

## **GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of November 12, 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; Cathy Brucker, Interim Finance Director; Ashley Driscoll, City Attorney

---

Mayor Stempel went over the meeting agenda.

### **PRESENTATION – WATER ENVIRONMENT SERVICES (WES) ANNUAL REPORT:**

Greg Geist, WES Director, gave an overview of what they do and presented their inaugural annual report. They have 105 employees. They are governed by the Board of County Commissioners and they have an advisory committee of 17 members. Their mission is to protect public health and the environment, provide the infrastructure to support economic development, and educate the public about clean water while keeping rates as low as possible. He went over their service area. They have a \$230 million five-year capital improvement plan to rehabilitate some of the old equipment and to accommodate growth. He went over the rates/fees. They have over 350 miles of pipes and five waste water treatment plants that they take care of. Their new 1.3 million gallon anaerobic digester is under construction – it should come online at the end of next year.

When the 82<sup>nd</sup> Drive bridge project is complete it will be able to withstand a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, which is more seismically sound than the 99E or I-205 bridges. They expect to reopen the bridge the first week of February.

In the Good Neighbor Agreement between WES and the cities of Gladstone and Oregon City they set aside \$150,000/year (\$100,000 goes to Oregon City and \$50,000 goes to Gladstone based on the customer base) to be used for projects that the cities identify that are consistent with clean water, healthy communities, transportation, infrastructure, etc. He showed the area where those funds are envisioned to be used. They are in the middle of a \$23 million upgrade to the Kellogg facility. They also improved odor control. They recently completed a flagship stormwater treatment wetland facility – the Carli Creek Project in the Clackamas industrial area near the Clackamas River. They restored 1,700 feet of creek and put in a 15 acre wetland treatment system. That was a \$4 million project.

They have a watershed grant program – it's approximately \$300,000/year and they work with a lot of partners throughout the community to leverage those dollars into good water quality projects on the ground or education related projects.

They partnered with SOLVE this year on waterway clean-ups that included High Rocks (1,700 volunteers collected 11,000 pounds of trash and 6,000 cigarette butts).

They are undergoing an extensive review of their rules/standards. They will have a draft out in January of 2020.

Inflow/Infiltration is a regional issue. They don't want to have to build treatment plant infrastructure to treat rain water and ground water that gets into the system via leaky pipes. They are looking at over twenty years a \$600 million investment in the collective collection systems. If they don't work together it would tack on another \$120 million building wet weather treatment at the treatment plant. They have a technical working group of the public works directors of the cities, including Jim Whynot, as well as engineering staff from WES.

Councilor Tracy said the Carli Creek restoration project is amazing. He feels it was worth the money and that it does a lot for that part of the river. Mr. Geist said that PGE funded \$380,000 of that project through their grant program. They have their sights set on another project – the Three Creeks area adjacent to the Harmony Campus of Clackamas Community College/across the highway from Costco. Mayor Stempel wanted to stress how wonderful it is to have WES at the table and a collaborative arrangement. The group is looking at this regionally and wanting to help each other.

#### **AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:**

None.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of October 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of September Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 9-30-19
4. Approval of September Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for October 2019
7. Resolution 1167 – Adopting City of Gladstone Representation in Updates to the Clackamas County Multi-Jurisdictional National Hazards Mitigation Plan
8. Resolution 1168 – Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Affordable Housing Technical Assistance Grant Funds

*Councilor Tracy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Councilor Neace read the following:

“I would like to state that Bill Osburn does not represent the citizens of Gladstone. The people have spoken when we voted for you and chose not to elect him. His agenda and voice are his own. It's unfair to every one of us when City resources, which we all pay, are abused and wasted. Using the media to manipulate facts, targeting people for character assassination, pitting neighbors against neighbors, those are his tools. His legacy to our community is dissention and persecution. This M.O. alienates and discourages participation in events, applying for volunteer or elected positions, and other community action. It's time to stop going to the press accusing our own because in so doing it takes us all down. No more time wasted on bogus accusations which are nothing but obstacles to progress. Taking focus away from current projects all under the pretense of doing it for the people. The drama needs to stop. We need healing from damage this behavior has done to our community. We need people with the ability to collaborate and listen with open minds without attacking or tearing each other down. We need to hear from and listen to those bringing creative solutions to the table and those who treat our Council and City staff with respect. We can use non-violent communication and create a positive environment in Gladstone. I believe this is the best way to move forward and uphold the goals of a vibrant, livable community. These are simply my opinions.”

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**

### **9. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN CLACKAMAS COUNTY AND THE CITY OF GLADSTONE REGARDING THE NEW GLADSTONE LIBRARY:**

The following documents will be considered:

- A. Library Construction and Operation Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone and the following exhibits:
  - Exhibits 1 & 2 – Oak Lodge Library Service Area and Gladstone Library Service Area Maps
  - Exhibit 3 – Concept Option 1
  - Exhibit 4 – Intergovernmental Agreement between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone, and AFSCME Council 75, Local 350-03 (Gladstone)
  - Exhibit 5 – Property Description
  -
- B. Library Facilities Agreement for use of the current library building

Ms. Betz said they are asking the Council to consider adoption of two IGA's with Clackamas County. The IGAs outline the responsibilities of both the City and the County in implementing the settlement agreement between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone. She went over the background/timeline of the settlement agreement and project.

Ms. Driscoll went over the key provisions in the IGAs. The process took seven months. Gladstone will transfer operation and control of the library over to Clackamas County. The current employees will transfer over and become Clackamas County employees. The City also transfers all assets that are in the building. The County will be assuming all construction costs for the 6,000 square foot library building in Gladstone. The City will be paying a prorated \$200,000 general fund payment for this year and starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> they will be transferring the District revenues over to the County. Gladstone will be providing the parcel for the new library – the site of the current City Hall building. The cost of demolishing the building will be split between the City and County. Ms. Driscoll went over the timeline agreement. The County committed to a timeline and they would be allowed up to six months of one-month extensions. If it gets excessive there will be penalties (starting with \$5,000/month). They agreed to decouple the projects if the Oak Lodge Library is unable to select a location by July of 2020. The current Gladstone Library Board will dissolve within a year. The City will have proportionate representation on the Board of Trustees Library Board as well as representation on LDAC. Ms. Driscoll went over the scenarios if either party terminates this agreement before or after Clackamas County closes on any debt.

Gladstone is allowing the County to use the current library during construction. The County will take over maintenance of the building to an extent.

Councilor Tracy asked if they decouple the projects they will still be moving forward in the meantime – he is correct. Mayor Stempel said she is confident that the timeline will be moved up. Ms. Betz said when they first started the construction costs were estimated at \$300/square foot and now they are up to \$500/square foot, which is approximately \$3 million – Clackamas County is fully committed to funding that gap.

Councilor Neace asked if the County had to pay any penalties on the first six months of extensions – they do not. Ms. Driscoll said it was part of the negotiations and they felt it was reasonable. Ms. Betz said that when Clackamas County did their presentation to the Gladstone Library Board and the City Council recently they said that construction would be May 2022 to the summer of 2023.

Councilor Reisner said there was a robust discussion about this at the last Library Board meeting. Several members had concerns regarding the timeline and also fair/equal representation. They approved the agreement so that things can move forward. They asked him to remind everybody that there will be no additional taxes associated with this project.

Councilor Tracy said there is a general misunderstanding regarding the \$200,000. These monies would be expended anyway for operation whether we own the library or someone else does. Ms. Betz said the current library property is not part of this agreement after the new building is up – the City retains ownership of the current library property. They believe the current parking requirements will fit within our current code.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Michael Milch thanked Ms. Betz and Don Krupp for drafting the initial concept for the settlement as well as the City Councilors and County Commissioners who helped enact it. He also thanked the staff from Clackamas County. He encouraged the Council to endorse and support this IGA and put it into action so that we can make use of the good work that's gone on and put this into play. He hopes we can replace the local Library Board with a Community Services Advisory Committee that would advise the City Council on matters related not only to the library but all the other similar services for literacy and development and human improvement in our community.

Les Poole said his concerns are that if things don't work out that Gladstone doesn't get burned. He supports the idea of redeveloping the City Hall building. He has concerns that we have never had a resolution decreeing that the library is here now. He wants to make sure the public knows what we're getting into. He said because the property "up there" was condemned for parks and a library he has concerns that there may be legal issues/ramifications. He doesn't want this to come back and bite us.

Steve Johnson said he is not clear on how our library operations are funded today. He said it appears that we are 100% funded by our service area from the Library District. Ms. Betz said that the City has always subsidized the money that comes in from the County to operate a library. He said he submitted a plan that is less expensive and faster – he asked the Council to take that seriously.

Bill Osburn said the community wants a library. He is hoping that the Council supports this IGA. He believes it is beneficial to everybody. He feels that moving forward with this partnership with the County is our best choice.

Susan Liston, member of the Gladstone Library Foundation, said that cooperation between two government entities, sharing resources, and working together serves everyone. The County said they would pay to build a new library and will pay an escalation in building costs between now and when we build. The new library will extend services to more people. She feels the library is a valuable resource to children as well as adults.

Beverly Chase, Gladstone Library Foundation President, shared some statistics: 756 children signed up for the summer reading program this year. The Foundation has financially supported the summer reading program through the proceeds from their book sale. Between 200 and 300 children have attended the preschool literacy morning programs since the first of the year. There are 5,689 registered borrowers in the library. The library houses 46,018 books. There were 804 internet sessions during the month of September alone and 9,151 since the first of January. 15,308 total circulation going in and out of our library in September alone and 227,393 since January. Between 3,000 and 5,000 people visit our library each month which equals almost 50% of our local population. The teen programs have 30 to 40 participants each month. They believe they made the right choice by going with Opsi Architecture as the design team. With the partnership of the County we can have a jewel of the library that the citizens of Gladstone deserve. She hopes the Council will approve the IGA.

Glenda Shearer said when she moved to Gladstone ten years ago they heard rumors of a new library and she is sad that it has taken this long to get to this point. She implored the Council to pass this IGA. Daphne Shearer said she loves libraries and she feels this town would like another library.

Mindy Garlington said she wants the library built. She doesn't feel that the allowance for delays in completion of the construction are a big deal. She said that whatever the cost of our libraries – the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation or that of an ignorant Gladstone. She said the people have spoken – they have voted for it multiple times.

Kevin Johnson had a question regarding language that is going to be put into the contract that hasn't been written yet. Ms. Driscoll said there is no other contract that hasn't been written. Mr. Johnson asked if the \$200,000 is going to pay for the operations of the Gladstone Library. Ms. Driscoll said there are no restrictions – we are providing the \$200,000 to the County to bridge the gap for library operations. Mr. Johnson said that over twenty years that \$200,000 totals \$5.3 million and Oak Lodge isn't contributing anything.

*Councilor Reisner made a motion to approve the Library Construction and Operation Intergovernmental Agreement between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone with Exhibits 1 through 5 and also the Library Facilities Agreement for use of the current library building. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tracy.*

Discussion: Councilor Reisner said it's time to move on and he thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Zentner for their work on this.

*Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Neace – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Reisner – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Mersereau – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **10. CLACKAMAS COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT TASK FORCE:**

Ms. Betz said that Clackamas County is in the process of forming a Library District Task Force – it was commissioned by the Board of County Commissioners to examine, discuss, and make

recommendations on various issues facing the member library cities. This is an eighteen-month process. She and the Library Director will be involved and the Library Board would like Michael Milch to be appointed to this committee and they reserve the right to choose another member in the future. If the Library Board dissolves before they are able to make a second recommendation the new combined board that Gladstone service area members are on will be the ones making that appointment. Staff approves the appointment of Michael Milch.

*Councilor Neace made a motion to accept the appointment of Michael Milch to the Clackamas County Library District Task Force. Motion was seconded by Councilors Todd and Reisner. Motion passed unanimously.*

**11. RESOLUTION 1169 – A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A REVISED MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 1163:**

Ms. Betz said this is a resolution to update the Master Fee Schedule – it will go into effect January 2020. Utility rates are included in this. Mr. Whynot gave a summary. The revised Master Fee Schedule reflects Option B as directed by Council at the last meeting and approximately 60% of the citizens recommended doing more than the minimum, which pointed at Option B as well. Option B would equal an increase of \$17.27/month for a typical single-family home (25% increase). \$10.08 of that would be going toward the sewer. The City has a mutual agreement order of DEQ to fix its infrastructure in the next five years to stop overflowing raw sewage into the Clackamas River. \$1 of that would be going into the storm water fund. \$6.19 goes for the water system. Approximately 55% of the accounts actually pay for more water than they are using – with the rate restructuring they are setting a base meter charge. They have been experiencing issues with meter tampering so they are putting a \$250 meter tampering charge in the Master Fee Schedule. They increased the right-of-way rights by 3%. They got rid of the Tri-Cities Service District and Clackamas County Sewer District – they are now Water Environment Services (WES).

Ms. Brucker went over the options for funding a major infrastructure type of borrowing. Typically it would be a general obligation debt, voter approved, and would increase the property taxes of all the people that are within the designated boundaries for that election. It offers the lowest rates as far as interest goes and the term is roughly equivalent to or less than the life of the improvement that you're financing. Revenue bonds are normally not subject to voter approval, but they're very stiff as far as qualifying for something like that. It's usually a 1.25% amount of coverage of net revenue. There are a lot of ancillary costs in securing that type of financing. There is also a double-barreled general obligation issue – which is a hybrid of the two. It is voter-approved, but it's structured to where the intention is to pay with utility revenues but if the revenues didn't cover the debt service the City would be able to levy property tax necessary to meet that debt service. They are required to contract with either a municipal or financial advisor or an underwriter to proceed with even accumulating the information or having them run financial scenarios, etc. Ms. Brucker went over the differences between an underwriter versus a municipal/financial advisor. Councilor Reisner asked about borrowing from the State – Ms. Brucker said they did not look into that. Ms. Betz said she is hoping to discuss this further during the Department Head/City Council retreat in January.

Councilor Tracy asked if the City budget is reviewed/audited by an independent third party at any time. Ms. Brucker said it is very strictly regulated and auditors review it every year (Marina & Company). The budget is also certified by the County.

Councilor Todd asked if it was possible to move money from various funds into the infrastructure – Ms. Brucker said they are different funds/departments/types and they have to follow the budget

rules. Any changes to the budget are brought to the Council and it is all public record. All revenues and all appropriations must balance to zero.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Angela Riley said that now that she understands this more she would like to go with Option C as soon as possible to get the infrastructure fixed. She said if there is a way to support a fund to assist senior citizens/people on fixed incomes with the cost increases she thinks that would be great.

Kevin Johnson said there will be people who don't want this increase – he feels that is the stupid mentality that got us where we are today. He said you can't fix anything or maintain anything if you don't raise the rates. The longer we wait the worse it's going to get. He feels there should be an ordinance/resolution that says the rates should increase automatically on a yearly basis.

Bill Osburn said we all want clean water, contained sewage, and clean rivers – we simply disagree on some of the steps to get us there. He has issues with how manipulative or deceitful some of the information the City has provided is – some of the numbers are artificially inflated. He said the survey came back with option A as the highest pick – instead, they combined B & C and stated over 60% chose more than the minimum, although true, it's misleading and there was no Option D; not to increase rates. He said one Councilor made a post accusing the residents of such delusional stupidity that they actually think they are doing good as they question the more superior intellect of others – he hopes that person apologizes to the people of Gladstone. He asked that the Council respect the choice of those they have taken an oath to represent and he asked for no rate increase now. If they choose to ignore that he asks that they choose Option A as the residents picked that in the limited options survey. He is sure they will ignore anyone who has spoken up with this point of view but he hopes they will prove him wrong. He pointed out that Gladstone is the only city around that has a right-of-way fee or privilege tax and passes it on in their sewer rates. He feels people should be allowed the option to pay more to help people who need help. He wanted to clarify that his use of "gross profit" in a social media post – he explained it as the amount you took in versus the amount you have to pay for those utilities for the sewer and water. There is a mark-up already.

Kelley Chaney said the tone of Mr. Osburn's comments and the substance is the reason the Council is sitting up there and he is not. She said Gladstone has spoken – they voted for the Councilors, they trust them, and they trust them on the library and the sewer. She feels this needs to move forward and we need to get this fixed.

*Councilor Tracy made a motion to approve Resolution 1169, adopting a revised Master Fee Schedule and repealing Resolution 1163. Motion was seconded by Councilor Todd. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – no. Councilor Neace – no. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Reisner – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Mersereau – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed (5-2).*

**12. RESOLUTION 1170 – ESTABLISHING POLICY REGARDING MEDIA IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

Ms. Betz said this establishes who is recognized as a news media organization in the print media and the television media. They looked at neighboring cities' policies – they focus on local media organizations that they generally do business with. The print media organizations that are established with Gladstone are The Oregonian and The Clackamas Review. Television media organizations are KATU, KGW, KOIN, and KPTV. There will be a process where someone who is not on these lists can fill out a form and provide proper documentation in order to be allowed to

attend an executive session. There is a correction on page 12-6 in the resolution, under section D, it says: “the request for permission shall be on a form provided by the Council. The person requesting permission to attend an executive session must complete and sign the requested form”. They would like it to then say: “The City requests the form be filled out within 24 hours before the date of an executive session”; eliminating that it must be submitted.

Councilor Reisner said he has an issue with the definition of news on page 12-4 – he said many times the information provided is not very factual – so he can’t support this. It was agreed to strike the word “factual”.

Councilor Tracy asked if they were to meet in an executive session and were discussing personnel issues and someone was attending that session that doesn’t necessarily follow the journalistic creed does the City not incur a liability if information that should be confidential be introduced into the community through a blog or social media entry? Ms. Driscoll said it depends. They could make an argument that the City did not disclose that information in a way that would incur liability. Councilor Tracy said if they were in a real estate negotiation and that information was divulged they could run a financial risk. Ms. Driscoll agreed. Mayor Stempel said there are no real consequences for someone who leaks that information. She said they have tried every way to minimize the executive sessions that they have, but sometimes they are necessary and it is important that they keep that confidentiality. Councilor Todd said there is a script that’s read during executive sessions that says you cannot tell anyone what was discussed. Michael Milch asked if they could add KPBS television/radio to the list of media. It was agreed to do so.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bill Osburn said he appreciates that there are less executive sessions. He said he has asked the Council to implement policies in the past with no results. His complaints made against Councilors for violating the law or trust and their oaths have been ignored. He said this policy is a result of them being under investigation by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission for violating ORS 192.066. He said this policy may put the Council in violation of Oregon law again. He advises them to evaluate this policy better. He said his motivation in filing the complaint wasn’t to get even or out of anger – it’s just that he had limited options and something had to be done to get things happening. He thinks that other policies need to be adopted so that when complaints come in against the Council that we have a policy.

Kelley Chaney said that executive sessions are not nefarious; they are necessary and just because you complain about them or you don’t like them doesn’t mean you have to file law suits or complaints. These distractions keep the Council from doing the work they are committed to do. If the Council is having to defend themselves on every decision they make it is going to suck up all of their time and it costs taxpayer money for attorney fees. She said other people agree but they were afraid to attend the meeting and speak up. There are many people who are signing a memo of support. They would like the voters to be respected beginning with the dismissal/withdrawal of the State Oregon Ethics complaint filed against each and every Council member before us.

Mayor Stempel noted that the Council is paying for the attorneys personally and she is taking time off from her job so she can defend herself and the rest of the Council.

*Councilor Mersereau made a motion to approve Resolution 1170, establishing a policy regarding media in executive sessions with the amendment of 1A, striking the word “factual” and adding*

*OPB/KPBS to the media organizations. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed unanimously.*

**13. ORDINANCE 1497 – ADDING CHAPTER 5.55 TO THE GLADSTONE MUNICIPAL CODE (GMC), TITLED BUSINESS FOOD WASTE REQUIREMENTS:**

This is the second reading of this ordinance. Ms. Betz had nothing further to add.

*Councilor Tracy recused himself again.*

*Councilor Todd made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1497, creating the Gladstone Municipal Code (GMC) Chapter 5.55 Business Food Waste Requirements. Motion was seconded by Councilor Ripley. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Neace – yes. Councilor Reisner – no. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Mersereau – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed (5-1).*

**BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:**

None.

**BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Mindy Garlington said on October 24<sup>th</sup> she and some other residents of Gladstone attended the Women in Leadership and Management Awards luncheon where they watched Mayor Stempel receive an award for public servant of the year from the City of Gladstone.

Glenda Shearer asked why an anonymous letter is allowed to be read. She said everyone else who spoke at the meeting filled out a form with their name, address, and what topic they were going to address. Mayor Stempel said it is correspondence and it came in at the last minute – they didn't have a chance to photocopy it and include it in the packet and that is why it was read. Ms. Shearer asked if correspondence should be about a specific agenda item. Mayor Stempel said they get correspondence regarding just about anything. Ms. Shearer said she is really concerned about this and feels that it's furthering discord in our community. She feels that if someone has things they need to say they need to come to the meeting and share it. Ms. Driscoll said it's a policy of the City. She said if it became an issue in the future the City might decide to do things differently. Ms. Shearer would like that to be considered.

Susan Liston said she was just speaking with a friend of hers about how safe they feel in Gladstone and how wonderful it is to get to streets where people drive the speed limit.

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**Councilor Todd:**

She said she underestimated how she would feel about having the library project go through – it brought tears to her eyes. She has lived here for 49 years and the summer reading program was always important to her and her kids. She's very happy this happened.

**Councilor Reisner:**

He said a few months ago they discussed Park Rules, revisited the fines and penalties attached to them, and handed it off to staff. He asked what the status was. Chief Schmerber said he spoke with the City Attorney, he is going to review them, he has worked with Bill Osburn on this project and they decided to hold it over until the first of the year because of everything else that's going on now.

Councilor Reisner thanked the veterans for their service to the community and country.

He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilor Neace:**

She said her heart is with the library and has been – she just wanted to make sure that we weren't going to extend it out and nothing was going to get in the way of delaying it.

**Councilor Tracy:**

He said he agrees with Ms. Shearer's comments regarding anonymous correspondence being read and is uncomfortable with it as well. He said they are politicians and they have to have thick skin – they get attacked all the time. He said he will talk to the Mayor and other Councilors regarding the policy. He also doesn't want to live in a town where people are feeling like they're going to be threatened by law suits because they speak up. He said Mr. Osburn is a politician and he also needs to grow a thick skin.

**Mayor Stempel:**

She wants the people who fiercely fought for the creation of the new library to know that they are appreciated.

She said that no one represents the City Council or the staff except the City Council and the staff. There are people in the community saying that they represent them and they don't.

She said there is outright incorrect information being pushed out via social media. They are trying to get the correct and factual information out in the best way possible. She asked that if anyone has questions or concerns to please reach out to them or staff.

She thanked everyone who helped with the Halloween celebration – it was awesome. It was bigger and better than last year. They have already started planning next year's celebration and if you want to help let her know.

The Gladstone holiday tree lighting is on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 P.M. at the Senior Center. There will be cookies, caroling, crafts, etc. Everyone is invited. There will be new snowflake decorations on Main Street this year.

**Councilor Mersereau:**

He said that when the library is built they are going to have a vacant library and parking lot. He said the library building is currently worth approximately \$780,000. Council could consider putting that against the cost of the infrastructure.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Stempel, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tami Bannick, City Recorder