

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2022

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT:

Councilor Alexander

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Cathy Brucker, Finance Consultant; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; Hayley Kratz, Office Assistant;

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:

Councilor Todd made a motion to remove the Executive Session from the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hartman. Ms. Kratz took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – no. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed (5-1).

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of September Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 9-30-2022
4. Approval of September Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for October 2022
7. Approval of an Agreement for City Prosecutor Services between the Cities of Gladstone and Molalla

Councilor Hartman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tracy. Ms. Kratz took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – 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.

8. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Lt. Matt Graham, from Engine 322, said for the month of October they ran approximately 206 calls, 102 of those being inside the City of Gladstone. They also assisted with several building fires. They may be moving into the remodeled station by the end of the week. They had a very successful Halloween event – there was a very good turn-out and lots of kids. They had to leave in the middle of things to respond to a commercial fire.

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Stewart said that last month they conducted 35 public education outreach activities, 22 of which were school focused. This month, on November 17th and 18th their public educator will be at Rex Putnam conducting CPR training. The District is in the process of conducting a feasibility study with the City of Sandy to see what their services have been and how they can be more effective. Clackamas Fire is having a conversation with the community about their service levels and what the community wants to fund. There will be three Town Hall meetings and some on-line contributions. There is additional information on their website.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. BANKING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF GLADSTONE:

Ms. Betz said government banking is a lot different than personal banking. For the past year the Finance Consultant has worked tediously to put together a proposal that has gone out to the market. Ms. Brucker went over the staff report. The City has been with U.S. Bank since 1978. A request for proposal was sent out on August 24th. The City did not receive any inquiries prior to the due date of September 19th. U.S. Bank was the only response. They provided a thorough response and included some strong improvements to the existing services (increase in earnings rate, \$3,500 loyalty bonus for implementation of services/equipment or to offset fees, \$1,500 new service bonus, etc.). The City will have a dedicated government banker to provide assistance in some of the more complicated treasury management needs, along with a full-service branch located within three miles of City Hall. U.S. Bank is on the list of approved depositories within the State of Oregon, as is required for businesses with local government. Staff recommends approving the renewal of the U.S. Bank contract for an initial period of five years with an optional renewal of two additional terms (first for five years and second for two years) to commence on January 1, 2023.

Councilor Hartman asked why U.S. Bank was the only one to respond. Ms. Brucker said she was not sure why - but with an RFP they can't approach banks prior to receiving their responses. Councilor Garlington asked how many other cities use U.S. Bank – Ms. Brucker said “many, many”.

Councilor Garlington made a motion to approve the U.S. Bank contract for General Banking Services for a period of five years with the option of renewal of two additional terms (first for five years and the second for two years) to commence as of January 1, 2023. Motion was seconded

by Councilor Todd. Ms. Kratz took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**10. ORDINANCE 1516 – AMENDING GLADSTONE MUNICIPAL CODE (GMC)
CHAPTER 5.04, BUSINESS LICENSES:**

Ms. Betz said they discussed this topic at a recent work session. Mr. Jacobs went over the staff report. Historically the City's business license ordinance was used for revenue generating purposes and information gathering purposes. One of the issues that staff has realized is that having a regulatory purpose behind the business license ordinance would also be extremely helpful. The primary change this ordinance does is adding more teeth to the ordinance and providing additional tools for staff to be able to enforce City codes. It also provides clarification regarding long-term and short-term rental units, which are considered businesses subject to the business license ordinance. It also has some housekeeping clean up provisions. They amended the language related to various areas such as non-profits and businesses for individuals who are 18 years old or younger.

Ms. Betz wanted to acknowledge Tami Bannick, Hayley Kratz, and Sean Boyle for the work they put in to amending this and bringing it to the Council tonight.

First Reading:

Councilor Garlington made a motion to approve Ordinance 1516, an Ordinance amending Gladstone Municipal Code Chapter 5.04, Business Licenses. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hartman.

Discussion: Councilor Todd said she had a potential conflict of interest, but she doesn't feel it will affect her at all. She has a short-term rental in Gladstone and three businesses in Gladstone.

Ms. Kratz took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Second Reading:

Councilor Hartman made a motion to approve Ordinance 1516, an Ordinance amending Gladstone Municipal Code Chapter 5.04, Business Licenses. Motion was seconded by Councilor Garlington. Ms. Kratz took a roll call vote: Councilor Ripley – yes. Councilor Tracy – yes. Councilor Hartman – yes. Councilor Todd – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Stempel – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Matt Sanchez, a certified arborist, said he wanted to plant street trees in front of his house. He approached the Public Works Department to see what needed to be done to obtain a street tree planting permit. He was told there is a \$235 fee, including setting up a traffic control plan. He felt that was outrageous. He was also told the City doesn't outwardly discourage planting, but wanted to let him know that trees ultimately damage streets/sidewalks that cost money. He confirmed with neighboring cities that there is no charge to install a street tree. He said this fee is discouraging to anyone interested in improving their neighborhood. He said that trees provide enormous benefits to communities, including storm water capturing, traffic softening, wildlife habitat, shade, and increasing property values. He said there are opportunities to partner with groups such as Friends of Trees. He has designed a neighborhood tree stewardship guide and he would be happy to volunteer his time to increase the urban forestry canopy in Gladstone and build a healthier future.

Lisa Halcom gave a recap of recent Council meetings/events in Gladstone. On August 24th Happy Rock had a drag queen bingo event – they were surrounded by and verbally assaulted by Proud Boys. One week later her van was vandalized. In September the police log came out and omitted the bias incident. On September 13th she spoke in front of the Council regarding the events. On September 19th an article about the Proud Boys in Gladstone and the Mayor’s sister was published in the Oregonian. On September 20th the Gladstone Police log was amended to include that it was, in fact, a bias incident. At last month’s City Council meeting Councilor Alexander was introduced as a liaison to the Police Department and said he had to read a statement from the Police Chief and staff, then declared there was no bias incident a full three weeks after the police log had already been amended. The next day she did a records request and asked to get an official copy of the police statement. She asked: Who wrote the statement that Councilor Alexander read last week? Does the statement reflect the actual views of the Police Department? Did Councilor Alexander have permission to make this statement on behalf of the Police Department? And has the Police Department issued a clarification that this was not, in fact, their statement?

Nicole Ausmus wanted to address the presence of and continued harassment by a hate group in Gladstone – one that has infiltrated its government at the highest level where there are officials making excuses for the behavior and intimidation tactics of said group. She said Mayor Stempel told the Oregonian that Gladstone citizens being harassed by members of a hate group does not concern her. She asked why this doesn’t concern her. She said it should concern everyone, especially the Mayor, with the responsibility to all the citizens of Gladstone, not just the ones she likes, the ones whose politics she agrees with, and not the ones she has business entanglements with. She said not speaking out about this is a dereliction of the Mayor’s duties. Last month Councilor Alexander mentioned that both sides have been causing problems. There is no “both sides” – there is a hate group and then there is everyone else. Perhaps he fears being marginalized in the same way that he has attempted to marginalize others. We clearly see the excuses being made for hate speech, bias incidents, harassment, and the presence of a hate group in the City. More and more people are learning what’s happening here every day. History does not and will not reflect kindly on corruption, bias, and white supremacy. Perhaps consider leaving a legacy of inclusive leadership instead of cartoon villain style immorality and hostility.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Ripley:

He said to keep leaves away from the curbs.

Councilor Tracy:

He would like the Council to come up with some clarifications for Ms. Halcom. He doesn’t believe there was an authorization to read a statement from the Police Department by Councilor Alexander. He said that shoving this aside and deflection is not going to do us any good. He asked to clear the air on this topic because the citizens deserve it, and the police officers deserve it as well. If this is not the attitude or ethos of the Department we need to be clear about that. He feels that Ms. Halcom deserves to have this cleared up and the City needs to show transparency. He wants the citizens to trust our Police Department.

Councilor Todd:

She thanked everyone for coming. This is her last regular City Council meeting. She said it has been a pleasure serving you for four years.

Councilor Garlington:

She said the high school play, Winter Break, begins November 10th and ends November 11th.

The Nature Park will not be doing clean up days in November or December. The Webster Road replant at the Nature Park on October 30th was a huge success. They welcomed eight high school Key Club members and fifteen other volunteers.

She urged everyone to take canned goods out of their cupboards, discard expired ones, and donate all they can to a local food bank. There are a lot of people in need in this community.

November 11th is Veterans Day – her family is thankful to those who have served and their families, including her daughter, who has been active duty since 2001.

She thanked Councilors Tracy and Alexander for their service.

Mayor Stempel:

She said the Food Pantry is open from 3-5:30 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 always 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 they served 144 families.

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was canceled this month.

The Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) is tackling the I-205 tolling issue as well as the land swap Metro is suggesting. They want Clackamas County to give up some developable land so that Tigard can expand their Urban Growth Boundary.

Mayor Stempel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Garlington asked if they are moving the executive session that was removed tonight to another executive session – Mayor Stempel said they will have to add it to a future agenda. Mr. Jacobs said the motion was to not hold the executive session at all – not to just remove it from tonight's meeting. Mayor Stempel said they have to have a discussion. Mr. Jacobs said they won't hold an executive session to discuss it, but they will bring a contract forward to the Council at the next regular meeting. Councilor Garlington said she understood they were going to have a discussion about it. Mayor Stempel said they can discuss it at the December meeting, and it will be a public meeting.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 13TH day of DECEMBER, 2022.



Tamara Stempel, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tami Bannick, City Recorder

