

## **GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of July 14, 2020**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. – (Via Zoom)

### **ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Tammy Stempel, Councilor Ripley, Councilor Neace, Councilor Tracy, Councilor Todd, Councilor Mersereau

### **ABSENT:**

Councilor Reisner

### **STAFF:**

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Tami Bannick, City Recorder; Rick Huffman, Fire Chief; John Schmerber, Chief of Police; David Doughman, City Attorney

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Mayor Stempel called the meeting to order. She explained that per the Governor's executive order 20-16 regarding compliance with Oregon Public Meetings Law this meeting is being held virtually using the Zoom platform. She went over the call-in number and access codes. She went over the meeting agenda.

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

She said the executive session that was scheduled at the end of the regular meeting has been canceled.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of June 9, 2020 and June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of May Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 05-31-2020
4. Approval of May Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for June 2020
7. Second Amendment to Temporary Sanitary Sewer Treatment Agreement between City of Gladstone and Oak Lodge Water Services District
8. Approval of OLCC Off-Premises Sales License for Two Girls Catering
9. Approval of Resolution 1180 – A resolution adopting a revised master fee schedule to amend the North Clackamas County Water Commission wholesale rate from \$.7363 per hundred cubic feet of water to \$.7437

*Councilors Tracy and Neace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Mersereau. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Neace – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Mersereau – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

Mayor Stempel said for those members of the public who wished to speak the deadline for accepting comments was noon today. They allow three minutes for public comment unless there are special circumstances and additional time has been approved beforehand by staff. She said having public comments at the end of the meeting was a recommendation from the League of Oregon Cities and it is becoming the standard of many cities. This is the Council's business meeting and when their business is complete they are more than happy to hear the business from the audience.

firefighters. Social media has taken over as far as notifying the public of emergencies. He is recommending that they discontinue the use of the city-wide siren alert system for the Fire Department. They could either surplus it or donate to the Historical Society. There was discussion regarding nostalgia and options (moving it/where to put it, donating it, size, possible uses, making a historical marker out of it, etc.). It was agreed to remove it and decide what to do with it at a later date.

**12. DISCUSSION REGARDING SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:**

Councilor Tracy said this agenda item is the result of multiple conversations he has had with a number of citizens. They said that students of color are experiencing outright/overt racism. He asked about the potential of having a town hall meeting that would include the City Council, Gladstone Police Department, and the Gladstone School Board. Ms. Betz met with Police Chief John Schmerber, Superintendent Bob Stewart, and a number of faith-based organizations to talk about social justice, equity, and inclusion in the Gladstone School District, but also the relationships between Gladstone Police Department and our citizens of color. They have not come up with a plan to have a town hall. He would like to allow citizens who asked to speak on this topic to do so now instead of waiting until the end of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ben Hildner said he feels that conflict is necessary and productive and a lack of conflict, especially when it comes to race, results in stagnation and decay. He thinks we have a lot of growing left to do. He has been very impressed with Chief Schmerber – his responsiveness to conversations and willingness to engage, learn, and change. Mr. Hildner has been to two protests in Gladstone and both times had aggressive people who threatened the protestors' safety and yet he has heard nothing from a majority of the Councilors about race, growth, and conversations that need to take place. He thinks we need to have real conversations about the experience of young people, particularly young people of color in Gladstone. He feels that it is essential that the Council listens to other voices, particularly those of Gladstone's youth and people of color.

Mary Morphet-Brown said she encouraged the Council to host a virtual town hall meeting on the subject of racism because it is truly needed right now. She is the widow of a black educator and has three black sons, two black grandchildren, and a Haitian daughter-in-law so black lives matter a great deal to her. She believes that watching George Floyd on the news changed some hearts. She was impressed with the volume of comments on Gladstone Next Door after the incident. They established an online discussion group via Zoom and they have met three times and had between 7 – 12 participants each time to discuss concerns regarding anti-racism, inclusion, making people comfortable, etc. She feels that a town hall meeting would be a very good method for the Council to approach/address the concern out there.

Martine Coblenz said her family is establishing their roots in Gladstone – they are a multi-generational home of mixed races and a family of color. The conversation around racial equity and how to create a community that is racially just is of utmost importance to them because it directly impacts them. While recent events nationally have brought this subject to the forefront it has been a constant everyday reality and conversation within her family. She has seen many young families from diverse backgrounds move into our city and the demographic will continue to change in this way. She said that now is the time for Gladstone City Council to show the community that racial justice matters to them and now is the time for all residents to know, especially those who are not a part of the dominant group, that they belong and that they are a beloved part of the community. She urges the Council to be leaders in this work by starting off with a town hall meeting so they can hear the experiences of the residents. Engaging with the community and acknowledgment of their experiences is the first step toward change.

Kyle Donovan said her daughter will be in kindergarten this fall and for that reason she has become more interested in the town's governance and local education system. She started her greater community involvement journey by attending Gladstone's two Black Lives Matter protests. At the first event she was heartened to see an undeniable turn-out from our predominantly white community who were eager to stand in solidarity with black people and stand up about systemic racism. At the second event she listened to stories from a black student and black parents expressing the overt racism currently happening in Gladstone schools. Her initial thought was that this couldn't be happening in Gladstone, but as more and more students and community members shared their stories about racist experiences in Gladstone all she could think was if only our community could hear these stories with their own ears. She said that Gladstone takes a lot of pride in our community but it's obvious that we have a lot of work to do to live up to this pride. She wants to trust that her daughter's school district and all the individuals within that embody the moral courage to be specifically anti-racist. She doesn't feel that this is the case. She said the first step is listening, learning, and believing their stories. Her purpose and goal in sharing her perspective is simply to continue to have on record that our town has a lot of work to do around racial equity, especially in our schools, and to encourage City Council to take an active role in working toward becoming an example of an anti-racist group that uplifts black and people of color voices. Her hope is that by herself and others regularly showing up to these meetings they are met with an equally proactive Council that seeks to acknowledge racism in Gladstone and acts with urgency to learn about and address racism in all levels and layers of government.

It was decided to have staff move forward and schedule a Zoom listening session for the July 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Ms. Betz wanted to answer a question regarding the faith-based organization she mentioned. The churches involved are: The New Life Church, Gladstone Christian Church, The Source Church, Gladstone Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hillside Christian Fellowship, Every Marriage Matters, and the Gospel Fellowship Community Church. They have also said they would be happy to have a listening session on this topic.

**13. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CITY ATTORNEY SERVICES:**

Ms. Betz said at the last Council meeting there was a conversation regarding putting together a Request for Proposal. She asked for guidance regarding how long they would like this advertised, any other locations they would like this advertised, and who would like to be on the evaluation committee. Councilor Neace asked if they go through an evaluation every four years for an attorney similar to the City Administrator's. Mayor Stempel believes that by charter they are supposed to do it every four years but they have not done that. Ms. Betz confirmed that the evaluation is supposed to be done every four years, but not an RFP. Councilor Ripley said he feels an evaluation needs to be done before they do an RFP. Mayor Stempel feels that they should go out for an RFP every once in a while. Ms. Betz said last time they started with an RFQ and there were no respondents. Councilor Mersereau said that last time they agreed to work with the existing attorneys to improve communication.

Mayor Stempel asked what the Council would like to do. Councilor Todd is concerned about being fired by our current attorneys and Councilor Tracy agreed. Councilor Tracy feels they need more information/performance standards/evaluations. Mayor Stempel feels they should do a review first and put the RFP on hold.

Mr. Doughman said that after the last discussion they tried to set up a time to discuss the issues and they are still willing to do that. He said it's hard for him to speak on this topic because there is a self-interest issue. He is okay with having discussions and doing a review down the road.

**Councilor Mersereau:**

He also agreed and supports the great service by staff.

**Councilor Todd:**

She also thanked City staff and Public Works.

She said she is very excited about the logo and branding work that they've done.

She's also excited to welcome two add-on businesses in town – Tiger Juice (attached to Portland Avenue Pizza) and Pearl's Place (an addition to Two Girls Catering).

**Councilor Ripley:**

He said on the Fourth of July there were neighborhoods communicating with mortars and people everywhere. He said his dogs did not appreciate the fireworks.

In regard to the I-205 tolling project – they have five options that are all horrible for Gladstone. The next meeting is on the 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. He said this is something we have to really stay on top of because if they do any kind of toll it's going to shut down Arlington and Dartmouth with all the cars getting off the freeway.

**Mayor Stempel:**

She said she has a pile of emails from people who are livid about the quantity and length of time the fireworks were going off. They started about four days before the Fourth of July and lasted until last night. She isn't sure what Police and Fire can do about it but it was over the top this year. (Chief Schmerber wasn't able to respond). Mayor Stempel said they need to come up with an idea of how to deal with it next year.

She said the Food Pantry is going strong. A lot of the volunteers are getting burned out because it's a constant thing and they have to keep changing things because of COVID. They are doing a modified pre-packaged box model on Thursdays on Nelson Lane between 3:30 and 5:30 P.M. and everybody is welcome. They need volunteers desperately.

The Homebound Senior Program is up to 37 deliveries and they are doing that every-other week. They are getting calls outside of Gladstone so they are delivering to Milwaukie, Clackamas, and Oregon City as well. She is working with those jurisdictions to see if they can come up with a better plan. They need volunteers to drive/deliver – they do deliveries the first and third Saturdays of the month. They meet at the Food Pantry on Nelson Lane at noon to get the assignments and boxes.

The Clackamas County Coordinating Executive Committee (C-4) had a meeting last night. They decided to add an equity discussion in September. C-4 talks about the high level transportation and housing issues – they want to make sure the equity piece is a part of their discussions moving forward. Currently they are focused on the transportation funding bill and House Bill 2001.

Parks and Rec Board met last night and it was great. It's nice to see that all of the projects they've been talking about for two years are finally coming to fruition. They discussed the City branding strategy and how they can integrate parks' needs with that. The Nature Park site plan scope of work was approved and they are going to be starting that right away – hoping to have it done in December of this year. Meldrum Bar fee implementation was discussed – it is now in the hands of the City attorney; they are researching any possible property restrictions. Stop signs at Max Patterson Park/Clarendon are on order and will be installed soon. Commissioner Eichsteadt brought up the amount of destruction done by the BMX track and RC car folks and all without any approval or direction from the City. The RC group is now working with the Parks and Rec Board. They have not been able to make any contact with the BMX folks yet. They