

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 9, 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; Cathy Brucker, Finance Consultant; 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 acknowledged the Clackamas, Chinook, and Kalapuya native peoples on whose ancestral homelands they gather tonight. We honor them as a vibrant, foundational, and an integral part of our community. We recognize their accomplishments as the native stewards of these lands, as well as the diverse and vibrant native communities who make their home here today. We thank those who have connection to this land and serve as stewards, working to ensure our ecosystem stays balanced and healthy. He said without a full representation of everyone's experience we will never be able to design and develop a better future.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:

Ms. Betz wanted everyone to know the City received an additional application for the Senior Center Advisory Board from Maria Mitchell for, so the City now has received two applications for the vacancy.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of March Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 3-31-2023
4. Approval of March Check Register
5. Department Head Monthly Reports for April 2023

Councilor Huckaby asked to pull item #1. She said on page 1-9 of the minutes, in the second paragraph, it says that she had done a ride along with Officer Orr – she did not state that. She had congratulated/encouraged Councilor Roberts about his ride along.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve items #2 - #5 of the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. 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.

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve item #1 of the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

6. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Stewart and Captain Craig Bowen gave a report. Captain Bowen said the fire station attended the Easter Egg Hunt at the High School. The new sign was installed at the fire station today and it looks great. City workers Dan and Joel have been assisting at the station, preparing for an open house. He said any of the Councilors are welcome to come for a ride along with the Fire Department.

Clackamas Fire District #1 has been seeing a slight increase in calls for service. Engine 322 ran 123 calls this month, 106 of those were in the City of Gladstone.

Assistant Chief Stewart said the crews enjoyed the community events, including some open houses. They celebrated Telecommunicators Month in April. It takes a unique individual to do their job and they do a fantastic job. They also offer ride alongs.

They brought on their 20-person hand crew – their seasonal crew that is out there mitigating old wildfire issues and they are prepared to respond to new wildfires as they come up. They were instrumental during last September’s fire at McIver State Park.

Crews were out doing structural triage training, as well as getting vehicles/apparatus set for the season. Last year they applied for and received a grant for \$35,000 from the State to do some up-staffing with existing personnel during wildfire season – they have applied for that again.

They received a grant award from the State for an engine. They expect to get a Type 6 engine in the next 12 – 18 months. It’s a small brush truck type engine. They will be housing it for the State and staffing it as needed. He gave examples on how/where this could be used.

They are getting ready to provide service for Sandy on July 1st.

Councilor Cook asked, since they are expanding their influence pretty widely and quickly, if they anticipate any economies of scale, changes, or improvements to service or resources. Assistant Chief Stewart said what you see with most of their customers is an increase in service. He said they are a customer of other agencies as well – they outsource dispatch and other component pieces that they can do at an economy of scale that they can’t do internally. He used Gladstone’s situation as an example. He went over Sandy’s situation.

Councilor Roberts thanked them for their preventative maintenance out in the community - seeing what they do on social media, such as water safety.

Councilor Huckaby asked how the apprenticeship program was going. They just finished the selection process – candidates are going through the background check and pre-employment physical. They had over 400 applicants – that got narrowed down to 26 finalists. They made 9 job offers through the apprenticeship program itself, and if the levy passes this month, there will be additional positions offered for their next academy, which is in June.

7. INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER:

Chief Schmerber introduced Samantha, “Sammy”, Unda. She finished first in both hiring phases. They are excited to have her on their team. He gave some background information and work history. She is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) through the National Highway Safety Administration. She has three more weeks to go in her training program.

Councilor Cook is excited that Officer Unda is a CPST. There have been a lot of community members asking about where they can find support making sure that they have a safe way to transport their kids around. Officer Unda said CPST's are there to educate people regarding the use of car seats and how to install them properly. Chief Schmerber said they are moving the workdays to Tuesday through Saturday so they can attend community events on weekends. He said she will be at the Shredding Event/Drug Take-Back Event this Saturday (between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.) in the parking lot of the Civic Center – he invited everyone to attend.

8. **GLADSTONE CITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bob Everett, representing Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club, thanked the Councilors and staff members for the great job they do. He is excited to see the flowers along Portland Avenue that are coming tomorrow.

He said the next bingo game is on May 19th. Tickets are available starting at 4:30, doors open at 4:50, and bingo will start at 5:30. They've had great attendance. This month they will be supporting the Rivers East Adventure, which helps seniors. They have started a sponsorship program.

The Community Festival is scheduled for August 4th and 5th. They can always use more vendors. The car show will be on Sunday. The parade liaison will be Tracy Todd. Information is available online.

Mayor Milch said the kick-off event of the Waterway Clean-Up Series, sponsored by Clackamas Water Environmental Services, is next Thursday, May 18th, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at Meldrum Bar Park. They need volunteers to help preserve this 85-acre park, over 30 percent of which is made up of natural vegetation and wetlands. Additional information is available on the City's website.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO AND THE CITY OF GLADSTONE FOR WARRANT CONFIRMATION:**

Ms. Betz said this is an agreement that the City has been committed to for the last several years, however, because they have five new elected officials, this will give Chief Schmerber an opportunity to talk about the partnership. Chief Schmerber gave some background information/history relevant to the IGA. It was originally started in 2020. The City entered into this agreement because the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office had confirmed Municipal Court warrants for Gladstone in the past, but due to financial reductions they no longer did this in 2020. The only other option was Lake Oswego/LOCOM. They have the staffing to provide the service. They entered into a one-year agreement in 2020 – it was successful and they showed that they can accomplish this task. They renewed the IGA in 2021. Now, in 2023, he is bringing it back before the Council for an additional two-year extension. He gave an example of how the system works.

Councilor Alexander made a motion that the City Council approve the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement (IGA) between the City of Gladstone and the City of Lake Oswego for Police Department warrant service confirmation. Motion was seconded by Councilor Roberts and Reichle. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

10. **LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT TO METRO FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECTS 2024 -2027 (PORTLAND AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS AND TROLLEY TRAIL BRIDGE):**

Ms. Betz said they have two high profile/highly expensive projects that Gladstone has been working on for multiple years. One of them is going through the process of replacing the Trolley Trail bridge

and the other is to do Portland Avenue improvements that were based off the 2017 Downtown Revitalization Plan. In order for those projects to be considered for federal or state funding they have to be on what's known as Metro's Regional Transportation Plan. They are asking the Council to endorse the letter they would send to Metro recognizing that these projects are still important to the City of Gladstone. They do not have funding for them currently, but this would allow us the opportunity to pursue funding to move these projects through the planning and environmental phase.

Councilor Roberts made a motion that the City Council approve the letter of endorsement to Metro for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Projects. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO THE GLADSTONE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD, AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD:

Ms. Betz went over the process they have done in previous meetings.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – one vacant term that expires at the end of 2023. They have one applicant – Justus Mills.

Ms. Bannick took a vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Justus Mills was appointed with a unanimous vote.

Senior Center Advisory Board – one vacant term that expires at the end of 2023. They have two applicants (Ann Moses and Maria Mitchell).

Ms. Bannick took a vote: Councilor Huckaby – Mitchell. Councilor Alexander – Mitchell. Councilor Reichle – Mitchell. Councilor Cook – Mitchell. Councilor Roberts – Mitchell. Councilor Garlington – Mitchell. Mayor Milch – Mitchell. Maria Mitchell was appointed with a unanimous vote.

Traffic Safety Advisory Board – one vacant term that expires at the end of 2023. They have two applicants (Clair Coy and John Kihlstrum).

Ms. Bannick took a vote: Councilor Cook – Kihlstrum. Councilor Roberts – Coy. Councilor Garlington – Coy. Councilor Huckaby – Kihlstrum. Councilor Alexander – Coy. Councilor Reichle – Kihlstrum. Mayor Milch – Kihlstrum. John Kihlstrum is appointed (4-3).

ADJOURN TO GLADSTONE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING

RECONVENE TO REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

14. DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST (SEI):

Mayor Milch said that persons in a position of public trust; judges, attorneys, elected officials, have a two-fold ethical responsibility. First, to avoid impropriety and second, to avoid the appearance of impropriety. The reason for the first is obvious; officials are sworn to uphold the law, but the second is equally important as the appearance of impropriety by a public official can do far-reaching damage to the public's trust of their elected leaders. In September of 2021, when the Gladstone City Council was proactively working on issues of trust and accountability he recommended they schedule a public disclosure of personal economic interests that might influence their policy decisions. When he was elected as Mayor last fall he chose to follow his own advice. In January he placed this item on the agenda. He couldn't have known then that public officials in the Supreme Court and Oregon State

government would be front page news for alleged ethical violations, but he is glad that the issue is front and center in the minds of citizens. He is happy to report that all sixteen of the Gladstone officials who are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (7 City Councilors, 7 Planning Commissioners, the City Administrator, and the City's Municipal Judge) have complied with that requirement by the April 15th deadline. The City Councilors will have an opportunity tonight to elaborate on their SEI reports.

He said the SEI reports ask basically three kinds of information: businesses with which you are affiliated, sources of income within your household, property that you own outside of your own residence, and any gifts you have received that might exceed the limits that are imposed on those.

He said he and his wife were both retired when they moved to Gladstone. His wife receives a small pension from her service as a nurse for Kaiser. He takes some distributions from IRA's that he accumulated during his working years. They also have a third member of their household – they assumed guardianship of a teenager who was living in an untenable housing situation, and he works at a local fast-food restaurant. He doesn't believe there is any conflict there. The only property they own in Gladstone is their residence.

Councilor Huckaby said she works for Cambia, the parent company for Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Four State Footprint, which is Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Utah. She has two children who live with her – their income does not meet the threshold of her annual income, so it's not reported.

Councilor Alexander said he is the only breadwinner in his family and that comes from a Veteran's disability compensation. He is involved with two organizations – one is The Haven Group (to get affordable housing for low-income people), and he has a lifestyle website (exchange ideas, recipes, and diets).

Councilor Reichle said she works for Providence Health and Services and that is her only income. She lives with her son.

Councilor Cook said they are the breadwinner for their household. They have regular W-2 employment through Whole Foods Market. They own a small pop-up book shop, Spoke And Word Books. They have a home occupancy license through the City of Gladstone. They operate the business out of the basement. They are not currently drawing any income from that business. They have met with Ms. Betz to understand their obligations related to recusing themselves if business ever came before the Council that could potentially conflict with interest in their personal business. They don't have any property ownership outside of their home.

Councilor Roberts said he is not the breadwinner in his home, and he does not own property within Gladstone. He has a secondary occupation working for Clackamas County, but there is no conflict there.

Councilor Garlington said she works for/with her sisters. Her husband works at the shipyards. Her daughter is in her 22nd year of military service, and as an active military participant her family is entitled to a home address in the State of Oregon, and that is why they have extra people listed at her address on the voter's list.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

Ms. Betz said they are very close to breaking ground on the new library. She notified the Council that the Board of Commissioners is going to finalize the contract on May 17th at 10:30 A.M. If that goes through as expected they could potentially start as early as June. She thanked the Council for approving the resolution on the demolition costs.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Anneliese Kiefer lives in the little bit of unincorporated Clackamas County that was discussed at the last meeting. She said it sounded like the Council wasn't familiar with septic systems and/or the amount that it costs to hook up in Gladstone, which is \$14,000 as opposed to Portland, which is approximately \$8,500. Gladstone does not offer any sort of payment plan if you're low-income, as opposed to Portland, which offers long-term, low payment loans. In her case there were issues with easements. She said this is a unique time where everyone in the four properties is cooperating.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Garlington:

She said there's a lot of stuff happening in Gladstone. She urged everyone to go onto the City's website to check out volunteer opportunities, etc., and get involved. She said it's a great way to meet people and be a part of your community. She said the SOLV clean-up is going to be a big event – she has seen it posted in several places.

Councilor Roberts:

He said he is looking forward to going on a tour of the Oak Lodge Water Services facility tomorrow, along with Councilor Alexander and Ms. Betz. He will report back.

Councilor Cook:

They are excited to note that the City is extending the deadline to hire our Economic Development and Tourism coordinator. This role is currently posted, and the City will be taking applications through 5/19/23. They are excited to see the City get this position in place to be able to support execution of the Downtown Revitalization Plan and to see the City further its goals towards economic revitalization and supporting our vibrant downtown.

Councilor Reichle:

She said she wasn't able to attend the Parks Board meeting last night. She said Public Works is in the process of meeting with Willamette River Keepers to work out events for removal of invasive species.

Councilor Alexander:

He agreed with Councilor Roberts – they are going to have a good time tomorrow.

He attended a dinner at the City of Happy Valley where they got to talk with Mayors and Councilors from other cities – he enjoyed that. There is another one coming up and he encouraged other Councilors to attend.

He feels that Gladstone is moving ahead very nicely, and a lot of good things are getting done.

Councilor Huckaby:

She said that May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. AAPI month was first celebrated in 1978. It is a time to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of the AAPI communities in the United States, also to honor the struggles and achievements of the AAPI community and to recognize the diversity and richness of AAPI communities.

May is also National Mental Health Awareness month. This is to recognize and increase the awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in all of our lives, and also to celebrate recovery from mental illness. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is always available by calling or texting 988 or you can log on and access a chat feature at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).

On May 5th, it was MMIW Day – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This day is to bring awareness for the MMIW cause and the fight against the injustice that's happening to native women and their families. She urged everyone to visit our own Representative Annessa Hartman's social media to

view the brave address she gave on the House floor this past week, recognizing MMIW Day. This can be found on her Instagram page at Annessafororegon.

Mayor Milch:

He continues to represent the City of Gladstone on C-4, the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee. They have focused a lot of attention the past several months on tolling, and because of action by the Legislature and the Governor and influence of citizens, they have a moratorium on tolling in Oregon now. There was a bill proposed that would have established a task force composed of a variety of interests and stakeholders, including the trucking industry, Metro, local officials, etc., that would have spent some time looking at the issue and trying to reach more equitable solutions. He is glad they had strong representation from Clackamas County legislators to convince people across party lines/geographical lines in the state that the proposed method of tolling freeways was neither equitable nor financially appropriate.

He said they spent a lot of time looking at economic development as one of the big goals for our county and the communities in our county. Many other cities are working on downtown revitalization. They are concerned about transportation as a means of encouraging people to come to the city, enabling people in the city to work locally, to work elsewhere, so it's a good group of mayors, councilors, and County-level officials who talk about these regional issues that effect all of us. They work cooperatively and listen to one another.

He attended the tree planting that was held at the Nature Park in honor of former Mayor Wade Byers, who served the City as Mayor for 36 years. He is the second former Mayor to have a tree planted in his honor. This time the focus was on his current service, which is as a board member of the Clackamas Educational Service District, which provides educational services, especially Special Ed, to school districts in Clackamas County.

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 Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 13th day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:



Michael Milch, Mayor



Tami Bannick, City Recorder

