they will need certain decisions to be made soon so that they may finish the design phase of the project. She also stated that a couple people have come to her and wanted to voice their support for the “road diet”.

Councilor Challis said that the majority of people who came to the public hearing were in favor of the “road diet”.

Councilor Whelan said one citizen approached to her to voice her support for the project.

Mayor McCann said that David Keltz’s letter made some very valid points.

Nikki McCann said all the cities she contacted who have tried the “road diet” said they would do it again in a heartbeat. Towns with more businesses than Stanfield, have had a positive experience with the “road diet”. They did say getting more information out to the public would be helpful.

Councilor Sperr said that most of the people on Facebook were in favor. The negative people were the most vocal, but a lot of those people don’t even live in Stanfield.

Cecili Longhorn said that some people are afraid of change. They think we are going back in time, but we are going back to what worked for our community.

Councilor Sperr said he drove through Milton-Freewater four times last weekend, and although there was steady traffic, it flowed smoothly.

Scott Morris thinks that we should narrow to two lanes south of the school, near Locust Street, to avoid congestion by the High School.

Mayor McCann brought up the fact that regardless of what we decide, if we don't like it we can always have it re-striped.

Scott Morris said that we still need to decide on the size of the bulb-outs. Councilor Whelan asked if the larger ones would be an issue with snow removal. Scott said no it would not be an issue.

Councilor Challis said that he recently sat at the market and watched a pedestrian trying to cross all the lanes of traffic, and saw the difficulties she was having. He decided then and there that if he voted against this and someone died, he didn't know if he could live with himself knowing we could have done something to make it safer for people. This could possibly save lives and prevent accidents. He also stated that he contacted the state to confirm that we could have parallel parking from Ball Street to Harding Street if we do the "road diet" configuration. They said there is enough room to have parking and a bike lane adjacent to Bard Park in the narrower section of 395.

Scott Morris pointed out that we will lose a parking space to the bulb outs, but we would gain it back in other areas. ODOT will take our concerns in to consideration in the design. They would probably start narrowing down on the south end of town at about Dunne Street.

Councilors Whelan and Sperr motioned and seconded to contact ODOT and tell them that we are in favor of moving forward with the "road diet" and the larger bulb outs. Ayes: Challis, Manley, Sperr, Whelan, Parrish, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Challis will be gone for the next council meeting, and possibly the one after that.

Councilor Whelan attended Columbia Development Authority meeting at the request of Jerry Carlson. The main efforts of the group is economic development, with multiple entities being represented. She recommended that we keep in touch with this group for economic development purposes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS §192.660 (2)(i): City Manager Recruitment

Mayor McCann recessed the regular meeting and opened an executive session to discuss City Manager recruitment, and discuss matters relating to the 3D –Idapro lawsuit.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Mayor McCann re-opened the regular meeting.

Councilors Whelan and Parrish motioned and seconded to ask staff to contact Mr. Burgener to come for an interview as soon as possible if he's still interested in the City Manager's job. Also have staff contact the other applicants to inform them that they did not get the job. If Mr. Burgener is no longer available, staff should proceed in acquiring an interim City Manager. Ayes: Challis, Manley, Sperr, Whelan, Parrish, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor McCann advised the council that he is going to check in to getting a grant from Wildhorse Foundation for the proposed Veteran's Memorial Park.

Councilor Sperr brought up Nikki McCann's payroll amount. It was decided that until a new City Manager can be hired, Nikki will work 40 hours per week at her regular salary with no additional bonus money.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Mayor McCann adjourned the regular meeting of August 6, 2019 at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Endicott, Interim City Manager/Recorder

Attest: _____
Mayor

Date of Approval: _____