

GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 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, Financial Consultant; John Schmerber, Police Chief; 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 they acknowledge the Clackamas, Chinook, and Kalapuya native peoples on whose ancestral homelands they gather tonight. We honor them as a vibrant, foundational, and 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:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of September Bank Balances
3. Budget Report for Period ending 9-30-2023
4. Approval of September Check Register
5. Legal Costs on Projects for August and September
6. Department Head Monthly Reports for October 2023

Councilor Huckaby made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Alexander. 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

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

Captain Michael Bauer said the Gladstone station had 136 calls for service, but no fires this month. They participated in the Goblin Gathering – it was awesome.

He and Chief Stewart participated in a reunification drill with the Gladstone School District – it is the process of getting students in touch with parents/guardians in a structured way in the event of a natural disaster, violent event, etc. He said there are some amazing people in the school district and Police Department – they are very proactive.

He said the levy passed – they appreciate the support from the citizens in Gladstone. The District is gearing up for Operation Santa Claus – it's their 49th year of doing it. They go through a parade route with Santa riding on a fire engine. They will have drop sites where people can take food/donations/toys (there are barrels at the Gladstone Fire station). Information is available on their website. They are also participating with Pat McMahon and his old fire engine on the evenings of December 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The October call volume for the entire District was 2,703 calls for service – which is up from previous years. They are working on training new people. Their safety message for the month is related to home heating and holiday safety. Councilor Alexander said Shawn Olson came to the Community Center recently and gave a presentation on fire safety – it is available online. He said that dryer vents can be a safety issue.

8. **GLADSTONE CITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bob Everett, representing the Gladstone Rotary Club, said they have bingo games every third Friday of the month at the Gladstone Community Center. This month they are partnering with Agave Dog Rescue. The doors open at 4:30 P.M., bingo starts at 5:30 P.M. – they serve food and drinks. They are making some changes to the games – bigger payouts, etc. Their club volunteers at the Clothes Closet – it is open every Saturday from 10:00 'til noon. Anyone in need of children's/teen's clothing should feel free to visit. They welcome donations.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. **ORDINANCE 1527 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE GLADSTONE DISPOSAL COMPANY FOR SOLID WASTE, YARD DEBRIS, AND RECYCLING SERVICES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 1469:**

Ms. Betz said the City currently has a franchise agreement with Gladstone Disposal, which expires December 31st, 2026. The only section of the agreement they are referring to tonight is Section 8. She went over some background information as to why they are asking for new language – related to the ice storm debris in 2021 when citizens were allowed to bring yard debris to Meldrum Bar Park. Gladstone Disposal ended up hauling away all the debris. Because of the language in the agreement they were not reimbursed for this (approximately \$45,000 in fees). They asked if the City would consider amending the language. The proposal is that the franchisee shall provide service to the City and to churches located within the City at no charge for routine services, provided, however, that exceptional service, which shall be defined as services for any single event with a cost of more than \$1,000 for churches or \$25,000 for the City, shall be charged at franchise then applicable rates. At some point in the future Ms. Betz and Mr. Jacobs would like to discuss the fact that churches don't pay for garbage services in general. Gladstone has never had an event that cost more than the ice storm in 2021, so there is risk to the City, but they feel it is minimal. They also feel that if there is such an event in the future that the City would be able to be reimbursed through FEMA (Gladstone Disposal cannot get reimbursed through FEMA).

Councilor Garlington had a question regarding the terms “fees” and “rates”. Ms. Betz gave a scenario/example. Fees are what the haulers pay to the City as their franchise fee. Rates are what the haulers charge the customer.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve Ordinance 1527, an ordinance adopting new terms and conditions for continuation of an exclusive franchise granted to the Gladstone Disposal Company for Solid Waste, Yard Debris, and Recycling Service, specifically Section 8, and repealing Ordinance No. 1469. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cook. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Jacobs said the ordinance as drafted does not repeal Ordinance 1469, so he recommended that they rescind the previous vote and do another motion adopting Ordinance 1527 because they do not want to repeal Ordinance 1469.

Councilor Alexander made a motion to approve Ordinance 1527, an ordinance adopting new terms and conditions for continuation of an exclusive franchise granted to the Gladstone Disposal Company for Solid Waste, Yard Debris, and Recycling Service, specifically Section 8. Motion was seconded by Councilor Cook. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor Cook – yes. Councilor Reichle – yes. Councilor Alexander – yes. Councilor Huckaby. Councilor Garlington – yes. Councilor Roberts – yes. Mayor Milch – yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

10. RESOLUTION 1230 – SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2023-25:

Ms. Betz gave some background information. In 2020 the Gladstone Senior Foundation purchased a Kia Sedona minivan for the Community Center to facilitate the transporting of a small number of seniors to and from medical appointments (in place of using a much larger bus). The van was then donated to the City, and it became part of the vehicle fleet. In 2022 the City received grant funds from the Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Aging and People With Disabilities to purchase enhanced transportation at the Community Center. The transportation needs increased, and therefore the City purchased a 10-passenger van. The City sold the Kia Sedona minivan, and the funds were deposited into the General Fund to offset expenditures. Recently the Senior Foundation has requested that the funds from the sale of the minivan (\$25,515) be allocated back to the Foundation so they can use those funds to enhance the lives of local seniors. They propose to use the funds to establish a foundation-administered program subsidizing tram trips for local seniors. They have been good stewards of the Foundation funds, and the City is confident that the requested monies will be beneficial to the seniors in Gladstone. Ms. Brucker went over the Oregon budget law pertaining to this.

Councilor Cook made a motion to approve Resolution 1230, a supplemental budget resolution adjustment for the Community Center Tram Resource and Appropriation. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Discussion: Councilor Garlington said the Foundation are good stewards of our senior population and she hopes that no one would question this. 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.

11. DISCUSSION ON USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MOBILE CRISIS POSITION IN GLADSTONE:

Ms. Betz introduced Police Chief John Schmerber and Stacy England, the LPC Mobile Crisis Program Supervisor with Clackamas County. She went over the staff report. She pointed out that they are only talking about committing cash that is in the bank account currently, which is \$51,000. In October of 2022 the City Council decided to move forward with an IGA with Clackamas County to collaborate on using

Gladstone's settlement funds to focus on mental health, housing for detox, and reducing the supply of opioids County-wide.

Chief Schmerber said the Police Department has developed a strong relationship with the Mobile Crisis Team, but there remains limited resources to address mental illness and addiction. The P.D. has responded to 112 calls for service between October 2022 and October 2023 which have been identified as someone in crisis involving mental health, addiction, or a combination of both. These calls typically involve repeated calls for service and the City recognizes that Clackamas County Behavioral Health has an established program which can benefit the Gladstone community. Therefore, staff proposed that they use the settlement monies directly toward the hiring of a mental health service coordinator who is dual certified in mental illness and drug addiction in partnership with Clackamas County Behavioral Health. This would be a two-year pilot project starting when the County hires a qualified person in 2024. The P.D. would have input on the candidates. The person would be housed within the Gladstone P.D. with the ability to interact with officers, respond to calls for service, conduct follow up, and provide proactive outreach to assist those with addiction in crisis in hopes of reducing repeat calls for service. Having a dual-certified coordinator allows for getting immediate resources activated to provide appropriate care to the individuals. The current monies received will not cover the costs associated with the hiring of a full-time mental health service coordinator, but Clackamas County is committed to offset the remaining costs of the position, and the City will also provide in-kind service, such as office space, transportation, and communication.

Ms. England said that any time there is a crisis law enforcement or anyone from the community can call the crisis line and they will triage and see if a mobile response is appropriate. They work 24/7. This position would connect people to the next level of care/intensive support, as well as prevention. They can provide training/kits pertaining to NARCAN.

Mayor Milch asked about budgeting if there are future funds coming. Ms. Brucker said there are restrictions on the funding – it must be opioid-related. There are reporting requirements. They have only budgeted for an estimate for the year. If it ends up being more than the funds that they have appropriated, they will do a supplemental budget adjustment to increase the revenues/expenditures. Ms. England said they are asking the County to use opioid settlement funds to make the position a whole position. Councilor Reichle asked if there are similar positions in any surrounding jurisdictions. Chief Schmerber said that Lake Oswego, West Linn, Oregon City, and Milwaukie all have mental health clinicians. He isn't sure if they are dual certified. Councilor Roberts asked if there is a large pool of qualified candidates for a position like this –

Ms. England said that is an issue and it could take some time to find someone.

There was a consensus from the Council to move forward on this.

12. LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES CONFERENCE DEBRIEF:

Councilors Huckaby, Garlington, and Ms. Betz attended the conference last month.

Councilor Garlington thanked the City for the opportunity to attend. The opening speaker reminded them to think about the next generation – not the next election. To think about what they want their cities to look like in twenty years and always think about the impact of their decisions on the generation to come. She went over the sessions she attended and what she learned from them. She thanked staff and the City attorneys for their support.

Ms. Betz went over what she got out of the conference as well. She would like the federal government to allocate more funds like they did with ARPA without needing to apply/compete with each other. It's not just small cities who are having issues with finding revenue sources. Gladstone is trying to do the best it can with what it has and there will never be enough resources available to meet all the needs of the

community. They are thoughtfully spending within their means. She talked about a program called Clackamas Drop (located in Milwaukie) that is staffed by peer support specialists who are committed to helping young adults empower themselves and successfully transition to adulthood. They can also train families to provide peer support when services are not available.

Councilor Huckaby said she made some great connections. She learned that if a teenager has four influential adults in their life there is a 98% chance of graduation. She took a tour of the country fair in Veneta – it was amazing. She encouraged everyone to check it out.

BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD:

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Councilor Roberts:

Thanked Councilors Garlington and Huckaby and City Administrator Betz for the fantastic updates and much like the Mayor mentioned, for representing the City in such a bright light and bringing back information from other cities that gives the City an idea of where we are in the race.

Councilor Reichle:

She attended the Parks & Rec Board meeting last night. There was a presentation from Metro pertaining to a bond/Local Share Program that was approved in 2019 and how Gladstone can utilize that bond funding. There is approximately \$850,000 available to invest in our parks. The Board is beginning the process of deciding where to use the funds. Community engagement is part of the process. The play equipment for Meldrum Bar Park should be delivered by the end of the month and hopefully installed by the end of the year.

Councilor Cook:

They thanked Ms. Betz, Councilor Huckaby and Councilor Garlington for attending the League of Oregon Cities conference and representing Gladstone so well. They heard from two teachers that the biggest challenge in teaching now is the social/emotional learning that kids are dealing with after the pandemic. They are excited to continue the conversation regarding how other communities are serving their students. They said that since the elected positions are unpaid and one unintended result of that is not everybody has equal opportunity to participate in representative government – not everybody can work for free. What you end up with is often disproportionately wealthier and older people who have the flexibility to volunteer in this way. They said the Council does a good job of attempting to represent everybody within their community, even though they are not necessarily a representative cross section of our community. It's something for them to think about. They said they should consider if they have removed every barrier possible.

Councilor Alexander:

He said he and the Council have been called hypocritical because they had chances to get diversity on the Council, but they didn't, and now seven white people sit on the Council. He doesn't have an answer for that. He feels there needs to be a conversation about this.

Ms. Betz pointed out that at the November 28th work session they will continue to have that conversation on diversity, equity, and inclusion as a Council goal.

Councilor Garlington:

She said Friday, November 10th was Veterans Day. On October 31st of this year President Biden made a proclamation that November 2023 is National Veterans and Military Family Month – he called upon the people of the United States to honor veterans and military families with appropriate ceremonies and activities. She said Gladstone and the School District have done a remarkable job of doing that and she appreciates it.

She thanked the staff for organizing another great Halloween festival (Police Department, Fire Department, City staff, and citizens).

She reminded everyone that if their leaf pile will fit in their yard debris can, please use it to keep leaves out of storm drains.

She thanked the voters who turned out on Election Day. The Council doesn't have to reconfigure any parts of the Police/Fire budget. They have a permanent Council member now -- Councilor Cook.

She attended the School Board meeting last week – they are doing a lot of good work.

She also attended the Parks Board meeting to see the Metro presentation. She is excited about the direction the Parks Board is going.

She reminded anyone who is currently serving on our committees/boards/commissions to reapply if you would like to keep your position. She encouraged anyone who is thinking about applying to go ahead and apply. Applications are due by December 5th.

On December 9th, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. is the Holiday Market at the Community Center. It's a great event. The Kiwanis will be serving breakfast from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. with Santa Claus. The Holiday Tree Lighting will be at 5:00 P.M.

She wished everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Huckaby:

She said she is glad the discussions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion are happening.

She asked Chief Schmerber what he feels will help solve the issues they are experiencing with restrooms being damaged. Chief Schmerber said they have researched camera systems. He asked the community to come forward if they have information regarding suspects.

She enjoyed the Halloween festival. The Public Works booth was her favorite.

She was appointed to LEDIC (Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council) in Clackamas County. Their purpose is to advise the Board of Commissioners on items related to equity, diversity, and inclusion. They had their first meeting.

Gladstone High School put on a play called "Trap" last week – it was awesome.

Mayor Milch:

He said age-wise having evening Council meetings and not being paid is not restricting them too much along those lines. He appreciates the advisory committees that they have at the City level. This is the way to involve citizens.

He said through his contacts with the Metro Mayor's Consortium and the C-4 group they are tackling some of the County-wide issues, particularly the issue of potential tolling of our freeway. He said we are lucky in Gladstone that our Representatives are both in significant leadership positions regarding this issue. He spoke about a pilot program regarding paying for your automobile costs through a voluntary program of vehicle miles traveled. The State has to make sure that there is equity in terms of whether the vehicles that do the most damage to roads are paying in proportion to that. He is hoping that our Representatives will encourage this ongoing conversation to look at other alternatives to tolling.

He attended the School Board meeting last week – they continue to have the needs of students at the forefront - mental health/well-being of students and trying to make up for the gaps in learning that were lost during the pandemic.

Mayor Milch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN:

Councilor Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Huckaby. Ms. Bannick took a roll call vote: Councilor 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 8:35 P.M.

Approved by the Mayor this 12th day of December, 2023.



Michael Milch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tami Bannick, City Recorder

