

## **GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Milch at 6:31 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; Cathy Brucker, Finance Consultant; Tiffany Kirkpatrick, Community Services Manager, David Doughman, City Attorney; Tami Bannick, City Recorder

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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 that next Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, marks the second observance in Gladstone of the federal holiday known as Juneteenth, which celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in 1863, news of which did not reach parts of the southeast part of the United States until June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Juneteenth has a special meaning to black and African Americans and has been celebrated for over 150 years. The Gladstone City Council adopted Resolution 1194 by unanimous vote on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, declaring Juneteenth an annual legal holiday in Gladstone. Juneteenth is a day of reflection and a day of renewal. It is a moment in time to appreciate not only the black and African American experience, but it is inclusive of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities. Juneteenth is a day that we can come together as a community to listen, learn, and refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we can come one step closer to better utilizing the energy wasted on racism and instead to cultivate knowledge and appreciation of black and African American history and culture.

### **AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS:**

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of April Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 4-30-2023
4. Approval of April Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects for April
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for May 2023
7. Consider Approval of a Public Improvement Contract to Blackline, Inc. in the amount of \$121,206.03 to complete the 2023 Pavement Management Program Slurry Seal Project
8. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Clackamas County related to the Clackamas County Regional Advanced Transportation Controller (ATC) and Signal Optimization Project

**9. Approval of Authorizing the City Administrator to approve an Art Easement for a Mural Project with a Private Property Owner**

Councilor Huckaby asked to pull item #1. She said on page 1-6 and 1-7 there is a misquote that states that Councilor Huckaby urged everybody to visit our own Representative Vanessa Hartman's social media and this could be found on her Instagram at "Vanessafororegon. She was referencing *Annessa* Hartman, not Vanessa.

*Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #1, as corrected. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. 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.*

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 2 - 9. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**10. REPORT FROM CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1:**

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Stewart and Lieutenant Dusty Mock gave a report. There were 256 total incidents that Engine 22 responded to. 136 of those incidents were within the City. June 21<sup>st</sup> will be the open house – they welcome everyone to come and check out the remodel of the fire station.

Two Lieutenants that were from Gladstone Fire have now taken the lieutenant's test and both passed, so they will probably be getting promoted in the next year or two.

They have given tours to some elementary schools in the community.

AMR has started at High Rocks – from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They are going to do some joint training with them so they can work on better communication and best access points to get patients in and out of High Rocks.

There was one house fire within the City limits, and they responded to two other fires in the Oak Grove area.

There are going to be quite a few new firefighters coming to the station, as well as new Lieutenants. They will be attending and helping out with the City's barbeque/picnic on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Max Patterson Park. The crew will be out in the community, passing out helmets, taking photos, etc.

Councilor Garlington asked about fire hazards related to tall grass/people not mowing their lawns – she asked Ms. Betz if they could add that to the newsletter. Ms. Betz believes it is in Chief Schmerber's monthly cover letter, but they can reiterate that in the newsletter.

Assistant Chief Stewart said that former city employees, Kirk Stempel, Richard Newton, and Rick Huffman "have just been killing it". As they incorporate other organizations into Clackamas Fire they appreciate the talent and dedication that is brought with individuals.

They just activated a task force to go to the Hat Rock fire in Umatilla County – several local agencies will be sending four Type 6 engines and a water tender to assist. One of the State Incident Management teams is being activated for the first structural protection assignment in the State – in Pendleton. About a week and a half ago they had a 20-acre fire in Beaver Creek. ODF was available and brought their airship to drop water on the fire. They also brought other local resources in as well, including our hand crew and Coffee Creek hand crews.

They graduated six new firefighters last Thursday – they are all laterals from different agencies. They have 14 people taking tests coming up. The apprenticeship academy started yesterday – it's a great group and they will learn a lot in the next four months.

Clackamas Fire will be administering approximately \$1 million worth of ARPA grants that was scoped to work on a community paramedic program about two years ago. It will look at improving community access to health care, including community paramedicine enhancements as well as working on low acuity call responses.

**11. GLADSTONE CITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bob Everett, Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club, said the bingo game was supposed to be this Friday – they decided to close down for the summer months. They appreciate everybody who showed up. They have new plans for the next season, starting in September.

Ms. Betz said the open house at the Fire station will be next Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> (from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.) There will also be the groundbreaking for the Library (2:00 P.M.).

Mayor Milch said tomorrow night, starting at 7:00 P.M., is the graduation ceremony for Gladstone High School at the stadium.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**12. GLADSTONE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AGREEMENT:**

Ms. Betz said they are looking for authorization for the City Administrator to sign a Gladstone Community Festival agreement. The dates are August 4<sup>th</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. The costs are included in the budget. They are happy to have the partnership with the Rotary Club to contribute to the safety of the event.

Bob Everett from Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club and Bryce Colson, the Chairman of the Festival, went over the highlights of the events that will be happening. Mr. Colson thanked Tami Bannick, Ms. Betz, and Hayley Kratz. He also thanked everyone for the City Tourism grant – they are excited to be recipients of that. They managed to get bigger name entertainment, they are expanding the beer garden, etc. with those funds. There is no charge to go on the inflatables or to enjoy the music. There will be over 50 local vendors. Mr. Everett thanked the City for helping with the event. He said on Sunday there will be a car show, but it is not associated with the Festival. They have a new website: Gladstonecommunityfestival.com. They do need donations because it is a very expensive event. If you want to get your name printed on a beer garden table it costs \$100. They also need a lot of volunteers to make this happen. They need about 50 people to run the inflatables. You can sign up to volunteer for a 2-hour shift on the website. They also need volunteers to help with the clean-up, from midnight to 2:00 A.M.

There will be a “Dunk A Chief” competition – Chief Schmerber and Fire Chief Brown will participate in the event. The money raised goes to public safety programs (bike helmets, smoke alarms, etc.).

*Councilor Alexander made a motion that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to sign the Gladstone Community Festival Agreement and approve the noise variance application with the Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary Club for the dates of August 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

Councilor Reichle asked about page 12-4 - there is a box acknowledging the liability agreement and it hasn't been checked. Ms. Betz said they will need to have Mr. Colson check that box. Mr. Everett said because they change over on July 1<sup>st</sup> they will be getting a new policy at that time.

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

**13. RESOLUTION 1215 – AUTHORIZING THE RENAMING OF THE GLADSTONE SENIOR CENTER TO GLADSTONE COMMUNITY CENTER – THE SPIRIT OF GENERATIONS:**

Ms. Betz said they just had a work session on this item. Tiffany Kirkpatrick, Community Services Manager, went over the staff report. The Senior Center Advisory Board has worked hard over the last few months about how to go about changing the name of the Center. They did surveys to get suggestions for a new name. They are confident that this is the right direction for Gladstone to have a community center that focuses on multi-generational community as well as continuing to serve seniors in the community. They want to make more partnerships and find other revenue avenues, which would be ideal, and doing some fun things. They made contact with the current Gladstone Community Club – Robert Haltiner came to the Center and said he supports the name change and doesn't feel that it would effect or interrupt their services.

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution 1215, authorizing the renaming of the Gladstone Senior Center the Gladstone Community Center – The Spirit Of Generations. 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.*

**14. PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION 1216 – DECLARING THE CITY'S ELECTION TO RECEIVE STATE REVENUE SHARING:**

Ms. Betz said the Budget Committee met twice (May 30<sup>th</sup> & June 13<sup>th</sup>) – they had an incredible Budget Committee. Ms. Brucker said this is a culmination of about seven months' worth of work by staff and the Budget Committee. The City needs to pass this resolution in order to receive State general fund monies that are used for any governmental purpose. It's satisfied by the public hearing held at the Budget Committee that they did on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and then at the City Council level tonight. The public has the opportunity to comment on the use of State revenue sharing funds at both meetings. The City expects to receive approximately \$310,000 in the 2023-2025 biennium. Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 1216.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

Mayor Milch closed the public comments.

*Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve Resolution 1216 for the City of Gladstone to continue to receive State Revenue Sharing in the 2023-2025 biennium budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor Roberts. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

**15. RESOLUTION 1217 – CERTIFICATION OF PROVISION OF FOUR OR MORE SERVICES TO QUALIFY FOR STATE SHARED REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023 – 2025:**

Ms. Brucker explained that this is for the certification of provision of four or more services to qualify for State shared revenue for the 2023-2025 biennium. The City provides more than four of the seven required services listed, so they are eligible for this. This resolution will allow the City to receive those revenues. They anticipate receiving approximately \$2,449,090 throughout the biennium. These are commonly referred to as the sin taxes (liquor, cigarette, and the highway taxes). Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 1217.

*Councilor Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 1217 for the City of Gladstone to continue to provide four or more municipal services listed in Section 1, ORS 221.760. 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.*

**16. PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION 1218 – ADOPTING THE CITY OF GLADSTONE BIENNIUM BUDGET, SETTING THE TAX RATE AND CATEGORIZE THE TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023 – 2025:**

Ms. Brucker said that State law requires that the City Council adopt the budget prior to the end of the fiscal year, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Beginning July 1, 2023 the City is working from a biennial budget and the Budget Committee has recommended the budget and tax rate included in the packet. The overall budget, including all funds, is \$71,374,314. If this is not adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the City's authority to spend money or incur obligations expires on that day. The City's ability to impose property taxes is also contingent on following the budget process. All three parts of this resolution need to be approved separately. There was opportunity for community participation in the Budget Committee meetings and also in tonight's meeting.

*Councilor Huckaby made a motion to open the public hearing. 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.*

Mayor Milch opened the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Kihlstrum said at the bottom of the budget there are other borrowings of \$7,597,000 and asked where in the budget it shows that that is being paid off. Ms. Brucker said those borrowings are within the general fund and they are portrayed in the debt service, which is under additional information section (page 89).

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

Mayor Milch closed the Public Hearing.

**Discussion:**

Councilor Garlington wanted her "park friends" to know that she tried really hard to get them more money. The City is doing everything they can and maybe next time.

Councilor Cook said the quality of the discussion, particularly from the citizen members of the Budget Committee, was outstanding. Everyone should be very proud of how the process went. Mayor Milch agreed.

*Councilor Alexander made a motion to adopt Resolution 1218, adopting the 2023-2025 Biennium Budget in the sum of \$71,374,314. Motion was seconded by Councilor Reichle. Ms. Bannick took a vote: Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution 1218 for both tax years 2023 through 2024 and 2024 through 2025, imposing the taxes at a rate of \$4.8174 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the permanent tax rate, and at the rate of \$0.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the Police and Communications local option tax, and \$0.31 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the Fire and Emergency Medical local option tax. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

*Councilor Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution 1218 for both tax years 2023 through 2024 and 2024 through 2025, categorizing the imposed taxes as follows: General Fund - \$4.8174 per \$1,000 excluded from limitations equaling zero. Police and Communications Fund - \$0.68 per \$1,000 excluded from limitations equaling zero, and Fire and Emergency Medical Fund - \$0.31 per \$1,000 excluded from limitations equaling zero. Motion was seconded by Councilor Reichle. Ms. Brucker explained that “excluded from limitation” means that these are fully taxable under the current laws. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Councilor Garlington – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

## **ADJOURN TO GLADSTONE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING**

## **RECONVENE TO REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:**

None.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Alex Lopez, Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer, said his role is to be their point of contact from her office dealing with anything related to federal issues. Constituent outreach and work are at the heart of public service and the City Councilors are on the front lines of that. He is sure they have had citizens come to them with many problems. He said if they ever have citizens that need help with navigating the federal government, that is what he is here for. Recently they have had almost 300 case requests and they have solved between 150 – 200 of them, and still have approximately 100 active right now. In addition to constituent work he is also available to discuss federal legislation or federal appropriations details as well as information on grant opportunities to the City. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak tonight and encouraged them to reach out to him with any questions.

Clair Coy said at last month’s meeting the Council appointed members to open positions on boards. She had applied to the Traffic Safety Board. In Ordinance 1484, under Article 2.60.020, for membership and qualifications, it states: Whenever possible the person will be appointed who has demonstrated interest, experience, or expertise in some area of traffic planning and design construction. Her question is, since

there was clear disregard of her experience and background, can they please answer what metric was used to determine the voting choice? If not those of our written charter and municipal codes. She said it is their duty as Council members, and they took an oath to fairly represent each and every community member, so if the board selection process is going to be ignored, then as community members we should be able to ask why. It is their duty as a Council to vote into action what is good for the community, setting aside all personal agendas by solemnly swearing they will support the charter and municipal codes of the City of Gladstone. As a transportation industry professional of over twenty-five years, as well as a Gladstone resident, she wholeheartedly believes she was the candidate that would have been more knowledgeable and impactful on that board. Her opponent had lived in Gladstone for six months and listed no interest or history in transportation. With that said, it is also important that all Council members are reading their material ahead of the meetings and forming their own opinions about who to vote for based on community needs. In the voting, one Councilor said "I guess I'll go with Kihlstrum". This doesn't sound as though this Councilor read the material at all. So this is just maybe a reminder of the Councilor's sworn duty and what they agreed to do on behalf of every citizen. Please take a step back and maybe a moment of personal reflection and ask yourself if the applications were turned in with no names on them, making it possible to set aside all personal and political agendas, would the outcome have been the exact same? She has been involved in the community a long time, raising her family here, and has been elected to one of the boards in the past. You want community members to be involved, so ask yourselves, am I personally fulfilling my duty to the citizens? How do we be sure we're upholding our sworn duties while also fostering an open and honest culture so that your community members want to either become involved or stay involved and volunteering?

John Kihlstrum asked where he could find the Consent Agenda and how does he know what's going on? He sees things in there that he doesn't remember being discussed at the last Council meeting. Mayor Milch said it is available on the City's website under "Agendas and Meetings" – the packets are a PDF document that include each item on the agenda in more detail. He said they give Councilors the opportunity to pull items from the agenda if they want to discuss them in more detail.

Councilor Cook said that the packets are quite large. She asked if a citizen wants to access this information in paper form, can they come to City Hall and request a paper copy? Ms. Betz said yes, they have a copy available for people to review.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

#### **Councilor Reichle:**

She said that the Parks and Rec Board met last night and got some updates. There are two design options chosen by the Board for the play structure at Meldrum Bar Park – they will be posted on the City's website and at some of the parks for the community to review and vote on. Installation will happen sometime in the Fall. After that the Robin Hood Park improvements will happen. They are still in the process of getting the paved trail project for the Nature Park finalized – it still has to go through approvals of various State departments. They are looking at next Spring for the project to be completed. The restrooms at High Rocks have been closed/locked and the port-a-potties have been installed.

#### **Councilor Cook:**

They said this is a challenging time – it's Pride Month and there is a lot to celebrate there. It's currently popular in some circles to ridicule and harass queer and trans people, including children. Some states are using legislation as a weapon to harass and drive trans people out of their states. In this greater cultural environment is having an effect on our kids. Queer youth are more than four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers. Having at least one accepting adult in their lives reduces the risk of suicide in queer youth by forty percent. Queer youth who have high levels of social support from their family reported attempting suicide at less than half the rate of those who felt low or moderate support from their families.

This is a national issue that's going on – this is not specific to Gladstone. They are choosing to bring it up here because it came home to them this week. Last Thursday afternoon they got a call from a community member asking for help. A fourteen-year-old trans child from our community took their own life the night before. And a few trans teens and their parents were gathering together to grieve. They spent some time talking to these teens and their parents and listening to the challenges that they're facing. Queer and trans kids are not at greater risk of suicide because there's something wrong with them. They are at greater risk because they're living in an environment that is exceptionally hostile to them. Being a parent is always hard – you always worry about your kids. There's no one they know who is more afraid right now than the parents of trans teens. Knowing the ongoing hate and hostility that your kids are facing on a daily basis, often from people in authority, is horrific. They want to ask parents to make sure your kids know that you love and support them unconditionally. There's a difference between being tolerated and being embraced. Make sure your kids know that you love, affirm, and support them no matter what. If you're not there, if that's not where you're at as a parent and you need help getting there, reach out to PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. We have all been raised in a world that is hostile to queer people and it takes time to unlearn these ideas and be the support that your kids need. Everyone should understand that every anti-trans joke, every derisive comment is adding another burden on the queer people who are living in a hostile world. To their fellow Councilors and City staff, we have opportunity to actively embrace all people in our community, including our queer and trans youth and adults. As business comes before the Council we should be actively considering how it effects this vulnerable community. For the queer children in our community, the queer teens, thank you for the light, the brilliance, and the joy that you are bringing into this world. We love you and we need you here in Gladstone.

**Councilor Alexander:**

He thanked Councilor Cook for being there for that family.

**Councilor Huckaby:**

She said on June 5<sup>th</sup>, she, along with Councilor Cook, Mayor Milch, and Ms. Betz attended the Clackamas County Business Alliance Dinner with other elected officials from the County. They learned from attending mayors what they were excited about in their cities and some of the challenges they are facing. Topics included: I-205 tolling, how to help our houseless neighbors, and new state legislation. She said Mayor Milch did an excellent job representing our city.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> she attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary celebration of our Senior Center. It was a nice event with music from Rae Gordon, food, and community. It was neat to see pictures from the past four decades of the Center and the community that has been involved with it. She saw the food pantry and met two of the hardest working volunteers, Audrey and Dave. She urged anyone to volunteer there.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> she attended the Community College's Summer Connections event, which celebrates both Juneteenth and Pride Month. Other elected officials attended, such as Representative Annessa Hartman, County Administrator Gary Schmidt, and County Clerk Catherine McMullen. It was a well-attended event. There were lots of info booths that included some cool swag, drag queen bingo, and performances from them. She encouraged more of the Councilors to attend in the future.

Regarding what Councilor Cook talked about – late last week two Councilors were called in to support some of our local families, their parents, and our trans youth who lost a friend to suicide. Earlier this year, when they set up their goals, the Council made a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As of yet they have not had that training. She knows it is important to all of them because we all agreed that it is a Council goal and that we want to work towards it. She would like to reaffirm her commitment to our community, our LGBTQ families and kids, that she will continue to work to move our city in that direction. We have a lot of growth to do. She also wants to move us away from tolerance, into celebration and recognizing all of our queer youth and our LGBTQ community.



**Councilor Garlington:**

She said her heart goes out to that family and she hopes they reach out for help.

She congratulated the Gladstone High School class of 2023. She hopes that all of them find their future in the place that they want it to be and that they look ahead and never behind.

She thanked Staff for the budget – she knows it takes an enormous amount of work.

She asked if anyone had thought about changing the name of our Senior Center Advisory Board to the Gladstone Community Center Advisory Board.

She hopes to see everyone at the upcoming events. She reminded everyone in Gladstone that we have an ordinance that fireworks are illegal. They bother people's dogs, so your consideration for your neighbor is of the utmost of importance.

**Mayor Milch:**

He will be attending the High School graduation because he has three family members who are graduating.

He said the School Board approved their budget. They are hopeful that their funding will come through.

He and Ms. Betz attended the C-4, Clackamas County Coordinating Committee, retreat. This was a retreat of leaders in Clackamas County (mayors, County Commissioners). Their focus was on two primary issues: homelessness and tolling. Representative Hartman provided information on things from the State perspective regarding the tolling issue.

He was invited to appear on a local television program that features local mayors and had a chance to say a few things about our schools, the tolling issue, and announce that we have our library groundbreaking coming up.

He said how much we offer to help other people, like so much else, depends on whether we see them as sharing a part of our identities. The philosopher Peter Singer refers to this idea as a moral circle, the boundaries of which determine who is deserving our concern and who is not. Many of the things that we now consider fundamental human rights, like free speech, freedom from oppression, and voting have expanded over time from privileges possessed only by a few in our society and the ruling classes to larger groups. The expansion of rights to women, ethnic, racial, and religious minorities, the LGBTQ community and so on, can be understood as a widening of what Peter Singer calls this moral circle. The boundaries of our identities are not fixed. They can vary across time and situations based on what is most salient. While Martin Luther King may have been right when he said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice". The people we feel a responsibility to help and care for in any given situation is fluid. He appreciates that we have caring people in this community at all levels. Volunteering in our schools and reaching out to children. He remembers the experience they went through as a community during the ice storms when people pulled together and provided meals, warmth, and care to those who were most effected by that. We had a large area devoted to helping people who were evacuated during the fires over Labor Day weekend of 2020 also. We are people who care for one another and who help people feel that they belong. That's a great quality in a city and it gives us great pride in serving a city that has those qualities. We can do better. We can improve. We can widen that moral circle to include more people than it currently does. We may do that on an individual level. We may do that sort of officially as a community. That's the direction that he sees us moving and he is pleased to serve this community because of that.

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 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 8:02 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

ATTEST:

  
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Michael Milch, Mayor

  
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Tami Bannick, City Recorder