GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of August 13, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL:
Mayor Tammy Stempel, Councilor Ripley, Councilor Neace, Councilor Tracy, Councilor Reisner, Councilor Todd, Councilor Mersereau

ABSENT:
None

STAFF:
Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Tami Bannick, City Recorder; Jim Whynot, Public Works Director; John Schmerber, Police Chief; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney

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PRESENTATION – SHOP WITH A COP RECOGNITION:
Jim Macfarlane said once a year the Gladstone Police Department partners with the "Shop with a Cop" program. Ten children from John Wetten Elementary School are identified, they come down to the Police Department early in the morning on a Saturday in December, they meet with at least ten members of the Police Department and school staff members, take them out to breakfast, take them to Walmart where they are given a $100 gift card. They do their shopping, the presents are wrapped, then they are taken back home. In 2017 the group was having breakfast at Hale's and the bill was paid by a "Secret Santa" (Rodney Forni, President and CEO of Pacific Inns LLC). Last year they partnered with High Rocks Restaurant (Mark and Rolona Schroeder, owners) – they opened early, brought in extra staff, brought presents for the kids, etc. Even though he could not attend, Mr. Forni paid for the breakfast again. Mr. Macfarlane presented a plaque to commemorate the events involving Mr. Forni and a plaque to recognize the partnership with the Schroeders.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:
None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of June Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 6-30-19
4. Approval of June Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for July 2019
7. Consider accepting a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board and Oregon Department of Forestry and Wildlife for dredging at Meldrum Bar Park

Councilor Reisner asked to pull item #7.

Councilor Reisner made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-6. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Councilor Reisner asked where the funds are coming from if we have to pay for the grant upfront before being reimbursed. Mr. Whynot said they will be taking it out of the Parks budget and then it will be reimbursed. The balance can go into the negative, but it will be reimbursed before the end of the budget cycle. The project may not be completed before the end of the budget cycle. Ms. Betz said the administrative time associated with the project manager will not come out of the Parks

budget – it will come out of the Business Development Community Promotion line item in the City's Administration budget.

Councilor Reisner made a motion to accept Item #7 of the Consent Agenda, the Oregon State Marine Board Boating Facility Grant Intergovernmental Agreement No. 1632. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tracy. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:
None.

Mayor Stempel went over the procedures for the meeting/audience participation. She said a few words about the role of the City Council. She feels it is important for everyone to understand their limitations: they represent the citizens of Gladstone and not their own personal agendas and beliefs. There have been many times when a decision being made doesn't align with what they would like personally, but after hearing the citizens' desires they have sometimes gone a different direction. That doesn't mean that their beliefs have changed; just that they listened and acted accordingly. There are laws and rules they have to use as the basis of their decisions. They do not have the luxury of randomly making decisions, but instead have to be consistent and take the path that is defensible. They appreciate everyone's time in participating in this process. Her goal is to keep the meeting respectful and engaging and she hopes everyone will help her do that.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. **UPDATES ON CITY PROJECTS:**
Ms. Betz went over the City Administration areas of focus for 2019-2020. There is heavy emphasis on overseeing economic development consulting scope of work with Mr. Southgate. She said the Council has seen email communication from her recently regarding Councilor Mersereau's desire for them to go through a periodic comprehensive plan review. She feels it is important for the Council to understand all of the work that goes into a Comprehensive Plan review. She would like to get guidance as to whether or not the Council wants to pursue this.

Jennifer Donnelley, Metro Regional Solutions Representative and Kirstin Greene, Acting Deputy Director with the Department of Land Conservation and Development gave an overview of the review process, goals, etc. They emphasize citizen involvement with respect to their desires for the future. They said that Comprehensive Plans are a lot of work and they take a lot of time. There are technical assistance grants available now. Ms. Betz said that she and Mr. Southgate would like to apply for the next round of grants and do a robust community engagement on the housing code audit piece. She said if periodic reviews are a priority for the City she will adjust and find ways to do that.

Councilor Mersereau said his understanding is that it was a requirement to have a Comprehensive Plan – Ms. Donnelley and Ms. Greene confirmed that that is correct.

Councilor Todd said she doesn't like going back – she would like to move forward to the next piece. Mayor Stempel said that you need all of these supportive pieces first so that you can create a comprehensive plan that covers it and makes sense. She said they are going in the right direction by having all of the master plans in place. Ms. Betz said the next piece is the visioning tourism rebranding strategic plan that is coming up this fall/winter.

There was discussion and the consensus was to continue moving forward with the grants.

Mr. Whynot went over a list of current Public Works projects, areas of focus, and projects in the Que.

Ms. Betz said that they have all been incredibly busy and they are very excited about the progress in Gladstone. She thanked the Council for their support but added that they can't take on much more until they get some of these projects completed. She said they are lucky to have Mr. Whynot as their Public Works Director and thanked him for all that he is doing.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

Discussion on City Attorney Services

Ms. Betz said this was discussed at the last Council meeting. She shared some possible options with the Council: they could contact the Oregon Bar Association and see if they would allow them to post the request for qualifications and/or provide a list of members so they could do a direct mailing, they could repost with the League of Oregon Cities, the Daily Journal of Commerce, and the City's website, they could prepare a recruitment for an in-house city attorney or reach out to neighboring cities for job share opportunities, they could contact BEH to solicit interest in maintaining the current services, or a combination of any of those options.

Councilor Ripley asked Mr. Jacobs if his firm wants to continue as the City's attorneys. Mr. Jacobs said they will not abandon the City and they will stick around if the City wants them to, but if the City wants to make a change they are fine with that as well. He said the relationship between his firm and the City is not the best and it makes the trust relationship between client and attorney very difficult. He said the City's staff is doing a great job and working really hard. The issues they have involve "politics", trust, and communication.

Councilor Reisner read a section (page 8, step 3) from a League of Oregon Cities publication, "A Guide to Recruiting a City Attorney" – it pertains to where to publish the solicitation. His suggestion is to follow their recommendations and see where it leads. Mayor Stempel agreed that they should do it again and see what happens. Councilor Tracy is concerned about the legacy of this Council switching our legal team and the possible negative impact of that. Councilor Ripley agreed. The Council asked Councilor Reisner to come to next month's meeting with a list of his concerns. Councilor Neace suggested making the discussion next month the final discussion on this topic. Councilor Mersereau agreed.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Bob Everett thanked everyone for helping out at the Community Festival. He said it couldn't happen without a large group of people. He thanked the City for their support and participation. He thanked Rex McIntire and Bryce Colson. He said the Pickle Ball tournament was fantastic and the beer garden was well attended.

Bill Osburn said there is a SOLVE clean-up this weekend and invited everyone to participate. He said he is trying to get the right-of-way fees on a Council meeting agenda. He believes the fees never should have been implemented and he is asking the Council to repeal them. He doesn't feel it was the right thing to do and that it wasn't good for the citizens of Gladstone.

It was agreed to put this on the agenda for October 8th. Mayor Stempel asked for documentation regarding why the fees were put in, the process involved, etc. since some of the Councilors were not involved at that time. Ms. Betz said that staff will provide that information and give a factual presentation on the topic. Everyone agreed.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Ripley:
He said they had a meeting with Ms. Betz, Police Chief Schmerber, and the Chair from the Traffic Safety Advisory Board – they are asking Chief Schmerber to build a new outline of how things will get handled and how they can stop some of the same conversations from happening over and over again.

Councilor Neace:
She said her husband had a major heart attack recently so her July has not been good.
She attended the Library Board meeting, which was very good.

Councilor Tracy:
He gave kudos to everyone involved in the Community Festival – he feels that they represented the town really well. He heard nothing but positive comments from local citizens and visitors. He thinks the layout of the park was nice this year.

Councilor Todd:
She thanked everyone involved in the Community Festival. She had so much fun. Her favorite part was seeing Ms. Betz in the street sweeper at the end. She thanked Chief Schmerber for letting her be a squeaky wheel and doing the pedestrian crossing safety event.

Councilor Mersereau:
He thanked the new Police Chief and Fire Chief – they made him feel very welcome as the Council liaison.

Mayor Stempel:
She said the Community Festival was absolutely amazing. There was a sense of community and it was a very happy gathering. She encouraged everyone to volunteer to help out next year. She said last week was National Night Out – they only had four parties this year. She, Ms. Betz, the Fire and Police Departments attended all of them. She said it was wonderful.

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was last night and the RC Car group attended – they had a great conversation about what their vision is and what the Parks Board vision is. They are open to relocating to a different area in the park. The Parks Board is trying to get everyone who uses the park to come in and actually start creating formal agreements with the City.

She wants to keep the emergency plan on the burner in the front so that if something happens again they know what to do and they are all on top of it.

ADJOURN:
Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 10TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2019.

ATTEST:

Tamara Stempel, Mayor

Tami Bannick

Tami Bannick