

MINUTES  
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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

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

FLAG SALUTE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 6, 2019 AND AUGUST 20, 2019

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

Mayor McCann approved the minutes for the August 6, 2019 and August 20, 2019 City Council meetings as written.

RESOLUTION #09-2019 AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES' PILOT PROGRAM PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO EASTERN OREGON CITIES

Jerry Carlson explained that this is a pilot program Blair Larsen signed up for in the previous fiscal year. This is a free program which provides the city ten hours of legal advice from attorneys through the League of Oregon Cities, which could be used for things such as vacating streets. Taking part in this program has no drawbacks, and could save the city approximately \$1,500.00 this year on attorney fees. We do have to notify our attorney that we are seeking this free advice.

Councilors Manley and Sperr motioned and seconded to approve Resolution #09-2019 authorizing the city's participation in the League of Oregon Cities' pilot program providing limited free legal advice to Eastern Oregon cities. Ayes: Manley, Sperr, Whelan, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

STAFF COMMENTS

Police – Chief Zumwalt said that he has been asked how long it takes to resolve code enforcement issues, he gave an example. We are currently working to abate the property at 725 S. Main. Lee Roy Byrd is allegedly living in a camp trailer there with no city water hooked up. Mr. Byrd's sister owns the property. The property has illegal fencing, storage containers, semi-truck trailer, RV's etc. that must be removed, as well as very tall weeds. Mr. Byrd is basically operating a junk yard at the property. A citation was issued in to the Municipal Court on December 28, 2018, but the problem still has not been corrected. When the abatement procedure was started Mr. Byrd requested an extension to the end of summer, and now is requesting an extension to the end of the year. The property is a safety issue as there has been a fire there in the past. The property is adjacent to the train tracks, and a train caused a fire which they could

not extinguish due to all the junk that was on the property. After the fire he cleaned the property up pretty good, but now it's right back to the same situation. Chief Zumwalt would like to have a hearing at the next council meeting on September 17, 2019 to discuss abatement of this property. Since we currently have no City Manager, he would like to get official approval of the council to move forward with the abatement as allowed by city ordinance. Code Enforcement Officer Wright will present testimony of the progress so far, and pictures of the property. The property owner will be invited to attend this hearing. Abatement would commence the following Wednesday. The abatement would be extensive and time consuming. The property contains a lot of scrap metal which can be recycled to offset some of the abatement costs. A lien will be placed on the property for any remaining abatement costs.

Peggy Lindberg's property abatement was started at the same time as Mr. Byrd's was, and it has been brought in to compliance under threat of abatement. The property was cleaned up with the help of the church, and removing several of the vehicles.

Abatement was recently completed at 250 S. Lucy. Two railroad car storage containers and a fifth wheel RV were removed. Public Works crews removed the four foot weeds covering the property, as well as some old fencing.

Several letters have been sent out regarding code enforcement issues, and there are several property owners actively cleaning those properties because of those letters.

The building at 110 N Main is in the abatement stage now. It has an old trailer, old furniture and miscellaneous items, illegal cinder block and particle board fencing. It is an eyesore that we receive a lot of complaints about, and Chief Zumwalt wanted the council's input on the abatement. Council agreed that all of the debris piled around the building must be removed.

Councilor Sperr commented that he liked having the police presence near the school at closing time, and would like to see the officers there more often. Chief Zumwalt said that the Echo schools let out at the same time.

Public Works – Scott Morris said that the Harding Street paving project is coming along. This is a project mostly funded by a \$100,000 small cities grant from Oregon Dept. of Transportation. They are raising the manholes today, but they still need to do the shoulders of the road and the striping. The project should be completed by September 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to safety concerns one change was made. The crosswalk by Stage Gulch RV Park was changed from a diagonal crossing to a straight crossing. This puts pedestrians in the lanes of traffic for less time, and is further from the corner at Hwy 395 allowing vehicles more time to see the pedestrians and stop. With the addition of \$11,000.00 from budgeted street funds, we were able to use the entire grant allotment and repave 1,300 feet of Harding Street from Hwy 395 to Wayne Street. If we get another \$100,000.00 grant, we might be able to do the remainder of Harding Street.

Scott Morris asked if anyone had questions on the downtown water tower renovation project. Councilor Sperr asked if some items listed for renovation were doubled. Mr. Morris explained we are doing the OSHA required improvements, but not the improvements needed to put the tower back in to service. He is still waiting on estimates for decorative lights to be placed on the tower.

Interim City Managers –Jerry Carlson reported that we had a request, by the owner of two adjacent lots, to build a triplex at the corner of E. Furnish and S Earl, which is allowed by ordinance on a 6,000 square foot lot. Upon completion, the owner may remove an existing home and build a second triplex which he should be able to do by combining his lots.

There was a complaint about the trains parking on the Coe Ave. RR crossing for long periods of time. Mr. Carlson wanted Council to know that it is a continuing problem. In the past the trains have blocked the crossings as long as two hours at a time. Councilor Challis may have some ideas for departments within the railroad to contact about the issue.

Nikki McCann reported that the quilt shop opening at 170 S. Main would like to have City Council members present at a ribbon cutting ceremony, but they don't have a date set yet.

Ms. McCann also reported that Sandy Endicott had been in touch with the newly appointed city manager, Ben Burgener, and as he feared, his car will not be repaired in time to get here on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September as he had previously planned. His new start date should be Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. The council didn't see a problem with him starting one week later. Councilor Manley stated "Jerry and Sandy have done a wonderful job" filling in and can handle things for another week.

Ms. McCann stated that there has been some confusion between the City and Sanitary Disposal regarding account balances. A lot of the problems stem from how our computer program handles garbage payments above the amounts owed. Ms. McCann wanted to know if the council would be okay with their staff coming to City Hall to see how our system works, and having us go there to see how their system works. The Council didn't object to this approach.

Ms. McCann mentioned that we are compiling a list of ordinances that may need to be reviewed and updated as recommended by the new City Manager.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No audience members were present.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

We have been asked by the school to once again donate to the sports programs. Councilor Whelan commented that in her opinion it didn't seem right for one taxing unit to donate to another taxing unit. Councilor Sperr concurred. After a brief discussion the Council decided to continue to support the local kids, as we have done for many years, by donating \$350.00.

Councilors Manley and Tyrrell motioned and seconded to provide \$350.00 in support of the Stanfield High Schools' athletic clubs. Ayes: Manley, Sperr, Whelan, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Whelan said they were supposed to have a Public Works Committee meeting regarding the Hwy 395 median last week, but it didn't happen. As all committee members were present, it was decided to have a meeting on Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at City Hall. Councilor Whelan also mentioned the success of the Stanfield Tae Kwando group at the State Championships. She felt we should congratulate them on the reader board. Councilor Whelan will get some information from Erwin Watson and give it to Nikki McCann so she can post it.

Councilor Tyrrell asked if we are going to have a new student representative. We need to find out who the new ASB advisor is, then ask the advisor to select a student to represent the high school on the City Council.

Mayor McCann announced his plan to run for another term as Mayor.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS §192.660 (2)(a) (h):

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

#### REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED

Upon conclusion of the executive session Mayor McCann re-opened the regular meeting.

Councilors Sperr and Whelan motioned and seconded to eliminate paragraph 4 of the City manager contract and replace it with "Hours of work" Monday through Friday working a 40 hour week, and be present at Council meetings. Ayes: Manley, Sperr, Whelan, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Councilors Sperr and Whelan motioned to change paragraph 3 under "Compensation" to read the goals should be established by November 2019, and evaluations in February, May, and September 2020. Ayes: Manley, Sperr, Whelan, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Councilors Sperr and Whelan motioned to approve the City Manager contract with the approved changes made tonight. Ayes: Manley, Sperr, Whelan, and Tyrrell. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Mayor McCann adjourned the regular meeting of September 3, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Carlson, Interim City Manager/Recorder

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor