

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2022

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

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Tammy Stempel, Councilor Ripley, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Tracy, Councilor Todd, Councilor Hartman, Councilor Garlington

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Darren Caniparoli, Public Works Director; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; Tami Bannick, City Recorder;

Mayor Stempel called the meeting to order and explained that the City is abiding by guidelines set forth in House Bill 2560, which requires that they make all meetings accessible remotely, through technologic means and provide the opportunity for the public to participate to the best of their ability. This meeting will be open to the public, both in person and virtually, using the Zoom platform. The Council members and staff will be in person, as well as those citizens who wish to attend in person. She went over the procedures that will be followed for the meeting and the meeting agenda.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

There will be a discussion regarding the National Opioid Settlement Agreement during Business Carried Forward. Mayor Stempel would also like to add a statement from the Police Department.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of August Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 8-31-2022
4. Approval of August Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for September 2022

Councilor Hartman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilors Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion approved with a unanimous vote.

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 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 have made a decision based on what is based on the City as a whole. That doesn't mean that their personal 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 they 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.

7. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Brian Stewart said this is Fire Prevention Week and the theme they have adopted is "Fires Won't Wait – Plan Your Escape". This includes all aspects of creating a home fire escape plan and practicing the plan with all family members. He also advises that you "Close Before You Doze" – make sure the bedroom doors are closed.

This month they hosted a Firefighter For A Day training for local orthopedic physicians, surgeons, and physical therapists so they can learn more about the firefighters' tasks in conjunction with their injury contract.

There were a series of fires along the Johnson Creek/Springwater Corridor – their investigators worked along with law enforcement to help rectify that.

They added fifteen new firefighters yesterday. They will be attending the academy.

They had an open house with Happy Valley on Saturday. This Saturday they will hold one from 1 – 3 P.M. at the Oak Grove station. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be one at the Eagle Creek station on October 31st.

Their crews will be handing out helmets and candy on Halloween.

Kirk Stempel said the fire station remodel project is ongoing – they hung sheet rock today. There was a total of 222 calls for service for Engine 22 and 141 calls in the City of Gladstone.

Councilor Garlington asked if the Fire Prevention Week included the schools – they are able to engage with the schools in a limited capacity. She asked if there is money in the budget to fix the side of their building. Ms. Betz said they will at least be putting a fresh coat of paint on that.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. CONTRACT FOR 3J CONSULTING TO PROVIDE PLANNING AND ZONING SERVICES TO THE CITY OF GLADSTONE:

This is to consider approval of a personal services contract and authorizing the City Administrator to sign the agreement. Ms. Betz said for many years Clackamas County has provided Planning and Zoning services for Gladstone. One of the City's strategic goals last year was to go out for a request for proposals to see if there were any interested firms that would like to provide that service. They received five proposals. They formed a selection committee. They interviewed two of the firms that they felt rose to the top of the list. It was a unanimous decision to select 3J Consulting. They are hoping that 3J will also be able to assist with long-term projects. The amount they are asking the Council to approve is \$100,000 each fiscal year. They will enter into an initial 2-year contract to see how the agreement goes. Heather Austin will be the primary Planner for the City of Gladstone.

Councilor Ripley asked if this would have any effect on the Planning Commission. Ms. Betz said they will still be a governing body, and now instead of Joy Fields reporting to them, Heather Austin will do that work. This will help them by getting a firm that can do more than just the

current planning projects. Councilor Todd asked if this would speed up the projects. Ms. Betz believes it will help streamline the process. The building permit process will still be done through the County. Councilor Garlington asked if we pay them per project. Ms. Betz said it would be on an hourly basis and will not exceed the amount in the budget. One of the steps the City will have to go through, if this is approved, will be to adopt the Land Use Fees in December.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve the Personal Service Contract between the City of Gladstone and 3J Consulting for Planning and Zoning Services and authorizing the City Administrator to sign the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Garlington. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Ripley – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

Follow-up discussion regarding the National Opioid Settlement Agreement:

Ms. Betz said she is looking for guidance from the Council. They had a work session in August and Clackamas County talked about their substance use and overdose prevention initiative. There are multiple cities in Clackamas County that are receiving funds because of this national opioid crisis and the settlement agreement. Because this information was provided at a work session she couldn't get an action from the Council, so she is asking if they would like the City to move forward, working with Clackamas County, to utilize the City's \$7,000 that they will receive each year towards assisting with the opioid crisis. If approved, she and Mr. Jacobs will work with Clackamas County and the agreement would come back to the City Council at a future date and it would include items regarding how they would like to see the funds used.

Mayor Stempel asked for a consensus. All the Councilors agreed to move forward on this.

Councilor Alexander read a statement from our Police Chief and staff:

Ms. Betz met with Lieutenant Gerkman and Chief Schmerber and here are some clarifications from listening to comments from Lisa Halcom from the 9/13 Council meeting. At no point did anyone report using the word "faggot". Lieutenant Gerkman spoke to participants at Happy Rock Coffee that night multiple times and told them protestors were not committing crimes. He also reviewed the video on site, during which time there were no crimes being committed or any language being used towards protected classes. No police officer heard any biased words, and no one blocked the sidewalks. We warned the protestors that they cannot obstruct right-of-way or any pathway and they needed to remain on public property. If Ms. Halcom or anyone else wants to file a report that reflects otherwise, then they can contact Chief Schmerber or Lieutenant Gerkman. Library Director Mitzi Olson confirmed that the Library closed an hour early because she only had two female employees working. She said if she had known this was going to happen she would have scheduled another employee and stayed open. She said the police were very helpful and assisted patrons to drop off books. The Police Department will meet with Mitzi to go over protocols should this happen again. In regard to the vandalism that occurred with Lisa's van, it is still under investigation, and we confirmed that Officer Hutchison has provided Ms. Halcom several updates on the incident. We also provided her crime prevention tips. The Gladstone Police Department must respect the constitutional rights of all people - liberty, equality, and justice. The Police Department has no agreements or affiliations with the Proud Boys. The priority is to maintain public safety for our community and those involved. Our ability to prohibit activities is very limited, and as the government, we need to be careful in attempting to do so, even if we strongly disagree with the message being shared. The Police Department has not received or heard a video outside of the one Lieutenant Gerkman viewed that night during the

protest. The only other information we have is that Officer Hutchison reached out again to Ms. Halcom regarding the investigation and received no response. Chief Schmerber also reached out via email to Ms. Halcom and did not get a response. Chief Schmerber has a meeting with County Library staff next week to discuss the exclusion process in the event this issue should occur again.

He said our police are doing a great job and too often only one side of the story gets told. He thinks that needed to be read into the record so we have both sides.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Donna Erbs said today we have what seems to be a barely acknowledged crisis on our hands – the terrifying and abusive behavior of Proud Boys and similar people. Whether it is the repeated targeting and harassment of local business owners and their customers or the intimidation of library workers and patrons, just to name a couple. Her concern for the wellbeing of her fellow Clackamas County residents grows each day. She knows for a fact that many marginalized communities are targeted, harassed, and assaulted. If you are Jewish, as she is, LGBTQ, as she is, a unionist, as she is, or a person of color she thinks you are at risk. When she sees swastikas and slurs painted on Jewish community buildings or when she sees flyers such as this one handed out in the community she is saddened, and she is furious. She has no expectation of changing the minds of those who seek power and satisfaction to the easy targeting of those they perceive as other, but she is angry when the list of hate and bias crimes in Clackamas County receiving media attention gets this long in just one year, yet she doesn't see any coordinated and effective response from City and County officials to this horror and terror. These are just the ones getting media coverage and not the ones that don't make the news and not the ones that people are too frightened to report. As a citizen of this County and as a patron of Gladstone businesses and services she demands a swift and coordinated plan using education and enforcement to end this relentless abuse of people in this City and County. She welcomes the Council's engagement and offered her experience and expertise to this body and/or the County Commission with the sincere intention of working collectively towards solutions.

Nancy Slavin said when her family first moved to Clackamas County they lived in Gladstone. Their child started at John Wetten and attended public school here until seventh grade, danced for many years at Grand Finale, and they still patronize many businesses and have many friends here. For almost twenty years she was a violence prevention coordinator and educator in small communities just like this one. She knows what hate-filled people are capable of and she's seen their violence escalate when they do not get intervention. The Council and Gladstone P.D. have received dozens of reports of intimidation, harassment, vandalism, tire slashing, car keying, and outright physical violence. She's asking this Council to take meaningful action to stop the Proud Boys and others like them in Gladstone from fermenting further trauma and divisiveness. A coordinated community response is, in fact, the solution to fostering community safety. Many residents won't speak publicly about the Proud Boys for fear of becoming targets or experiencing further acts of violence or because sadly they think it's futile to try. Businesses are losing customers, and a few will likely leave or close down. Lost tax revenues, empty store fronts will be the result of this City's failing to hold the primary aggressors accountable. There are not two equal sides to this group's behavior. Several reported incidents could be considered hate crimes for most who have been targeted are from marginalized communities, but no such charges have been made. Also, Gladstone Police have not reported to the State all incidents of bias, such as the anti-Semitic flyers. The City can be held liable if any lawsuits are filed against the Department, so it behooves you to encourage the P.D. to implement their own protocols, like through 18.2 in the Gladstone Police Department manual that says they will protect community safety, show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses and make reasonable efforts to provide support and information, which she understands has not happened. Other cities have responded to hate groups like this by requiring and denying permits or enforcing simple County codes like Ordinance 05-2013 that says disruptive behavior on Clackamas County Library property is actually contrary to public health, safety, and welfare. But on August 24th police chose not to disperse those Proud Boys on that

property and instead watched the Library close down early, as Councilor Alexander said. What's weird is she actually understands the Proud Boys' feelings of powerlessness and subsequent worry about becoming obsolete as a middle-aged white woman, but the real problem with the scarcity we all feel comes from those who hoard power at the top. She wants to thank the few City Councilors who have heard citizen pleas and who do things like organize mutual aid for residents as climate change and its social and economic impacts reign down on us all. She is also here to help Gladstone foster its wellbeing and she hopes you will too.

Jeanette DeCastro (via Zoom) said she has friends in Gladstone and has really enjoyed her visits there. There was a publicized incident on August 24th. She was not present, but it's her understanding that a group of people chose to yell abuse at a private event at Happy Rock Coffee, a drag queen bingo night. She finds that incredibly troubling. In the Gladstone vision and core values for 2021-2022 the number one goal listed by the Council was our city will be safe. She has the expectation that dedicated public servants such as the Councilors would take every step needed to achieve their goals. They are not lofty or aspirational. They're a fantastic road map for what needs to be your next steps. Achieving all of those goals is what the community of Gladstone and all of Clackamas County deserves, and especially safety. Safety includes the ability to live, work, and visit and be free from bias incidents. As a side note, bias incidents used to be called intimidation, so that's what she will call them. Intimidation is absolutely unacceptable. Her problem is not with specific people – it's with the terrible behavior shown on August 24th. And there have been other documented occasions. There's a troubling pattern of neglecting safety in Gladstone in favor of a very few individuals and their loud voices. That's usually called bullying. Communities need to live, work, and thrive together. The difficult truth is that means leadership must make it crystal clear that intimidating behavior would not be tolerated. She has heard folks on Council call graffiti disgusting. She totally agrees. Harassment and intimidation are also especially disgusting. It's her expectation and recommendation that the Council will speak out together against bias incidents. It's her expectation that the Council will manage City operations within their purview and take every step possible to enforce consequences for illegal behavior and intimidation.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Hartman:

She, Councilor Tracy, and Ms. Betz attended the League of Oregon Cities' fall conference last week. They went to their own seminars, but she hopes to draft up some notes from some that she attended. One of those was touring some homeless villages/transition shelters that were put up by St. Vincent DePaul. It was amazing to see what can work when we all work together. They also looked at building blocks for integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion work into City business. She learned about more access for people with disabilities.

She said they have a responsibility to uphold the law and the State law is to report bias incidents, so while it might not be a crime, bias incidents are important to report. It will be noted that the police report did get amended on September 20th, so there were bias incidents reported.

Councilor Tracy:

He said during the League of Oregon Cities conference he spoke to quite a few other Councilors who are experiencing some of these issues in their towns. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote. That is what is going to be what changes the power structure up here. He said he doesn't think he's ever been met with a more corrupt Council than the Council at the time he got elected and the way that that appointment happened almost six years ago. He said the voters are the ones who can change this because otherwise they are going to be running your city.

Councilor Ripley:

He agreed with Councilor Tracy on getting out and voting. He said that's the best way to get things done. He thanked everyone for showing up to the meeting.

Councilor Todd:

She thanked everyone who attended the meeting today and spoke. She knows it's difficult to speak out in these scenarios and she wants them to know they are being heard. She also suggested everyone votes.

Councilor Garlington:

She also thanked everyone for coming and sharing their stories. She said it hurts that people feel fear. She sent out an email to the City Administrator asking that they have a sign-in sheet at meetings. She said she got followed home last month – all the way to her house. She said it doesn't feel good. She thanked the GEMS people for the Red Cross class – it was really interesting. She said when there is an emergency there is nobody in this room that's going to think on their toes as much as what a list on the inside of a closet door would do for your family. You're going to be grateful for the list in case you need to pack up and leave in a hurry.

She thanked Ms. Betz and Mayor Stempel for all their hours of hard work, talking to people, talking to Clackamas County and keeping the Library in Gladstone in the talks. The Board of County Commissioners has authorized the \$6 million for the Gladstone building and additional \$9 million for the Oak Grove building through their ARPA funds. She said it's exciting that we are going to have another building in our town that makes our town look that much better. That's when people want to come here, put up a business and be part of this community and we want to welcome people and businesses in our community. That's what makes us look good.

She said one thing people can do is a food drive – it doesn't have to be big. Clean out your cupboards and take food to the food bank. Walk door-to-door with your kids, showing them how to volunteer. If you can't do that, then volunteer at any food distribution center.

She thanked everyone who does everything to make Gladstone a better place.

Councilor Alexander:

He also encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

He also commented on people watching their houses. He said they all have family members that have done something that you don't want to be associated with. He said they need to make that distinction from now on that this is Tammy Stempel – that's Debbie Lum and saying "the Mayor's sister" is getting old.

Mayor Stempel:

She said the Food Pantry is open from 3-6 on Thursdays at the Hillside Christian Fellowship Church off Glen Echo – located in the back portable buildings. The number of families and homebound seniors they are serving is growing every week and growing in leaps and bounds. They are still looking for volunteers and donations (especially pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, and snacks). They are also providing food to a lot of the residents at Tukwila Springs as well. If anyone wants to drop off food she is there with the prep crew on Wednesdays from 2 – 3:30 P.M. She wanted to thank the people at Hillside Christian Fellowship Church – they don't charge them anything. Last Thursday, in a two-hour period, they served 134 families.

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting went over an update on projects at Robin Hood Park – the basketball court has been restriped and the new backboard/net should be installed next month. The vendor for the play equipment will be meeting with Public Works in January to go over options. The Board

reviewed the 10-year Park Capital Improvements Plan. The expansion of the Nature Park parking area should be done by the end of the year.

The C4 executive committee met and they were updated on I-205. The environmental assessment for I-205 should be completed and presented in December. At that point the public comment period opens. She said it's going to be a very short period (30-45 days) so they need everyone to weigh in on what they think of tolling. They are still committed to finding regional solutions for homelessness and how to connect more people with the support services. The County is considering jurisdiction-specific housing conversations – they will be working on that in the next two months. Tri Met is doing their outreach for future services – “Forward Together” – they have an online comment portal that ends October 31st. The site is: Trimet.org/forward/survey. She encouraged anyone who would like enhanced services or anyone with comments to weigh in.

The GEMS meeting on September 22nd was the Be Ready Red Cross event. They will be offering a CPR class this month. In November they will have a class on emergency food prep. The Red Cross recommends a go bag per person for a minimum of three days, but realistically you should look more at two weeks. Make sure to consider your pets' needs in your go bags. One gallon of water per person per day is what you should have available.

They are still planning the Halloween event. They are going to close down part of Portland Avenue again and have a big party on Halloween from 4 – 8 P.M. If anyone wants to participate with a trunk or treat or a booth, contact Hailey at City Hall.

Mayor Stempel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Hartman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tracy. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 8TH day of NOVEMBER, 2022.

ATTEST:



Tamara Stempel, Mayor



Hayley Kratz, Office Assistant

