

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of May 10, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Sieckmann, Councilor Neace, Mayor Mersereau, Councilor S. Johnson, Councilor K. Johnson, Councilor McMahon, Councilor Reisner.

ABSENT:

None.

STAFF:

Eric Swanson, City Administrator; Jolene Morishita Assistant City Administrator; David Doughman, City Attorney.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Doughman said there will be an additional executive session following executive session #3 to consider an exempt public record, specifically a confidential memo from the City Attorney's office. Mr. Swanson removed item #5 – it will be discussed at a future meeting. He introduced the newest police officer, Marina Orta. Interim Police Chief Jolley gave some background information on Officer Orta. She was sworn in by Judge Belooof.

Councilor Reisner asked that agenda item #4 and Executive Session #3 be pulled from the agenda to give the Council time to discuss in open session the process staff uses in hiring new employees. The rest of the Council disagreed.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Ben Waverly has been dealing with the City regarding a water main that flooded and damaged his property – he wants more communication. Councilor S. Johnson said that the City Attorney has advised them that since this is a legal matter that any communication should go through him. There was further discussion between Mr. Doughman and Mr. Waverly.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of April 26, 2016 Minutes
2. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

Councilor Sieckmann made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor S. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

3. Letter from Auditors, Merina & Company – Responsibilities.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. Appointment of Police Chief:

Mr. Swanson went over the staff report regarding appointing Interim Police Chief Jolley as the permanent Chief.

Councilor Sieckmann made a motion to appoint Interim Police Chief Jeff Jolley as permanent Police Chief and authorize the City Administrator to negotiate an offer within the salary range 51 and benefits accordingly with the budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor McMahon.

Discussion: Councilor Neace said she met with Interim Chief Jolley today and she feels he will take the Police Department in the direction it needs to go and he will be accountable. Councilor Reisner said he is not supportive of the process – he feels it should be opened up to other candidates and involve citizens in the hiring process.

Ms. Morishita took a roll call vote: Councilor Sieckmann: yes. Councilor Neace: yes. Councilor S. Johnson: yes. Councilor K. Johnson: yes. Councilor McMahon: yes. Councilor Reisner: no. Mayor Mersereau: yes. Motion passed (6-1).

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

5. City Commission, Committee and City Council Liaison Roles & Responsibilities:

Mr. Swanson gave the history and background information surrounding this issue. He would like to have a work study meeting and he is asking for direction on how to prepare. The staff action is to request the Mayor, two Councilors, and City Administrator prepare work study agenda to address City commission, committee, and Council liaison rules and responsibilities. There was discussion regarding various issues the Councilors felt should be addressed.

Councilor S. Johnson made a motion to direct the Mayor, two City Councilors, and City Administrator to prepare work study agenda to address City commission, committee, and Council liaison rules and responsibilities in addition to the things that were discussed this evening, and to recommend work study date and time within the next two months. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

6. Draft City of Gladstone Personnel Policies:

Mr. Swanson said this is just for information. They are updating the personnel rules and regulations to be consistent with State law.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Ms. Mindy Garlington feels that there should be input from citizens regarding the City commissions, committees, and City Council liaison roles and responsibilities since there are citizens serving on them. She also feels that Councilors should not be voting members. There was further discussion.

Mr. Chuck Gustafson asked about the status of the Library. Councilor S. Johnson said they continue to move forward as the citizens have asked them to do.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Sieckmann:

He asked for discussion/decision regarding the possibility of eliminating the second “Business from the Audience” during Council meetings. It was agreed to discuss this at a later date.

He also asked if the Council is or is not going to be doing proclamations at this time. It was agreed to discuss these topics during a work session.

He, Mayor Mersereau, and Mr. Swanson had a discussion regarding having a packet and agenda review prior to them coming out. Mr. Swanson explained the reasons behind this. None of the Councilors had a problem with this.

Councilor Sieckmann said that Coffee with a Councilor has been going well. He watched the Prescription Drug Take Back and Shredding event recently – he felt it was very successful.

He attended an Urban Renewal meeting recently.

Councilor S. Johnson:

He has concerns regarding email meetings. He feels things move slowly, it is disruptive to City staff, and he finds the process frustrating. He would like the Mayor to consider having work sessions instead. He asked if Administrator Swanson if he was going to continue setting the Council agendas. Administrator Swanson answered affirmatively.

Councilor K. Johnson:

He attended his first Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting recently – they discussed an agenda for their upcoming retreat on June 24th & 25th. He asked if any other Councilors could attend the meetings that he can't attend.

Councilor Reisner:

He received an email from a Gladstone High School science teacher regarding a science unit he's doing on the White Oaks Savannah ecosystems. He asked if Councilor Reisner could speak to the class regarding the Gladstone Nature Park project. Councilor Reisner will not be able to do it and asked if another Councilor could step in.

Mayor Mersereau:

He attended the Charter Committee meeting on May 4th – they finished up the first pass. He has learned a lot.

He said they receive good input from citizens at the Coffee with a Councilor events.

He had heard that things are being cleaned up at Public Works – he took a look around recently and things look great.

Meeting recessed to executive session.

Meeting was reconvened to regular session.

Mr. Doughman explained that the purpose of reconvening during the regular session is to begin a process under the Council's rules, where if a fellow Councilor potentially violated those rules the Council has the opportunity to express concerns, either in writing or in an open meeting and afford that Councilor the opportunity to respond. This is concerning the article that was in the Clackamas Review recently regarding potential hire for an Assistant City Administrator. In particular, Councilor Reisner was quoted in that article and it seemed that he had information that was based on information that would have been Executive Session material. There is a rule that says unless it is required by law, no Council member may make public the discussions or information obtained in an Executive Session. The Council may censure any member who discloses a confidential matter or otherwise violates these rules. Mr. Doughman read the action that can be taken. He suggested that any concerns be put on the record and they can be delivered to Councilor Reisner and he would then have an opportunity to respond, then the rest of the Council can decide whether or not to take any action.

Councilor S. Johnson said that he is concerned that Councilor Reisner has divulged confidential executive information to the press. He is concerned that Councilor Reisner has spoken for other Council members without authorization from the other Council members or the Council as a whole. Is he concerned that Councilor Reisner has had contact with City directors and staff that may be considered supervisory in nature, including requests for employee timesheets. He is concerned about the staff time and cost of Councilor Reisner's actions and that they have become a distraction to the proper operation of the City of Gladstone.

Councilor Sieckmann said he has the same concerns that have been mentioned and he is sorry that we have gotten to this point, but the rest of the Councilors tried to talk with Councilor Reisner and ask that he

stay within the rules. Councilor Sieckmann went over the various rules he feels that Councilor Reisner has violated.

Councilor K. Johnson said he was disappointed with the article. He said trying to govern the City through the newspaper is not the way to do things and he feels that Councilor Reisner has violated the rules.

Councilor McMahon said he has a lot of the same issues, has had them for a lot longer, and agrees with the other Councilors regarding the violation of rules.

Mayor Mersereau explained how he tried to work with Councilor Reisner.

Mr. Doughman agreed to write up the letter to Councilor Reisner soon so that he will have time to respond at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned.

Approved by the Council President this 5/31 day of MAY, 2016.

ATTEST:



Tom Mersereau, Mayor



Jolene Morishita, Assistant City Administrator