

## **GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Milch at 6:30 P.M. – (Via Zoom and In Person)

### **ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Michael Milch, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Garlington, Councilor Huckaby, Councilor Roberts, Councilor Cook. Councilor Reichle arrived via Zoom at 6:42 p.m.

### **ABSENT:**

None

### **STAFF:**

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; John Schmerber, Police Chief; Heather Austin, Senior Planner; Tami Bannick, City Recorder;

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Mayor Milch called the meeting to order. He explained that the City is abiding by guidelines set forth in House Bill 2560, which requires that they make all meetings accessible remotely through technologic means and provide the opportunity for the public to participate to the best of their ability. This meeting will be open to the public, both in person and virtually, using the Zoom platform.

### **OATH OF OFFICE/SWEARING IN OF CITY COUNCILOR CIERRA COOK**

Judge Lindgren administered the Oath of Office to Cierra Cook on the Gladstone City Council to fill the vacancy term of Annessa Hartman. Their term ends December 31, 2024.

### **SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Councilor Huckaby nominated Councilor Roberts for Council President, seconded by Councilor Alexander. *Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote for Council President nomination of Councilor Roberts. Councilor Garlington – yes, Councilor Roberts – abstain, Councilor Cook – yes, Council Alexander – yes, Councilor Huckaby – yes, Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Police Chief Schmerber introduced new Records Specialist Trevor Benya.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **Behavioral Health Crisis Program**

Gladstone Police Department would like to move in the direction of having an in-house behavioral health specialist (BHS). Milwaukie PD shared their successes over the past year with having one on their team. They hired Glen Suchanek, MPD, BHS, and partner with LoveOne to provide needed resources in their community.

The reasons for Milwaukie PD choosing this path was to ensure better access to help for people with issues related to addiction, houselessness, and mental health; to reduce reliance on the criminal justice system; and to minimize uses of force. In addition, this position has created a feeling of support among officers knowing they have this tool at their disposal. LoveOne is a community nonprofit that works with Milwaukie's BHU to help provide necessary resources.

Glen has been available to help Gladstone in the past, and when more cities have this position in place, there will be more opportunities for overlapping coverage in partner cities.

Mayor Milch verified with Administrator Betz that this is a process Gladstone is working on. Administrator Betz advised that Clackamas County will be discussing on January 10<sup>th</sup> funding the position. If approved, Gladstone will be involved in the hiring process, and the agreement will come to Council for approval in late February or early March.

### **AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS**

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of December 12, 2023 Regular Minutes
2. Approval of November Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 11-30-2023
4. Approval of November Check Register
5. Department Head Monthly Reports for December 2023

Councilor Cook requested item #5 be removed from Consent Agenda for discussion.

*Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

Councilor Cook requested details on Consent Agenda item 5, section 5, page 29. It was noted that Governor Tina Kotek waived approximately \$297,000 in fines, and inquired if this will affect the city's budget. Administrator Betz advised there is some impact but it is negligible.

*Councilor Cook made a motion to approve Consent Agenda item 5, Department Head Monthly Reports of December 2023. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **6. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT**

Fire Chief Nick Browne of Clackamas Fire reflected on year 2023 with four key words: Gratitude, Service, Passion, and Grit. He feels gratitude to Clackamas Fire for their service to the community and the relationships they have. They are passionate for their work and stand up against hard times to keep the community safe.

Clackamas Fire recently graduated an academy of 15 new firefighters which will allow for increased staffing at 5 community fire stations, and they are about to start another academy of 12 more firefighters. The plan is to bring a little over 100 new firefighters to Clackamas. Their recent application process launch received 12,000 hits, and 446 of those applicants will be going forward with the interview process.

Assistant Chief Brian Stewart indicated with the increase in staffing and adjustments, there have also been some promotions, which include Captain Mike Bauer being promoted to Battalion Chief for Gladstone and the surrounding area.

As the weather gets colder, they want to put a reminder out to the public to reach out to Police, Fire, or City services for resources.

**7. GLADSTONE CITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Robert Everett announced Bingo Night at the Community Center for Friday, January 19, 2024. Tickets go on sale at 4:30, doors open at 4:50, and Bingo starts at 5:30. He also gave a reminder that the Clothes Closet is open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for donation or pick up. Currently, the closet is only accepting new, unused packages of undergarments and socks.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**8. DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (DLCD) GRANT TO ENACT PARKING REFORM AND ESTABLISH A TOWN CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE (OAR) 660-012-0420-0450:**

Administrator Betz discussed two obligations that need to meet the state's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities laws. One obligation is parking reform and the Gladstone Town Center. On behalf of the city, 3J Consulting applied for and successfully received a grant for \$60,000 from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to complete the required Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities work. Grant policy requires the City Council to accept a grant before moving forward.

Heather Austin, Senior Planner from 3J Consulting, provided grant details. This project will overlap with the required Metro Town Center work, so they can combine the two projects with delivery dates ranging from 18-30 months. A stakeholder advisory committee will be convened and then discussed with the Council in February. This committee will need a City Council Representative. The plan is to use the city's Downtown Revitalization Plan from 2017, the Downtown Core overlay from 2023, and the new Main Street Affiliate Status to work through the process to make sure the city is complying with State and Metro requirements. The consulting firm has requested a market analysis from the DLCD rather than Gladstone hiring a subconsultant to do the work. If they do not provide the document, some of the grant funds will need to be used to cover the cost if DLCD does not provide additional funding.

Councilor Garlington asked if there was any additional cost outside of the grant funds, and Administrator Betz advised that the \$60,000 grant funds should cover everything minus her time and the Economic Development staff person's time. Councilor Alexander asked if other grants can be applied for once this grant is accepted. Ms. Austin advised that should not be necessary since the grant fully covers the needed work.

It was noted a Council representative volunteer for this project would be discussed in February.

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to approve the DLCD grant to enact parking reform and establish a town center in accordance with OAR 660-012-0420-0450. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

**9. UPDATE ON 2023-2024 COUNCIL GOALS**

City Administrator Betz indicated a department head retreat was held in December, and the city has four focus areas: Economic Development, Infrastructure, Communications and Engagement, and Parks. A comprehensive report is in the Council packet along with an agenda planning calendar. A bid will be brought before the Council in February regarding a large infrastructure project, and there will be a lot of working happening with parks in 2024 as well.

Mayor Milch provided a brief recap of the process used to formulate the Council Goals during the retreat. He indicated the Council can set over-arching high level goals, however the actual projects to achieve those goals are the responsibility of our staff and could not be achieved without staff's input for the development and completion of these goals.

Councilors expressed their appreciation for staff in assisting to achieve these Council goals.

Mayor Milch advised the Council the City has a contractual obligation to evaluate the City Administrator on a regular basis in order to make a decision on whether to renew the contract. City Administrator Betz's contract expires on June 30, 2024, and there is an obligation to extend it. He believes this detailed City Council Goals report can serve as an evaluation of her performance.

Councilor Roberts agrees and offered to be the Council representation for negotiations.

City Attorney Chad Jacobs advised that as long as the City and City Administrator agree to use this report as an evaluation, then this is an appropriate request.

City Administrator Betz thanked the Council and indicated she has a great Management team. She advised she has monthly meetings with each Councilor and receives feedback from those meetings. She advised as a credentialed City Manager she will be completing a self-evaluation process through ICMA that includes sending out questions to her management team. Elected officials may also provide input. She noted this process is separate from an evaluation process, however, she would be open to having conversations regarding extending her contract.

There was a consensus from the Council to proceed.

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Glenda Shearer: As a resident of Gladstone, she is disappointed how the Gladstone Police Department handled her report of abuse against her son. She feels they did not take the correct steps in collecting evidence or having an ethical investigation. This made her feel her concerns were unimportant.

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL**

##### **Councilor Garlington:**

Councilor Garlington reminded the public to put leaf debris in their yard debris bin to keep them from blocking storm drains.

She attended the school board meeting last month and urged parents to be attentive to the discussions.

The Clackamas County Library Board did not have a meeting in December, but will have one January 18, 2024.

She attended the Toll meeting at the high school on January 6, 2024 and heard strong opposition. West Linn's Mayor Bialostosky presented a state document showing the large administrative costs for a tolling project. Milch offered a solution of a tax based on miles per year, and she feels this is an equitable and fair solution.

She congratulated Mayor Milch on a successful Mayor's Monday on KOIN 6 News, and she pointed out that Gladstone made the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) newsletter for their two new murals.

The Tukwila Dinner Group served an Italian Christmas Dinner and completed that with a cookie bar and festivities and served about 40 people. She thanked everyone who helped and donated. Their January dinner is a barbeque served by the Gladstone Oak Lodge Rotary. Their group helps provide a meal and a familiar face and would like to extend the offer to the public for anyone who is interesting in joining.

The Friends of the Gladstone Nature Park are getting ready for their annual plant sale in April.

She welcomed the new members of the boards and commissions and informed everyone that there is still an opening on the Traffic Board.

With MLK Day coming up on January 15<sup>th</sup>, Councilor Garlington shared two quotes: *“Be a bush if you can’t be a tree; if you can’t be a highway just be a trail; if you can’t be a sun be a star; for it isn’t by the size that you win or fail, be the best of whatever you are.”* *“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”* Take heart that today is a service day.

**Councilor Roberts:**

Councilor Roberts thanked the Council for appointing him Council President.

He was also at the Tolling discussion and agreed that there were no favorable voices for it. At his request, Mayor Bialostosky shared the state document with the tolling administrative costs.

**Councilor Cook:**

Councilor Cook gave appreciation for former Council President Huckaby for her service as Council President and congratulated Council President Roberts on his appointment.

There will be a Gladstone business mixer/social on January 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the community center. They believe the business community will come together as we build the Gladstone Town Center Stakeholder community and hope to see a lot of engagement from that group.

**Councilor Reichle:**

Councilor Reichle attended the Parks Board meeting on January 8, 2024, and there was discussion regarding the Metro funds that the city has available. They decided to focus on a restroom and shelter at the Gladstone Nature Park and gap funding some pathways to create more stability. They are also looking at adding, improving, or replacing park shelters. Another focus area is increasing pathways and creating ADA accessibility at Max Patterson Park. The Meldrum Bar Park playground structure has been installed. There will be a grand opening ceremony to celebrate that in the future. She encouraged anyone involved in the RC track at Meldrum Bar Park to attend the Parks Board meetings and provide feedback to the Public Works Department as there is a question on how to proceed with that amenity.

**Councilor Alexander:**

Councilor Alexander congratulated Council President Roberts on his appointment to Council President.

He did not have anything else because the Fire Chief presented all of the updates he would have provided.

**Councilor Huckaby:**

Councilor Huckaby attended the Tolling meeting as well and agrees that nobody was in favor. She feels there was great representation there from State Representative Annessa Hartman, the committee, and the public.

She gave a reminder that on January 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center there will be an event from local author Sarah Sanderson called *Holding Difficult Truths in Gladstone: Transforming our Broken Past into a Hopeful Future*.

An update was given from the Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council.

She gave thanks for Councilor Reichle for her level-headedness and quality leadership on the Parks and Recreation Board.

**Mayor Milch:**

Concerning the Tolling discussion, he feels there has been a lot of hard work between elected officials at all levels of government, particularly County Commissioner Paul Savas and county staff. One point made on the Mayor's Monday on KOIN 6 is that the committee and subcommittee formed were on task to work through every aspect of the proposal, and that through this examination, more information came out showing that this option was not good for local communities impacted by tolling. The Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) has a recording of the session. State Representative Annessa Hartman has called on ODOT for a full audit of their books to re-examine this issue.

He thanked Councilor Huckaby for reminding everyone of the event on January 10, 2024.

**ADJOURN:**

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

ATTEST:

  
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Michael Milch, Mayor

  
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Tami Bannick, City Recorder