

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Garlington at 6:33 P.M. – (Via Zoom and In Person)

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Michael Milch, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Garlington, Councilor Vanessa Huckaby, Councilor Veronica Reichle, Councilor Luke Roberts

ABSENT:

Councilor Hartman

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; Tami Bannick, City Recorder

OATH OF OFFICE/SWEARING IN OF NEW MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILORS:

Judge Lindgren performed the oath of office/swearing in of newly elected Mayor Michael Milch, Councilors Vanessa Huckaby, Veronica Reichle, and Luke Roberts.

Mayor Milch 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. He went over the procedures that will be followed for the meeting and the meeting agenda.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

Mayor Milch read a letter from Councilor Hartman: “Mayor Milch, Councilors, Gladstone City staff, and Gladstone residents: In 2020 I made the ultimate decision to run to be one of Gladstone’s City Councilors. I ran with the conviction that we must have diverse representation at all levels of government. Diversity in socioeconomic background, diversity in lived experience, diversity in abilities, diversity in age, and so much more. I wanted to show myself and others that people like me deserve a seat at the table. When I became elected I had no idea of the uphill battles that I and the community would face, and I can’t help but acknowledge that if it weren’t for some of these toxic and disappointing moments that new and inspiring leadership may not have emerged. Because in times of great adversity we see the true nature of those around us. Mayor Milch, Councilor Huckaby, Councilor Reichle, and Councilor Roberts, I look forward to working with you and seeing how your leadership takes this city into a positive and inclusive future. Councilor Garlington and Councilor Alexander, I am thankful for the opportunity to have served with you and look forward to continuing to work with you from the State Legislature. Administrator Betz and all of our wonderful staff, thank you for all that you do. Without each and every one of you and your dedication to Gladstone we would be lost. Due to my committee assignments in the Legislature it is a bittersweet decision that I must resign from my Council seat position number 4 effective immediately. I am so grateful for my time as a City Councilor and I am eager to continue to fight for Gladstone as your State Representative. Nya:weh, which means I am thankful. Annessa Hartman.”

Councilor Garlington made a motion to declare a vacancy for Council Seat #4. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Milch explained that according to the City Charter, because there are more than 17 months remaining on Councilor Hartman’s term, it requires them to hold an election in the nearest November election to elect

a replacement, and in the interim to appoint a Councilor to serve until the person elected in November can take office. He instructed Ms. Bannick to take the necessary steps to arrange for a November election and instructed Ms. Betz to take the necessary steps to solicit applications for the vacancy to be filled. There was discussion regarding the timeline. Mr. Jacobs said the ordinance requires that they give at least two weeks for applications to be submitted before they can consider them. Interviews are optional. The Council will vote as a body to make the appointment.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of November Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 11-30-2022
4. Approval of November Check Register
5. Department Head Monthly Reports for December 2022

Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Garlington. (No vote was taken).

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

6. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Captain Mike Bauer congratulated the new Mayor and Councilors – he is very excited to work with them. He said they went on 149 calls within the City limits last month, and 249 calls overall – it was a busy month. They assisted Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue on some fires in West Linn. He made an appearance on the “Meanwhile In Gladstone” Facebook page and had an interview with Elf on the Shelf – they talked about fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors, etc. He invited all the Councilors to visit the fire station any time to get to know the firefighters.

Fire Chief Nick Browne also congratulated the new Mayor and Councilors – he looks forward to getting to know them better. He said Captain Bauer is one of the best Captains they have. He said District-wide they responded to 465 calls for service during the ice storm. It really stressed resources, but they were able to handle all of them.

He said in Gladstone it has been an amazing seven months of community engagement/involvement - getting to know the community and being able to attend community events. He said for them what’s awesome and unique about the Gladstone community is the vibe and how much people pour their hearts and souls into this community, and they love being a part of that.

For the last seven months of service they have responded to 908 calls for service. There have been 214 shifts. Out of those shifts, six of those days were staffed with one paramedic. There were 112 days where it’s been staffed with 2 paramedics. 96 of those days it was staffed with three paramedics. So 3% of the time they’ve had 1 paramedic, 52% of the time it’s been staffed with 2 paramedics, and 45% of the time it’s been staffed with 3 paramedics. Their focus is being able to save lives and mitigate the emergencies they face. It is an honor for them to be able to serve the residents of Gladstone. Councilor Roberts asked if the staffing levels of paramedics is sporadic – Chief Browne confirmed that it is. He said they always have a minimum of 1 paramedic on duty 24/7, and the daily staffing is 2. He said that 75% of the 238 firefighters are paramedics.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **SELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT (PER CHAPTER III, SECTION 9 OF THE GLADSTONE CITY CHARTER):**

Mayor Milch said the new City Charter took effect last year and now requires them to elect a Council President every year. He opened the floor to nominations from Councilors. *Mayor Milch nominated Councilor Huckaby. Councilor Alexander nominated Councilor Garlington. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – Huckaby. Councilor Alexander – Garlington. Councilor Reichle – Huckaby. Councilor Roberts – Huckaby. Councilor Garlington – Abstained. Mayor Milch – Huckaby. Councilor Huckaby was elected Council President (4 – 1).*

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALL THE 2023-2025 BUDGET CALENDAR:

Ms. Betz said they have outlined the dates they would like to begin the budget process. They are asking for approval of the budget and staff will go forward with preparing the documents and meetings.

Councilor Reichle made a motion to approve the 2023-2025 budget calendar, as amended by staff. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Milch explained that there are a number of boards, commissions, and committees to which the Council sends liaisons in order to improve the communication between the Council and those bodies. He would prefer to give the Council more time to consider this matter. He asked the Councilors if there were areas they would like to serve. It was agreed to discuss this at the retreat this weekend. The appointments will be made at a public meeting.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CREATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL RULES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE NEW GLADSTONE CITY CHARTER:

Ms. Betz said that typically the City advertises for vacant positions in November and the Council appoints them in December so they are ready to go in January. The former City Council recommended they wait until the new Councilors were seated and allow them the opportunity to appoint the volunteers. They provided a packet with the applications to the Council before the holidays. They have 14 vacancies (4 – Budget committee, 2 – Planning Commission, 2 – Senior Center Advisory Board, 3 – Traffic/Safety Board, 1 – Audit Committee, 3 – Parks Board). They will vote on each vacancy.

Budget Committee: (1 application received: Jacob Wease)

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Mayor Milch – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Jacob Wease was selected with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Betz explained that State law requires an equal number of citizens to elected officials, so typically in Gladstone that means they need 14 people on the Budget Committee. She said if anyone who lives in Gladstone wants to be a part of this process, please reach out because they still have three openings they need to fill before they get started with the budget process in April.

Planning Commission: (3 applications for 2 positions: Steve Johnson, Patrick Smith, and Jacob Wease) One position will be for 2026 and one will be for the 2023 term.

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – Smith/2026, Wease/2023, Councilor Roberts – Smith/2026, Wease/2023, Councilor Reichle – Smith/2026, Wease/2023, Councilor Alexander – Smith/2026, Wease/2023, Councilor Huckaby – Smith/2026, Wease/2023, Mayor Milch – Smith/2026, Wease/2023. Patrick Smith was selected for the 2026 term and Jacob Wease was selected for the 2023 term with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Jacobs pointed out that there is a provision in State law that prohibits members of the Budget Committee from otherwise being officers, agents, or employees of the City, so since Mr. Wease was just appointed to the Budget Committee, there may be an issue with him also serving on the Planning Commission. He suggested they hold off on this appointment until the next meeting so he can look into this issue.

Councilor Garlington said she would like to appoint Mr. Wease to the Planning Commission and rescind the appointment to the Budget Committee. Mr. Jacobs said that is an option.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to remove Jacob Wease from the Budget Committee and appoint him to the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilor Garlington. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Senior Center Advisory Board: (4 applications received for 2 positions: Roxanne McMullin, Ann Moses, Mindy Proski, and JoAnn Witthauer).

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Alexander – McMullin & Proski. Councilor Reichle – McMullin & Proski. Councilor Roberts – McMullin & Proski. Councilor Garlington – McMullin & Proski. Councilor Huckaby – McMullin & Proski. Mayor Milch – McMullin & Proski. Roxanne McMullin and Mindy Proski were selected with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Betz said that the Community Services Manager has a desire to expand this advisory board in the future, so that will create an opportunity to have more people on the board.

Traffic Safety Advisory Board: (1 application received for three positions: Mindy Proski).

Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Mindy Proski was selected with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Betz said the City had the City Attorney review the City Charter last May to make sure it conformed to the City Council Rules. They adopted an ordinance to clean up some of the housekeeping/errors that were in the new City Charter, however, there were four areas that still needed to be looked at in the City Council Rules. The Council decided to involve the community in reviewing the rules, therefore they advertised for an ad hoc committee to do so. They received one application, which is not enough for an ad hoc committee. In her opinion this could be something that they put on a work session for the current Council to review. That way they wouldn't have to solicit applications. This would be an opportunity for the new City Council to review their own rules in a work session.

Councilor Alexander asked what the committee would have to consist of. Ms. Betz said there doesn't have to be a minimum number of positions and it depends on the purpose. Typically, there are seven people. She said that given they have a new Council and we do need to go through the

rules, and if they follow their own rules and they make some decisions on those areas where we need to discuss conformity to the new Charter, she is confident that the Council would be able to make those decisions on their own.

Councilor Garlington likes that idea. She said if the Council has input into what rules are being applied and to understand them more she thinks it's important that they do that. Mayor Milch gave some background of the process they went through in 2017. He doesn't feel that they will need to make too many major changes and that they should be able to resolve these things pretty quickly during a work session.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to instruct staff to prepare a future work session for revision of the Council Rule. Motion was seconded by Councilor Roberts. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

11. UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING SESSION:

Ms. Betz said this item was put on the agenda for the benefit of the public. She wanted everyone to know that after the new Councilors were elected and our current elected officials they spent a lot of time getting prepared for tonight. Part of that was the City engaging a facilitator that is going to lead us through a process on Friday afternoon and half of Saturday to give this Council an opportunity to set the goals for the next two years. They are very proud that they all agreed that they wanted to do this. All members of the management team will be present. The City Attorney is going to be involved as well. The agenda is posted on the City's website. It will be an informal setting – it will not be on Zoom, but if people want to attend, they can. There will be no public comment. The facilitator spent time with each Council member individually. She shared the synergy on the retreat outcomes: establish a shared understanding of the community context as the basis for goal setting, develop a focused list of shared goals and priorities to guide the organization, review and discuss the roles and responsibilities of Council and staff, and build a collaborative and aligned team between the Council and staff to advance the Council's goals and support a high performing team. She said the Council is committed to the community and staff. They are very excited about the upcoming retreat.

Mayor Milch said some words regarding the role/requirements of community leadership. He is glad that the retreat is one of the first things they will do together as a new Council.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Bob Everett said the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club is going to be starting a Bingo tournament every third Friday of the month from 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Senior Center. They will be serving food (hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages). The Club bought a grill for the Senior Center last week. They will be raising funds for their club and are hoping to get other non-profits to participate. He said the last Community Festival was very popular. He hopes they will receive the same support from the current Council and City. They are already planning this year's Festival.

He said that as a 30-year business owner he is hopeful they can find a liaison that will work with the businesses, not only on Portland Avenue, but also other areas of the City. He congratulated the new Councilors and Mayor.

Mayor Milch introduced newly elected State Senator Mark Meek. Senator Meek congratulated the newly elected Mayor and Councilors. He thanked the former Councilors and Mayor for their dedication and work to the community. He looked forward to working with and serving with the new Council to make the community all that it can be. They are going to be in heavy session coming up and he was given a great role as the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee Chair. He appreciates the work the Council did on getting the Library going. He offered his support/services/help if they need anything. He appreciates the School District, Fire Department, and Police Department.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Alexander:

He congratulated the new Mayor and Councilors. He said they did great for their first meeting.

Councilor Huckaby:

She thanked the community for coming out and showing support. She said they are excited for 2023 and some of the changes in Gladstone.

Councilor Roberts:

He thanked the voters for giving them this opportunity to serve the community. He said as a young Councilor he hopes to champion the youth voice within the community.

Councilor Garlington:

She received an email from Ms. Betz inviting her to attend a C-4 meeting. She said it is very important that Gladstone be at that table – they have to have our name on the letters that go down through the pike. It's important that Gladstone has a voice there. It will be a very big "ask" for someone on the Council to sit in on those meetings. They talked a lot about tolling. If you have any concerns about tolling that's where you go to hear it. Another topic was housing – she brought up Tukwila Springs in Gladstone and that they had some concerns with it and that's why they invited them to come back after six months to discuss what was going on.

She said there's a new Story Walk at the Nature Park – Dias y Dias/Days And Days by Ginger Guy. It is presented in partnership with the Friends of Gladstone Nature Park and Gladstone Public Library Foundation.

The Gladstone 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. You can donate food on Wednesdays from 2 – 3:30 P.M. and Thursdays from noon – 2:00 P.M.

The Clackamas County Library Advisory Board meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The ball is rolling really strongly on the Gladstone Library. She encouraged people to come and urge the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to move the Oak Lodge Library facility further. The Libraries are the one place that the doors are open to everyone – it's a friendly environment.

The Historical Society meets here on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 – they have a lot of fun things going on.

She said the Senior Center and Food Bank had put on a dinner at Tukwila Springs last fall. They demonstrated how to make a meal out of what the Food Bank gives them. She said it was a hit and a fun event. The Friends of Gladstone Nature Park went in December and provided a baked potato bar. They want people to know that they care about the park and their wellbeing in order to utilize the park, but that everybody needs to be stewards. She will be doing another dinner there on Monday, February 13th – it will

be a spaghetti dinner. She needs help with it. She can get food from the Food Bank, but it will take 8 or 9 people to make it happen – please contact her if you would like to help.

She encouraged people to consider serving on one of the City's boards, commissions, or committees – it's not a huge ask.

She congratulated the new Councilor members.

Mayor Milch:

He said he won't compel Councilors to submit the monthly activity reports that are included in the packets anymore, but he thinks it's important for the public to know that the Councilors are volunteers sharing their time. He said the reports from Councilor Garlington show the variety of ways that she serves the City, both as a volunteer and as a City Councilor.

He said if people have concerns they can send an email.

He thanked everyone who supported him in the campaign and everyone who attended tonight's meeting.

Mayor Milch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 14th day of February, 2023.

ATTEST:



Michael Milch, Mayor



Hayley Kratz, Office Assistant III

