

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023

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

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Michael Milch, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Garlington, Councilor Huckaby, Councilor Reichle, Councilor Roberts, Councilor Cook

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; John Schmerber, Police Chief; Darren Caniparoli, Public Works Director; Heather Austin, Senior Planner; Chad Jacobs, City Attorney; Tami Bannick, City Recorder

Mayor Milch called the meeting to order. He 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. He said that public announcements will be at the beginning of each meeting and public comments will still be at the end.

He said the City occasionally receives letters from individuals/groups/organizations asking them to do a proclamation. Some of them have to with recognizing a month in which there's a hope that the public will be made aware of an important issue or concern to the community. This month is World Autism Awareness month and Parkinson's Awareness month. Next month is Mental Health Awareness month. He has become aware that City staff members are able to come together to support one another and trade off some of their assignments/duties so that one of the staff members could support her parent who has Parkinson's. He said they won't ask staff to spend time on these types of proclamations, but he is glad we live/work in a city where our staff is so supportive of one another.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of March 2, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, and March 28, 2023 Special Meeting and Work Session Minutes
2. Approval of February Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 2-28-2023
4. Approval of February Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects – February 2023
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for March 2023
7. Consider awarding a contract to D&D Concrete and Utilities in the amount of \$175,217.50 to complete the Webster Cason Crossing Project.
8. Approval of Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission (OLCC) Liquor License Application for Change of Ownership at High Rocks Restaurant & Lounge, 915 E. Arlington

Councilor Roberts made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes.

Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

9. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Chief Nick Browne commended the Council for having the Youth Council here tonight – it is amazing what they do in the community and the example they set.

Crews #30 and #31, which is their Type 2 hand crew, are in service and getting trained for the upcoming year/wildfires. There are a lot of veterans coming back.

They had MAT/EMS training and Chief Huffman brought in virtual reality this time. It was based on traumatic events, and they used virtual reality to have first responders go in and treat the patients. It's a new way to try to form that recognition primed decision-making process and it was impressive. They did the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, which was amazing. He said that right before the event the crews had responded to a cardiac arrest call and after fighting to save the person's life, they moved from that directly to a public relations event and had a blast. He said on one hand they experience death, and on the next hand they experience joy. It's something that the Police Department and Fire Department do on a daily basis. He is impressed with the men and women of law enforcement and with the firefighters for what they do for our communities and how they're able to serve all the needs that we have.

They received an apparatus grant for a Type 6 brush truck. They should receive that by next year. Engine 22 responded to 211 calls this month.

The firehouse table was completed by Fire Restoration in Gladstone – he was impressed with how some memories of Gladstone Fire were built into the table.

10. GLADSTONE CITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nancy Turner, representing the Friends of the Gladstone Nature Park, reminded and invited everyone to the Arbor Day plant sale that will be held in the Nature Park on Saturday, April 22nd, between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. This year, in addition to hardy native plants, they are getting donations from local nurseries with perennials, etc. The Gladstone Library will be there with their seed catalog, the Gladstone Library Foundation will have their vegetable starts, and there will be children's books available. Rex from Public Works will be there with his honey and will answer any questions related to bees. There will also be a metal artist who does amazing work with arbors, signs, etc. The Gear Heads will be collecting used electronics from the community. The Food Bank will have a donation barrel there as well. She encouraged everyone to come to the sale and take time to walk through the park. There is a lot of restoration going on. All of the funds from the plant sale will go directly to support invasive species removal and restoration within the park. There will be a raffle for a free plant. They could also use volunteers to help unload plants on that day, beginning at 7:30 A.M.

Bob Everett, representing the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club, thanked the Council members who came to the pancake breakfast last Saturday.

On April 21st they will be having the monthly bingo game. They start selling tickets at 4:30 P.M., open the doors at 4:50 P.M., and the game starts at 5:30 P.M. and goes until 8:00 P.M. They will be sharing the proceeds with the Gladstone Library Foundation.

They are working on the Community Festival – it will be held the first weekend in August. There will be entertainment, a beer garden, bouncy house, etc. They are looking for more entertainment options and vendors. You can sign up online to volunteer.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. POLICY GUIDANCE ON THE CLIMATE FRIENDLY & EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES RELATED TO OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE (OAR) 660-012-0012:

Ms. Betz said the State has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, so tonight they are going to have a lesson on what the rules are that the State adopted in 2022. She introduced the City's Senior Planner, Heather Austin.

Regional Representative Kelly Reid and Evan Manvel, Climate Mitigation Planner, from the Department of Land Conservation and Development gave a presentation. This is a program that was launched in response to the climate crisis and the fact that we are very far off course in meeting our climate pollution reduction goals. The Legislature said it's the policy of the State back in 2007 to cut our climate pollution by 75% by 2050. Approximately 38% of climate pollution comes from transportation pollution, which is the largest chunk of Oregon's pollution. They are making progress. Governor Brown ordered multiple State agencies to address climate. DLCD and ODOT worked together to create this program. The other main thrust was equity. The program is focused on eight metro areas in Oregon – about 2/3 of Oregonians live in those areas. They feel that addressing climate and equity can have co-benefits; help with housing/employment choices, help the economy, and help people get around. One aspect of the program is changing how vehicles are powered – it's a requirement that 40% of spaces in new multi-family have just the conduit. Transportation system plans are a significant part of the rule making. Some of the changes are making sure people have options in how they get around.

Parking reform is another piece of the program. They are asking each community to choose and implement a parking reform strategy. Gladstone's is due in June of 2024. He explained that parking is a huge land use. It pushes other uses apart, makes it less walkable, and uses land that could be used for something else. By reforming parking they are hoping to help housing get built, help small businesses, and improve walkability and equity.

He went over the changes that went into effect on January 1st this year in all the jurisdictions that their plan applies to. Within ½ mile of frequent transit there aren't local parking minimums anymore. There are no parking mandates related to affordable housing/other equity uses, shelters, single-room occupancies, etc. In new multi-family housing you can require up to one parking spot, but you can't require more than one. Not mandating parking doesn't mean that parking won't be provided. He said builders usually figure it out. He went over a map of Gladstone showing parking. The City's decision is what to do with the rest of it. All the choices are significant changes from the status quo. He went over the options. #1 – leave it up to the market. #2 – the fair policy approach says do at least two of the five policies: “Unbundling” – pay separately from the parking from your unit, everyone pays for how much parking they use in a multi-family development, “flexible commute benefits”- parking cash-out for people who aren't using their space, tax on commercial parking lots, or reducing multi-family parking requirements to ½ space or less. #3 – doing more to roll back mandates for more uses. They are trying to make these feasible options. Most jurisdictions are choosing Option #1.

Mayor Milch asked if they will be preparing some sample language that could be inserted into existing codes. Mr. Manvel said they do have sample language on a lot of the parking requirements from communities that have implemented them. Mayor Milch asked if they provide guidance to communities that decide to experiment with unbundling. Mr. Manvel said the unbundling

requirements are at fair market value so that is something the City should determine, but they can provide guidance.

Councilor Huckaby asked, in regard to the flexible commute benefit, how many companies in Gladstone have 50 or more employees – the answer is 15 (per data from 2019).

Councilor Alexander asked how they define affordable housing – Mr. Manvel believes it's 80% of area median income or below. Councilor Alexander asked what kind of cost incentives the State offers in connection to mandates. Mr. Manvel said this is the local parking minimums. The State has been trying to provide technical guidance and staff time. As part of their ongoing rule-making they are adjusting these regulations somewhat based on feedback from local governments who are trying to implement them. That is in part why they have the temporary rule-making next week. They are working with their local partners to make it work for them. There currently isn't funding directed for grants for the next biennium, but they are aware of the need. Ms. Reid said they won't know exactly how much grant funding the DLCD has for this type of work until the end of the legislative session when the budget gets finalized. They can help identify other funding sources, such as grants from Metro.

Councilor Cook asked which option contributes most to the stated goal of reducing transportation-related pollution. Mr. Manvel believes Option #2 would.

Councilor Garlington said the mandates that the State puts on small communities is horrific and what they ask of them is over the top at times. She asked if this change includes current dwellings or just a new or updated build. Mr. Manvel said that new developments or redevelopments in the areas near frequent transit can't have parking mandates. Some of the other "stuff" just applies to new development. Councilor Garlington asked if there is an apartment complex with a parking lot adjacent to it, can they build on top of it? Mr. Manvel couldn't answer that without specifics, but generally it is something that could happen, but the City has control of the street parking and could say there's no parking on the street.

Councilor Alexander asked if Option #1 is the cheapest for the City. Mr. Manvel said they've heard that it is the simplest and cheapest.

Councilor Reichle wanted to confirm that in this set of options they are discussing this is for outside of the zone where the mass transit is, and the mass transit zone will just repeal parking mandates completely. Mr. Manvel said that within the zone that doesn't have parking mandates, the flexible community benefits, unbundling, and other things would still apply. It would apply City-wide. Within the mass transit zone there aren't parking mandates, and some of these other things might apply within that zone as well.

Mayor Milch asked what the Council's next step would be. Ms. Betz said tonight was to introduce them to what it is they are trying to accomplish. She said they need to do what's best for Gladstone. They contract for planning services, so this would be an increased project the City would be paying them to do. She suggested getting more information on a code analysis to determine what the effects might be to our code if we chose Option #2. She and Ms. Austin could work on providing the Council with some analysis information and bring it back to help further these conversations. She feels that even if they waited until the Fall to get direction, they could get this implemented before June of 2024.

12. PRESENTATION – HAPPY VALLEY YOUTH COUNCIL:

Mayor Milch said that one of the City's goals is to enhance communications and engagement with the community and increase involvement for all. Specifically, they are interested in exploring a Youth

Advisory Council. Ms. Betz introduced Steve and Stephanie, who are the supervisors of the program for Happy Valley.

Some of the members of the Youth Council introduced themselves. They gave some history. It started in 2010 with a group of six members. Their goal was to give a voice to the youth in the community. That has continued throughout each year. They work with the Mayor and City Council on important teen topics. Working with them has opened the door to talk to other elected officials and our State Legislators. They advocate for some of the things they want pushed in their community and they encourage community members to join their events and attend the monthly Council meetings. They help with the new Happy Valley Parks and Rec. In the summer they throw concerts in the park and there is a kid zone so that the parents can check in their kids and the Youth Council will watch over them and play games with them. They help out at the October Harvest Festival, the Fourth of July parade/festival, and Dumpster Day (to discourage dumping along City roads – anyone within the City limits of Happy Valley is permitted to bring all their household waste to Happy Valley Park where they have large waste disposal centers set up). They also helped the Happy Valley PTO with bike and pedestrian safety at the Walk and Roll event for the elementary school. They started up a drive-through teen car clinic because a lot of youth don't know simple car servicing/routine maintenance – they had a good turnout. They also put on a drug take-back day each year at the same time as the car clinic – anyone can drive up and drop off prescription and/or over the counter drugs to help decrease the risk of overdoses in homes. Over 5,000 pounds of drugs have been collected and properly disposed of. They are able to participate in a lot of conferences – last year they went to Washington, D.C. and got to meet a lot of politicians and got to participate in the National League of Cities. They met youth councils from other states as well. They have also put on a lot of forums, such as anti-bullying, cyber bullying, mental health awareness, and a school safety town hall focused on gun violence. They participate in the annual Oregon Youth Summit and learn what other communities are doing. Councilor Alexander asked how many Youth Councils there are in the state – about eight groups attended the summit. Councilor Garlington asked if they get students from other high schools – the answer is yes.

They talked about their mentors, Steve (Public Safety Director) and Stephanie (Parks and Recreation Department).

Councilor Reichle asked how their partnership directly coincides or works with their City Council and how they develop which projects/programs they are going to provide. They largely work through their advisors, who work with the Council. They see and communicate with City Councilors often. They look around and see what is going on and what youths need. They went over their recruiting process. They would be happy to help with any guidance or questions.

13. COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF UTILITY EXTENSIONS TO PROPERTY OUTSIDE GLADSTONE:

Ms. Betz said that last year the Public Works Director was contacted by some property owners just outside the City limits trying to value whether or not they wanted to replace their septic tank versus if the City would require them to annex if they wanted to hook up to the City's services. The City didn't have a policy in place, so the City Attorney's office put together a couple of questions that they want to go over with the Council to help develop a policy that they would bring back at a future date.

Mr. Jacobs said for the most part the City is not legally required to provide these types of services to property owners that are outside of the City's boundaries. It becomes a policy call for the City as to whether and to what extent they want to provide these services to property owners outside of the City limits. The first question is, is this something that the Council is interested in providing. If they are, then are there requirements that they want to place on property owners who are going to hook up to

City services when they live outside the City. If they are going to provide services outside the City it has to be to a property owner within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Some of the issues are whether they want to require annexation, if annexation is available. A lot of cities charge different rates for individual property owners who live outside the City.

There was discussion regarding the difference between the Urban Growth Boundary and the Urban Growth Management area for Gladstone.

Councilor Alexander asked if other jurisdictions have done this. Mr. Jacobs said yes, it is somewhat common for cities to do it. Once a property owner invests the money to hook up to the City's line they don't usually disconnect. Councilor Alexander feels that if someone wants to do this they should be annexed and pay the same taxes. Councilor Garlington asked if there are still homes in Gladstone that are on septic systems – Mr. Caniparoli didn't know. Mr. Jacobs said it is a State requirement that the property be contiguous – you can be contiguous if you are connected through a roadway or a water system that is also annexed into the City. Councilor Reichle asked if the City has an existing system there that can support these properties – Mr. Caniparoli said that is correct. It may not be true in all cases.

Mayor Milch asked if there was a consensus among the Council for being able to allow this to happen and then they can move on from there to decide the best way. The Council agreed that this is something they need to explore.

Ms. Betz said they need more guidance to develop the policy. It is important to have procedures in place as they get these questions/requests from the community. Councilor Reichle asked if they can ask the property owner to choose either annex into the City or pay the higher rates – Mr. Jacobs said that is an option. Mayor Milch asked which law enforcement agency would respond if the property owner called 9-1-1, or what about property taxes and voting. Mr. Jacobs said when a property annexes into the City they become a full member of the City and they receive all City services. There is a process under State law where you can graduate the property taxes, so the property owner doesn't necessarily come in and immediately start paying the full taxes.

Councilor Garlington said in order to hook up to our sewer/water systems she would like to require annexation when possible, and if the property is not contiguous that would allow for an annexation contract. Councilors Roberts, Cook, and Reichle agreed. Councilor Alexander asked if the City benefits if they pay the higher rates – Mr. Jacobs said it just depends, so you'd have to do a financial analysis for each property based on the amount of water they're using. Councilor Alexander agreed with the rest of the Councilors. Councilor Huckaby asked if they would be able to work on the policy and bring this back to another meeting where the public could give input – Mr. Jacobs said absolutely. Mayor Milch asked if this would require a Planning Commission hearing each time – Mr. Jacobs said whenever someone wants to annex into the City that is deemed a land use decision and they have to go through the development process and the land use review process to make that decision, and that typically involves a hearing before the Planning Commission and coming to the City Council, depending on what is necessary.

Mr. Jacobs confirmed that the Council wants to require annexation, or if it's not contiguous, an annexation agreement. He asked if someone has an annexation agreement because they cannot annex to the City, do they want to impose higher rates until they annex into the City? He said the only thing it would do is connect the property owner to the City's water/sewer system. The Councilors agreed to that.

14. REVIEW CITY COUNCIL RULES/CONFORMITY TO CITY CHARTER:

Ms. Betz said when the voters approved a new Gladstone City Charter in November of 2022 it was asked that we make sure our City Council Rules conformed to the new charter. They did make some revisions. The final revisions they need to look at are outlined in the staff report.

Mr. Jacobs went over the four sections. He said the new charter language requires that the Council, in every odd number year, adopt rules to govern its meetings.

The first area is language that was added to the charter that deals with the Mayor's authority to appoint members of the Council to committees made up of Council members. However, those committees have to be first established in Council rules. They should have some language in the rules that authorizes a process to create subcommittees.

The second issue is a provision of the charter to allow the Council to use something called preferential voting. This is just for internal Council procedures when you have two or more choices (such as appointments to boards/committees/commissions). They would need to create procedures within the Council rules to allow them to use this if they ever wanted to do so. He went over the ways to use preferential voting.

Councilor Garlington said the reasoning behind this was to make it as fair as possible with seven people. She feels that it's important that people feel the Council is fair. Mayor Milch said this process would have to be very open.

Mayor Milch asked Councilors if they would prefer proportional voting or if they prefer more of a rank choice voting system. Councilor Huckaby prefers the first option. Councilors Garlington and Cook prefer the second option. Mayor Milch, Councilor Alexander, and Councilor Roberts prefer the second option as well.

Councilor Roberts asked if it requires consensus of the Council before they make a decision that they use this style. Mr. Jacobs said they would write into the rules about how they would go about using it. He would propose that upon a motion to approve by the Council, they may use proportional rank choice voting as set forth in this section of the rules, and then create the procedure for doing it. The last one is that there is language in the new charter that to the extent that you have a lack of a quorum that the Councilors who are here can create a process to compel attendance from individuals. Typically that means you would send the Police Chief or his/her designee to go round that person up and bring them to the Council chambers. He has never seen this utilized.

Mr. Jacobs asked about any other rules they want to talk about and propose amendments to.

Mayor Milch gave background information regarding Council liaisons to various boards/commissions/committees.

Councilor Garlington said under "Authority", rather than 13, 14, and 15 – that would be 11, 12, and 14. "The Council will review this resolution at least annually" – she thinks that could be up for discussion and she suggested moving it to only in odd years. Mr. Jacobs said that would make it consistent with the charter. #1, Regular Meetings – maybe add language "also available via Zoom". #2 has a typo – missing "be" in the last sentence.

Ms. Betz said they could fit this review in, if they want to do a more comprehensive check of the rules, at a later date. Mayor Milch feels that would be better. He asked the rest of the Council to look over the rules and make notes in areas they would like to see changes made.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

- **Finalize City Council Liaison Appointments with the addition of Councilor Cook:**
Mayor Milch has spoken with Councilor Cook about the whole area of the business community that they have not made an appointment for, and they have agreed that that would be an area where they could provide some service to. It's not necessarily a liaison to a specific group - more of a general area of concern. The City is going to be hiring staff for economic development. This Council liaison may be able to play a role in the hiring process. He appointed Councilor Cook as the business liaison. They accepted and are very excited about it.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None.

Mayor Milch said they had a request to consider allowing people who did not reside within the City to serve on some of the advisory committees. Ms. Betz said they do have language that says there are circumstances when it would be good to have people who do reside outside the City considered to serve on boards/commissions/committees that relate to areas served outside the City.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Reichle:

She said she attended the Parks Board meeting last night. There was lots of great information. They are moving forward with the play structure at Meldrum Bar Park – the equipment will be ordered and shipping times are long, so it may be Fall before it's completed. They are moving forward with the dog park at Meldrum Bar Park. The Robin Hood Park project is in progress. There was a presentation from Clackamas River Basin Council – they have been doing a project in partnership with other cities/districts that use Clackamas River water, specifically at Cross Park, doing a restoration project that started last Fall. They have planted over 530 native trees/shrubs. She would like to have a representative come to a Council meeting or work session in the future to present the information to everyone.

Councilor Cook:

They would like to appreciate Ms. Betz for her support in getting oriented for this meeting. They wanted to appreciate Councilors Roberts and Garlington for their volunteer work at the Easter egg hunt – it was so much fun to see the whole community together.

Councilor Alexander:

He said he, along with Ms. Betz, Mayor Milch, Councilors Garlington and Reichle attended the State of the County luncheon. They talked about a lot of interesting topics (tolling, budget, transitional housing, etc.).

Councilor Roberts:

He had a great time at the Easter egg hunt and the pancake breakfast – it was exciting to see that much of our community together. He loved seeing the kids climbing all over the fire truck.

He attended his first North Clackamas County Water Commission meeting. He sits on the Board of Directors as the Chair. It was a very exciting opportunity to continue learning about the water in our community.

He went on a ride-along with the Police Department last Saturday and got a tour of the facility. It was a really good night, and he learned a lot more about how our Police Department operates. He thanked Chief Schmerber for organizing that.

Councilor Huckaby:

She said the Easter egg hunt was phenomenal. She attended with Councilor Cook and their kids. She saw Councilor Roberts working his tail off to clean everything up.

Congratulated Councilor Roberts on his ride along with Officer Orr – she has had some interactions with him previously and she thinks he's a phenomenal officer and an asset to our Police Department.

She has seen comments on social media regarding crime in our community. It's getting worse and some of the things are not always true, but emotional posts. She wanted to say that of the 21 categories in our monthly report from the Police Department selected calls for service, that 12 of our categories are down year-to-date – so that's the factual information. She feels it's important that the Police Department get the credit for what's going on positively in our community.

She is very excited for the new 12-passenger van at the Senior Center. She is optimistic and excited to see what the City and Tiffany are going to do with that van to make it beautiful for our seniors to ride around in and go do fun things together.

Councilor Garlington:

She said the Clackamas County Library – one library/two sites - the plans have been submitted for permits for the Gladstone site. That is super news. She gave a shout out to our City staff and Ms. Betz for bulldozing through that. On March 21st there was a meeting to discuss a site plan for the Concord Library – it's on their YouTube page. The next meeting is April 20th via Zoom.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners has reversed their decision on the purchase of the Quality Inn for transitional housing. Instead, Chair Smith had outlined a three-point plan which she believes will lead the State in determining future solutions. These are available on their website and in the newspaper. She has reached out to some Commissioners as an individual Councilor, asking them to include a member from each City Council within our County to be included in these conversations. There are still many conversations that need to be had. She believes the more people that include themselves in the solution, the better the solution will be and the faster it will happen. Time is of the essence. She thanked all the City employees that made the Easter egg hunt happen – they make Gladstone a very hoppy place to be.

She thanked the Rotary – they work together, they show up, they make things happen and she appreciates each and every one of them.

They had a dinner at Tukwila Springs in March, and they did a cook and box for the residents – it was okay. She believes those dinners are better in community and she believes the people there feel the same way. Last night they had another dinner – they served about 25 residents. They left 10-15 extra dinners for those who weren't present. She gave a shout-out to County Commissioner Ben West for joining the service crew and taking time to come and meet our neighbors. He got a tour of the facility from Ryan, the Resident Director. She would like to get all the Commissioners there to tour the place and see what a phenomenal job everyone is doing to make that a true community. She gave a shout-out to Nancy E, Nancy T, Lisa, Tammy, and Jim – they are awesome community members. They show up when she asks and she appreciates it. The next couple of months will be hosted with some other groups that she has been in contact with, but contact her if you'd like to be included in those dinners. The grade school made Easter/Spring cards for all the residents.

She gave a huge shout-out to Ms. Betz, Darren Caniparoli, and other staff members who have secured a grant to make the Nature Park and all its beauty more accessible to anyone visiting the park with a secondary concrete path. This includes a person in a wheelchair, a blind or hearing-impaired person, anyone with

mobility issues, strollers, little wagons, etc. This additional path will enable those with more difficulty the opportunity to visit nature up close and all within the City of Gladstone. She reminded everyone about the plant sale on April 22nd.

She said Ms. Betz sends out weekly emails to keep everyone up to date on what's happening in and around Gladstone. These updates are a highlight of her week when she reads all about what's happening in Gladstone – she is thankful to be included in the process, grateful to our Administrator and staff for all the forward momentum on projects and accomplishments they work so hard to make happen, making Gladstone a better place for all of us.

She hopes everyone had a beautiful and blessed Easter – a day that renews hope and brings us one step closer to eternal peace.

Mayor Milch:

He thanked all the Councilors for the way they involve themselves in the community in whatever way they choose and the investments they make in things that mean a lot to the people here. He echoed Councilor Garlington's comments about the weekly reports – it's been a helpful thing and a wonderful addition to life in this community. Ms. Betz said the email list has grown and the fact that they are posted online means she has more people reading them than ever before. We are a well-informed community. He also enjoys reading the reports from our Department Heads. It's amazing to see what gets done by Public Works. He said the Police Department's level of training and the commitment to producing the kinds of police officers is there all the time. Then you see the number of people who are served by the Senior Center, directly and indirectly, because they are attentive to their needs.

The State has provided many more resources now for local schools to help young people at all age levels deal with mental health issues. He is glad he is in a community that takes care of its own in that way.

He reminded all the Councilors that four days from today is the deadline for submitting their Statement of Economic Interest forms. At the May meeting he will have each of the Councilors informally describe the content of that report. It helps us build confidence in our leaders when we know where there are ethical conflicts, where the conflicts don't exist, and where we are operating under ethical standards. They want to be trustworthy to the community.

Mayor Milch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 9th day of May, 2023.

ATTEST:



Michael Milch, Mayor



Tami Bannick, City Recorder