

## **GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of December 10, 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; Nancy McDonald, Interim Human Resources Director; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney

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Mayor Stempel went over the meeting agenda.

### **PRESENTATION – METRO:**

Councilor Christine Lewis said that in November the voters passed their Parks & Nature bond renewal. It will fund projects across the region. The 2008 Housing Bond is building homes for 12,000 people across the region – they are making great progress toward their bond goals (3,900 affordable homes). They are reserving 1,600 homes for people who earn very low incomes (0 - 30% median family income). They are building half of the homes at family size (2, 3 & 4 bedroom apartments). There is a pilot project happening in Gladstone.

Southwest Corridor – their effort to work with Tri-Met to extend Max to create reliable, fast transportation options and improve quality of life for people who work, shop, and live in communities in the southwest part of our region. They have the draft EIS completed and have a preferred alternative that's been selected and all of the parties/partners are talking about specifics for design and engineering as they continue to hone the budget and discussions are ongoing regarding funding, which includes a 2020 transportation ballot measure.

Metro has the opportunity to work with government, business, and community advocates in order to shape a potential investment measure for 2020 that will prepare for a future in transportation that is going to change the way things have been going. They have been working off an outdated system that hasn't received investment to the standard necessary for how many people are in this region trying to get around. They have put together a task force of 35 people who have met during this year and they are close to coming up with a recommendation on some priority corridors. These will be corridors suited for investment in the measure. The task force meeting in Clackamas County is next week, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Harmony Campus at 5:30 p.m. The measure will also include some region-wide programs such as safe routes to school, downtown main streets, etc.

Garbage and recycling – Metro is coordinating with local governments to develop recycleornot.org (as well as Facebook and Instagram) – a region-wide campaign that's a resource that was launched this summer to help people understand what can and can't be recycled and answer common recycling questions. They are working with local and state governments in industry on long term planning so they can continue to evolve and develop a resilient system. They are looking at a potential update to the Oregon City transfer station that may include moving some services off of that site onto a second location to help alleviate the traffic issues there. Metro is also looking at the possibility of processing food waste at their own sites. Community place-making program is just now open. The grants help people tackle community challenges and opportunities through arts and creative expression and equity focused projects. This is an opportunity

for community groups to participate with Metro – they are looking to award up to \$190,000 in their next grant cycle. Staff is available with assistance and there will be informational sessions throughout the region. Community based organizations with non-profit status or individuals who partner with a fiscal partner are eligible – the deadline to apply is February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

They have a new exhibit at the Oregon Zoo that is in partnership with Native American tribes and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – the Lamprey exhibit has real educational value.

Mayor Stempel asked if the addition of a restroom at the Gladstone Nature Park would be something that would fall under the Nature & Neighborhoods grant program. Ms. Lewis said she believes they could apply for a Nature & Neighborhood capital grant for that and it would be an excellent use of the local share funds. Councilor Reisner asked what Metro’s stance is in regard to the State’s desire to toll Abernethy Bridge and the north part of I-205 through Portland. Ms. Lewis said Metro is in the process of beginning their own study – looking at specifically congestion pricing with an interest that is different than that of the State, which is that the entire system needs to be evaluated. She will forward Metro’s letter on this topic to City staff.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:**

Ms. Betz had one addition and two corrections. She has provided a draft letter to the Mayor and Council that she would like them to consider in support for the Trolley Trail Bridge project on the McLoughlin Corridor – this will be item #13 on the agenda. There are two staff reports under item #10 – they are correcting the staff report for Park and Recreation Advisory Board (it is four applications received for four positions; not three). The other staff report is for Traffic Safety Advisory Board – that should be three applications for three positions (the staff report said two).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of October Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 10-31-19
4. Approval of October Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for November 2019
7. Approve an amendment to the Sanitary Sewer Treatment Agreement between the City of Gladstone and Oak Lodge Water Services District, which extends the agreement by six months, to July 31, 2020
8. Approve a contract extension for Linda Belooof as the Gladstone Municipal Judge

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**9. AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S SPENDING AUTHORITY TO REPLACE FIRE APPARATUS:**

Fire Chief Huffman went over the staff report. They are seeking approval for the purchase of a new fire engine to replace one of the fleet of two fire engines. The engine that is going to be replaced was built in 1996. The engine they would like to purchase is a Pierce Velocity Pumper NH761 for a cost of \$616,953. It takes approximately one year to build and deliver a new

apparatus so they are trying to get ahead of that and time the selling of the old apparatus. The purchase is fully funded with the general and levy funds – there will be approximately \$170,000 in the apparatus replacement fund after the purchase. The purchase of the new engine will sustain their fleet for the next 15 – 20 years. The fire engines are the backbone for emergency response and fire fighting in the City.

Councilor Tracy asked where the money from selling the old engine goes. Chief Huffman said it goes back into the general fund.

*Councilor Mersereau made a motion to approve the purchase of the Pierce Velocity Pumper NH761, pursuant to Pierce Manufacturing Proposal dated November 14, 2019. Motion was seconded by Councilor Todd. Motion passed unanimously.*

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.

#### **10. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:**

Ms. Betz said the Audit Committee appointment is for 2020, they won't actually meet until late fall for orientation, and if they don't have a full Audit Committee that's okay. The next time the Budget Committee meets will be February of 2021 so they have time to recruit people. There was only one application received for the Library Board, but it will be dissolving as of December 2020. Councilor Reisner said at the last Library Board meeting their recommendation was to try to recruit someone from outside the City but within the service area. Mayor Stempel suggested holding the Audit, Budget, and Library vacancies open for another two months so they can recruit more and appoint them later. Councilor Reisner suggested appointing Dr. Colson now. Councilor Mersereau feels they shouldn't wait for more people to apply; the applicants deserve an answer.

- a) Audit Committee (1 application received for 2 positions) – Mayor Stempel would like it held open for two more months to get additional applicants. It was agreed to wait since there was only one applicant.

*Councilor Reisner made a motion to continue advertising for the vacant positions for the Library Board, Audit Committee, and the Budget Committee until the February meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed unanimously.*

- b) Refer to above.
- c) Refer to above.
- d) Park & Recreation Advisory Board (4 applications received for three positions – Filling one position that has been vacated and three full term positions)

*Councilor Reisner made a motion to fill the long term positions with the current board members: John Eichsteadt, Mindy Garlington, and Bruce Hildreth with Andrew Labonte being appointed to the position that expires at the end of 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilor Mersereau. Motion passed unanimously.*

- e) Planning Commission (4 applications received for 3 positions – 2 are for four-year terms and 1 is to complete a vacated term that ends in December 2020) – Councilors voted for

two full term positions and selected Michael Milch and Natalie Smith. Councilors voted for the vacated position and selected Darren Williams.

- f) Senior Center Advisory Board (2 applications received for two positions)  
*Councilor Neace made a motion to appoint Linda Andrews and Nancy Turner for the two positions. Motion was seconded by Councilor Todd. Motion passed unanimously.*
- g) Traffic Safety Advisory Board (3 applications received for 3 positions)  
*Councilor Neace made a motion to appoint Andrew Labonte, Clair Coy, and Yvonne McNeil for the three positions. Motion was seconded by Councilors Todd and Reisner. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mayor Stempel said there will be a volunteer orientation on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11. SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GLADSTONE TOURISM BRAND AND STRATEGY:**

Ms. Betz said this is an exciting project that they will kick off in January. The City implemented an ordinance to collect transient lodging tax – as of September 2019 Gladstone has collected approximately \$189,000 for tourism promotion. According to ORS 323.007 they have to be very careful about how they spend the money – at least 70% of the tax dollars have to be used for tourism promotion. The next step is to put together a tourism plan and they will also go through a City-wide branding exercise. The proposal was sent out through the Oregon Procurement Information Network and on the City’s website. Lori Bell, Economic Development for Oregon City, has helped with the RFP and the solicitation process. They received eight responses. They assembled a team of evaluators who scored the applications and Rotator received the highest percentage (91.8%). Even though the \$50,000 is right at the City Administrator’s spending authority she would like the City Council to reaffirm the selection and direct her to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Rotator. There are four stages to the proposal: a robust stakeholder and community engagement process, assessment and ideation, implementation and execution, and a promotion strategy. All of this will be completed by the end of April of 2020, which will coincide with the move to the new Gladstone Civic Center.

Councilor Tracy asked what they collected in the transient lodging taxes in 2015/2016 – the answer was zero. He asked if they had made it clear to the citizens that they just started collecting these fees because it’s a fairly significant amount of money. Ms. Betz said they already have hotelier managers questioning the City on how they’re spending the money and they’re not. If they were spending it they would be violating state statute. Tourism dollars are supposed to be spent on encouraging more people to want to stay overnight in our region. Mayor Stempel asked Ms. Bell if she worked with Rotator before – Ms. Bell said they were hired by Oregon City before she went to work for the City of Oregon City, but she worked with them and had a very positive experience with them. Mayor Stempel asked why they didn’t choose a local, female-owned company. Ms. Bell said they talked through that, everyone reviewed their scores, but the one factor was that they referred to a City of Gladstone in Missouri and the other proposals did not do as well of a job demonstrating how they could execute a brand and Rotator had many examples of how they could work within the community, how they could address different organizations, etc. Councilor Tracy said Rotator did a fantastic job with the projects in Tacoma. He feels they were a good choice.

Ms. Betz wanted to point out that they did not put travel costs in their proposal.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mindy Garlington said she is impressed with the things that Rotator said they would do. She asked if they had letters of intent from stakeholders who are going to put money on this or if the tourism

dollars are going to pay for everything. Ms. Betz said they will put together a list of people/businesses from the Gladstone community to participate in this. Ms. Garlington wants to know what the end result will be. Ms. Betz said they will put together a strategic plan on how Gladstone should spend their tourism dollars, so they are not going to be requiring businesses to invest in this project. Ms. Garlington hopes they will include the parks because they are a big draw.

*Councilor Neace made a motion to reaffirm the selection committee's selection and direct the City Administrator to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Rotator. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tracy. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT:**

Mayor Stempel said the current contract expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. They need to discuss any changes they'd like to make. Mr. Jacobs went over the options on how to proceed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mindy Garlington said in comparing the wages to other cities of Gladstone's size it is fairly comparable and she feels that Ms. Betz is doing a fabulous job. Her concern is that if we turn this position over in the next year or so is that our starting position, would someone expect more than that, is that in our budget, and is everybody in the City going to get raises above and beyond their cost of living raises. She said there were a lot of people at the Park and Recreation Board meeting last night who were asking why they wanted to charge park fees, why there wasn't money, shouldn't the money come from the general fund, etc.

Nancy McDonald said a performance evaluation was done in the fall of last year and as a result of that Ms. Betz was granted a pay increase. In addition, her contract allowed for a cost of living increase equal to what the other employees received – that happened July 1, 2019. Also in the fall of 2018 was when Ms. McDonald presented the compensation and classification plan and that covered every position within the City and was unanimously approved by the City Council to retro a lot of the positions back to January 1<sup>st</sup>. They also held contract negotiations for the ASFME and Police units, which went on until the summer. Everyone in the City got brought up according to the classification/compensation plan. She submitted all the information on the City Administrator at that time when the City Council was doing her evaluation and they granted a raise. The budget was prepared based on that. Any raise that the City Council decides on could be contained in the Administration budget.

Councilor Tracy wanted to clarify that they phased out the Assistant City Administrator position – that is correct. He said that was a cost saving opportunity, but asked when Ms. Betz transitioned to City Administrator if there was an increase then as well – there was. He went over the reasons to have a competitive salary for the position.

Councilor Reisner said comparing the salary to those of surrounding cities is like comparing apples to oranges because the other cities are twice as big as Gladstone. He said we may be losing police officers to other cities but we aren't losing administrative people. He feels they are "padding the coffers". Ms. McDonald disagreed. She said the cities they used for this analysis are the same cities that were used for all the other positions in the City – the only deviation was that not all of those cities had fire departments. There was further discussion regarding number of personnel, responsibilities, etc.

Councilor Todd asked out of the comparables that they were given how many of those had Assistant City Administrators that are taking over a share of the load on a lot of the work – Ms. McDonald did not have an answer for that. Ms. Betz said that four of the cities have Assistant City Managers.

Councilor Reisner asked Ms. Betz what she thought would be fair – she was not prepared to answer that question.

Councilor Neace asked Councilor Reisner if he put his questions/comments in writing and said that it should have been shared with the rest of the Councilors to review. He said they just came out as discussion.

Councilor Mersereau said he believes they want to keep Ms. Betz and her team, he believes they need to give her a fair raise, and he believes the professionalism of Gladstone's City organization has greatly grown over the years. He suggested a 7.5% raise.

Ms. Betz said the employees get step increases and 5% plus COLAs and the 3% so they are averaging approximately an 8% increase for those who have not topped out.

Councilor Tracy said they should have taken care of this six months ago and this is not the way to go about it professionally. He feels the 7.5% increase gives us the strength in the market and he is comfortable with that.

Councilor Reisner asked what figure was put in the budget for the City Administrator for the biennium. Ms. McDonald could not answer that since the Finance Director was not at the meeting.

*Councilor Mersereau made a motion to provide a 7.5% raise on the base. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed (6 - 1, Councilor Reisner with a nay vote). Ms. Bannick then took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Neace – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Reisner – no. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Mersereau – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. (Motion passed 6 -1)*

Mr. Jacobs said the Council also needed to have a discussion regarding the other terms of the contract and whether or not they want them to remain the same. They also need to have a discussion regarding the effective date of the raise that they are offering.

Councilor Mersereau asked Ms. Betz if there was anything in the contract that she wanted to change. Ms. Betz asked if they wanted to do an annual evaluation or only do one when the contract is expiring in two years. Mayor Stempel recommended doing a two-year extension and do an evaluation in 1.5 years and make a specific date to do it. She said a raise for the City Administrator should be tied to what the rest of the employees are getting so that it stays even. Councilor Mersereau recommended doing the raise on the anniversary date. Mayor Stempel feels it should be at the end of the contract/beginning of the new contract (January 1, 2020). Councilor Neace would like to have a sub-committee put together to consider any increase for next year.

Councilor Tracy asked Mr. Jacobs if there was a way to execute this contract January 1 and amend the contract and either negotiate with Ms. Betz or to make sure they go through the contract again and look at some of the needs the City and/or she may have. Mr. Jacobs said as long as there is mutual consent you can amend the contract at any point in time during the term. He said if they are going to have a sub-committee or delegate authority to more than one person that is basically creating a sub-committee of the Council which then invokes all the regular public meeting law

requirements. There was further discussion regarding a sub-committee and the scenarios/rules that apply. Mr. Jacobs said that Ms. Betz would entertain the idea of extending the current contract for a couple of months and have the expiration date extend out without changing any other provisions and have the payment/raise retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup> in order to give the Council more time for a decision. She asked if the Mayor and Council President could talk to her about specifics – Mr. Jacobs said the Council could delegate authority to the Mayor to do that and if the Mayor wanted to consult with less than a quorum of the full body that she would have the ability to do so because the Council has not created an official sub-committee.

It was agreed to extend the contract until February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 without changing any provisions and in the interim the Mayor will have discussions with Ms. Betz, along with Councilor Tracy, then they will come back to the Council with a draft contract and any raise increase will be retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This will be finalized by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will be voted on at the March Council meeting.

*Councilor Neace made a motion to extend the City Administrator's current contract until March 15, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilor Todd. Councilor Tracy added an amendment to the motion; extending the contract until March 31, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **13. METRO T-2020 BOND:**

Mayor Stempel said this is a bond to get transportation funds for corridor projects and other regional projects. John Southgate said they have talked about funding for the trolley bridge during the meetings that he has attended and his advice is to endorse that. He commended Mayor Stempel for making sure that Gladstone is at the table and influencing these very important regional decisions. Ms. Betz said that Metro isn't sure how they're going to fund this yet, but we need the trolley trail bridge to be part of the McLoughlin Corridor piece and support for that. It will go to their task force on December 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a letter of support for the Council.

Councilor Reisner asked if they could use the tourism tax for something like the trolley trail bridge – Ms. Betz said she thinks they will find that that is one of the recommended projects that they use those funds for because it is a regional type draw.

Councilor Tracy said he is in support, but at a different time. He said he needs to see more information regarding the funding mechanism/mechanics. He said when a funding mechanism is revealed would be the time for us to get onboard from an endorsement standpoint. Mr. Southgate believes they will be advocating which projects to be included at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. He suggested revising the letter to say that we want to know more about the funding before we fully support the whole package, but if there is a package we support the McLoughlin Corridor project. It was agreed to hold off on this until they get some questions answered.

### **BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:**

Mayor Stempel said when they receive correspondence she feels we need to receive it the week before a meeting so it can be included in the packets so they have ample time to review it and come to the meetings to discuss it. She would like that any correspondence has to be received the Monday prior to the meeting so that Ms. Bannick can include it in the packet and if it comes in after that date it gets pushed to the next meeting. Mayor Stempel said she spoke with a citizen who said they wanted to be involved but they were afraid to speak at a meeting for fear of retaliation so she felt that anonymous correspondence was the way for her to share her opinions. Mayor Stempel said she doesn't like anonymous correspondence but they need to discuss whether they want to allow that.

*Councilor Reisner made a motion that all correspondence to be considered for the packets has to be received one week prior to the meeting so that it can be included in the packets and available to the public for review. Motion was seconded by Councilor Todd.*

Discussion: Mr. Jacobs suggested adding “unless otherwise required by law”.

*Councilor Reisner agreed to amend his motion. Motion was seconded by Councilor Neace. Motion passed unanimously.*

Councilor Todd feels that anonymous correspondence can be included in the packet but she doesn't want them read at the meetings. Councilor Mersereau has mixed feelings. Mr. Jacobs said there is a constitutional right to petition the government anonymously so he believes they do have to accept it, but it doesn't have to be included in the Council packets or read aloud.

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

Tracy Meskel said she came to the Park & Recreation Board meeting yesterday after hearing that they were going to start charging fees at Meldrum Bar Park. She is on a fixed income and is on disability. She feels that if they start charging she would like to see something happen with the funding. She would like the City Council to fund the parks and recreation so they do not have to grab from the bottom of the general fund. She said that Meldrum Bar is the biggest asset for the City.

John Robinson said his wife worked for the library for the past 5.5 years. He said recently a letter went out complimenting the four full-time staff. The letter neglected to thank the two principal part-time staff who have been employed longer than ¾ of those four full-time employees. He feels that was neglectful and shameful. He said as a result his wife quit because she felt they didn't appreciate her.

Bill Osburn said the reading of the anonymous letter by Councilor Neace at the last meeting was very inappropriate and unprofessional. He said the personal attacks going back and forth on both sides just caused a lot of hard feelings and issues. He said the ethics complaint was dismissed – he won't pursue it but he thinks some things were pointed out that he hopes the Council would address in the future. He said that Gladstone is lacking in regard to procedures that need to be in place to handle complaints. He said that residents need to feel they aren't wasting their time. He feels that right now there is favoritism, cliques, etc. He would like to see some policies adopted in the next year, as well as transparent processes, so that if a complaint comes in it is looked at to make sure everything is on the up and up.

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

##### **Councilor Mersereau:**

He wanted to compliment all of the Department Heads and people writing the reports for the different departments. He also wanted to compliment Police Chief Schmerber and Fire Chief Huffman regarding their reports.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

##### **Councilor Todd:**

She said she and a group of friends will be caroling in downtown Gladstone. The group is called “Caroling with a Cause” and if anyone wants to join in they will be going out this Friday at 7:00 p.m. and meeting at the corner of Portland Avenue/Gloucester. They will be collecting food for the Gladstone Food Pantry.

**Councilor Reisner:**

He said the Library Board and Library Foundation asked him to pass on a huge thank you for passing the Library IGA.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Councilor Tracy:**

He apologized to Mr. Robinson – he said as a representative of the City that is not the way to treat an employee, especially someone who serves the City. He said it may have been an oversight. Ms. Betz said that Ann Robinson *was* recognized at an event that Clackamas County and the City had. They took a group picture, they gave flowers, they gave a gift card to her, and that will be the feature of the January newsletter. She said she would be happy to discuss this with Mr. Robinson after the meeting.

Councilor Tracy said things are going well in the City. The Civic Center will be finished soon.

He said he understands Mr. Osburn's comments and he appreciates them, but some of the people on the Council have struggled with unity/cooperation/compromising, but they have been doing fairly well going forward and he likes the momentum. He hopes the citizens see it reflected as being positive. The whole idea is that they all work and compromise and they all lead at different levels. He said it's tough for him to be attacked in social media and elsewhere by Mr. Osburn and have him come and lecture to them. He said they all have different ways of looking at these issues and these policy decisions.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Councilor Neace:**

She wanted to remind everyone that this coming Saturday at 8:00 a.m. is the Kiwanis breakfast at the Senior Center – she encouraged everyone to come. It is free. They will be serving eggs, bacon, juice, and coffee.

She thanked Mr. Osburn for sharing his comments. She has taken a long, hard look at her feelings toward him. She is sorry if the letter she read aloud offended him. She said that maybe he will have a better feeling and understanding when Councilor Reisner read the letter that Mr. Osburn wrote about her. She said it's time to bury the hatchet and move forward. She said the Council has gotten better and they are working together – they want things good for this community. She said when you are constantly attacked it puts you on the offensive.

**Mayor Stempel:**

She gave an update on the Sewer District Governance – they will be meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> to review the intergovernmental agreement. After three years of meetings they finally came to a consensus which allows each of the participating cities to have an elected official on the advisory committee. In the past they did not have a representative. They are also going to have an elected body that serves as mediators if there are issues that arise. She hopes to have the IGA for review in January.

She attended the GEMs meeting (Gladstone Emergency Management group) on November 20<sup>th</sup> – she was disappointed in the turnout. She said that we as a city need to take emergency preparedness much more seriously. In a catastrophic event the police/fire departments will not be able to attend to everyone – we will need to depend on each other. She said we need to come together as a community and come up with a plan. She will be pushing this topic at the strategic planning meeting.

The Park and Recreation Board is still trying to find a way to function without a budget. They are frustrated because every time they come up with a plan for funding they are told no because there isn't staff, money, or time. She said we need to have a serious conversation to change this. Last night they voted to move

forward with the site plan for both the Nature Park and Meldrum/Dahl Beach. The Parks Board has been meeting with all the groups that use the park and are trying to figure out where to put everybody and how to move forward, but there is no site plan. They also voted to move forward with the sale of the West Ridgeway open space.

She thanked Councilors Reisner, Tracy, and Todd for attending the holiday tree lighting party – it was good to see the elected officials there. She thanked Colin Black for letting them use the big room at the Senior Center. The event was very well attended this year. Black Rock Coffee supplied all the cocoa and coffee – they were awesome. Jody with Gladstone Smiles Dentistry helped Santa and provided cookies. Michele with Sherwood Forest Preschool supplied crafts for all the kids, which they loved. Dr. Colson found his calling by playing the piano and singing Christmas carols. She thanked everyone who provided cookies. She feels this will become an annual tradition.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 14<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020.

ATTEST:

  
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Tamara Stempel, Mayor

  
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Tami Bannick, City Recorder