

**April 13, 2016
Regular Session
City of Gaston**

Council: Mayor **Hall**, Council President Richard **Sager**, Chris **Jeffries**, David **Meeker**, Don **Richter**, and Jerry **Spaulding**. Washington County Deputy Bobby **Wormington**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**, Public Works Director Rich **Williams**, and others present are represented on the sign up sheet (attached)

Absent: None.

I. Mayor Tony **Hall** called this meeting to order at 7:04PM.

II. ROLL CALL: Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:

Councilor Jerry **Spaulding**: present

Councilor David **Meeker**: present

Councilor Richard **Sager**: present

Mayor Tony **Hall**: present

Councilor Chris **Jeffries**: present

Councilor Don **Richter**: present

Council position 6: vacant

Mayor **Hall** announced an addition to the agenda; vacant positions for the Council and Parks and Recreation liaison appointments. Under "Old Business" this addition will be added for the Consolidated Screw contact agreement approval.

I. Parks and Recreation Liaison Appointment: Mayor **Hall** discussed Councilors **Meeker's** participation as the Parks liaison. Mayor **Hall** called to appoint Councilor **Meeker** as the Parks and Recreation Committee Liaison with Councilor **Sager** moving to "appoint David **Meeker** as the Parks and Recreation Liaison," following second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed. No further discussion. Voting Aye: **Jeffries, Meeker, Sager, Spaulding, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

II. Council Vacancy Appointments: Mayor **Hall** reviewed with Council and audience members the City received three interested, qualified applicants applying for the vacant council position with all three persons withdrawing their ability to serve on the Council, therefore a council vacancy remains. Notice for the vacancies were distributed in last month's water bills. A consensus of the Council was made to table the Council appointment to May's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor **Hall** called for any public comment. Susy **McKenzie**, Gaston School Superintendent presented a PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming Gaston School Bond Measure updating the City with minor changes and information regarding the upcoming measure. The proposed bond would include removal of the 1920's Gymnasium replacing it with a multi-level structure including a cafeteria, performance stage, and classrooms. Six portable classrooms would be removed as they are past their life expectancy. The parking area needs to be restructured as it's not up to code with parking standards. The 12 million bond would also include seismic structure

updates, updated technology, and improved safety. The bond would for 30 years for 12 million and was recently changed 9 million over a 20 year period. The reason to change was the result of a community-wide survey and matching grant school priority list, which Gaston was not successful in receiving as originally applied, however by the states priority list, Gaston, is first on the waiting list if another school district fails at passing their bond. Gaston is eligible for those matching funds in addition to having been selected by random as first on a separate funds selection priority list. If Gaston School passes their bond measure and if one school district selected from either priority list does not pass their bond, Gaston will be awarded these matching funds, totaling the 12 million needed for upgrades. Community members Clinton **Nelson**, Karen **Fordyce**, and Brian **Walter** all expressed their support of this bond measure. Councilor **Sager** declared that asking the taxpayers to pay more taxes is not the answer for upgrading the facilities. Councilor **Spaulding** stated that the City should support the School in its efforts for passing a bond. Councilor **Jeffries** is more in favor for supporting the bond than not supporting it, however more research on her behalf is needed for an absolute answer. Mayor **Hall** stated his is in support of the bond.

III. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor **Hall** called for a water report from Councilor **Sager** with Councilor **Sager** stating drawn specs will detail all that is needed in designing an automatic shut off for the water tank and is why they were not sent to Lars **Best**. The project design has changed since talking of installing an inverter system and decide if it's going to have a mechanical or magnetic flow switch.

Councilor **Sager** also discussed the type of cameras needed for installing around town. No cost estimates have been received yet, but more information will be made available.

Mayor **Hall** called for any reports from Councilor **Spaulding** with either the Saturday Market or PAB meeting information. Councilor **Spaulding** reported a meeting for PAB (Policy Advisory Board) for the Community Development Block Grant fund is tomorrow in Hillsboro.

Councilor **Meeker** reported supplies replaced at the ball field including 30 yards of red cinder, turface and sports chalk. One estimate was received for installing wood chips for the child area. Volunteers are needed at the park with Susy **McKenzie** indicating May 20th the School District will be offering SCUD day as an option toward volunteer time spent at the park.

III. STAFF REPORTS:

Police: Deputy **Wormington** provided a yearend report for 2015 and a monthly report for March 2016. Brief review of stats from 2015 discussed with increases in public demand and traffic, self-initiated calls increased, traffic stops up 14% from the year before, citations were down, reports were down due to less crime, general thefts were down, domestics were down by half, car crashes up, criminal mischief and sex crimes were down. Arrests were up 27% from last year. For the month of March there were 79 total incidents, 31 public demand, 48 self-initiated, one arrest, 19 stops and, and five citations. Reports were down due to fewer crimes. There was an incident involving drugs and physical abuse of a one year old, placing the child in protective custody. A safety plan was put in place. A domestic between two brothers and a dad occurred with numerous calls made and discovering one brother residing at the residence did not update his address, as he is a registered sex offender resulted in a crime taking the individual to jail. A traffic stop at the south side of town resulted in a cell phone use warning but escalated into a motor vehicle accident with farm equipment shifting and "T-boning" the person's vehicle.

John **Koch** from the Washington County Sherriff's Office was recognized by Mayor **Hall** regarding the 2016-2017 contracted police service budget figures with Mayor **Hall** informing him that this is scheduled for discussion under "New Business".

Councilor **Jeffries** reported a brief report regarding the timecards and them being inconsistent with punches, missing punches for lunches, and working 10 hour days. It was asked of the employees to go back and audit or at least write in for punches missed.

Public Works: Public Works Director Rich **Williams** reported for the month of February 2016 total water diverted is 2,398,080 with 15% loss. Street sweeping occurred on the 23rd of March. The culvert on South Road was cleaned out. Lots of mowing on the ballfield has been going on. The drinking fountain at the park no longer works with the need to replace or repair the part for approximately \$400 in parts. A new drinking fountain is about \$3,000 or more. The scoreboard repair from Tubeart will cost \$600 altogether. This includes replacing lights, electrical, decals, and whatever else needs to be done. A consensus amongst the Council was had on hiring the mobile service for the mower to have it repaired immediately. Due to high water loss, it was requested to have leak detection scheduled for addressing this issue. Nothing further to report.

Office: Recorder **Blanchette** reported staff found the complete nuisance ordinance in which the "fees and fines" page was missing previously. Clean Up and Bulky waste day are set for May 3 and May 7. Job opening for the part time and public works director has resulted in a few completed applications submitted for both positons. Washington County Museum will have Gaston featured for the month of May. Statement of economic interests are still needing to be filed for all councilors. The portable toilets were upgraded to having one handicapped and one regular toilet. This change is reflected in the bills.

Manager's Report: Mayor **Hall** reported for the month for April 2016. Staff contacted Mark from the City of Cornelius to assist the City with a person who can fill in for reading water meter and general administrative assistance. An office trailer has been offered to the City as a donation from Troy and Lisa **Tallent** to be used for concessions and storage of equipment. Mayor **Hall** wanted to know if Council had interest in having this trailer. Mayor **Hall** requested to have Council approval to obtain bids for dugout roof replacement. Church Street has been selected as an eligible collector street project for the MSIP-T3 funds offered through Washington County. Discussion was heard on upgrading the water meters to an electronic radio read system. These new meters would not require manual readings each month but provide radio technology to transmit usage information to a database, thus eliminating the need for manually reading meters. More information is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

VI. Washington County Sheriff's 2016 Police Contract Agreement: Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to "approve the 2016-2017 police contract with a FTE of 3.75," was made by Councilor **Jeffries** and seconded by Councilor **Spaulding**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Jeffries, Meeker, Sager, Spaulding, and Richter**. Nay: 0. Discussion heard with Gaston School Superintendent Susy **McKenzie** for having an Safety Resource Officer through Washington County with funding supplemented from the school for this position. More information is needed. No action taken.

IV. Resolution 16-002 A Resolution Extending Worker's Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of the City of Gaston: Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to adopt with Councilor

Meeker motioning to adopt Resolution 16-002. Councilor **Jeffries** with those voting Aye: **Jeffries, Meeker, Sager, Spaulding, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

V. Wapato Showdown Trophy Sponsor-Mayor and Public Works: Discussion was heard amongst the Council for providing the Knights of Pythias a sponsor fee for the Wapato Showdown Mayor and Public Works awards. The Knights of Pythias is requesting a total of \$260, each sponsor fee being \$130. Councilor **Meeker** discussed paying one award sponsor \$130 and paying the second one at \$90. With paying the \$130 only provides the City with being named as a sponsor on the website and paying two times at that price is unnecessary. Motion to “pay the Knights of Pythias for the two trophy’s and less the \$40 for the other,” was made by Councilor **Sager** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed with those voting Aye: 5 Nay: 0.

VI. Employee Evaluation Form Approval: Discussion was heard for what is needed and who should evaluate employees based on an evaluation form generated by staff. Motion to “approve the evaluation form,” was made by Councilor **Sager** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

VII. Employment Recruitment 2016: City Recorder **Blanchette** provided an update on the job recruitment for part time help and the Public Works Director replacement. Public Works Director requires a level one certification for Water Treatment and requires 2,000 hours of experience for this certification. The City has not received qualified applicants for the position with certification yet. The Recorder was instructed to post the job announcement with the employment department and in the Newspaper.

VIII. Hill Cemetery Records to Washington County Museum. Recorder **Blanchette** discussed with the Council contact made with Washington County museum and their interest in maintaining the Hill Cemetery records being the City holds these records for no beneficial purpose other than having these records in a safe location at City Hall. Motion made by Councilor **Sager** to “hand over the records of Hill Cemetery to the Washington County Museum.” Motion seconded by Councilor **Jeffries**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: Voting Aye: **Jeffries, Hall, Meeker, Sager, and Richter**. Nay: **Spaulding**.

IX. Computer Update: Recorder **Blanchette** and Council discussed updating the City’s computer system with a current computer and current software. Updating the system for skype/video conference capabilities. Motion to update the computer system with a laptop not to exceed \$1,500, was made by Councilor **Jeffries** and seconded by Councilor **Spaulding**. Motion passed. Aye: **Jeffries, Meeker, Sager, Spaulding, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

VII. Second Reading on Ordinance No. 2016-001 An Ordinance of the City of Gaston Declaring a Ban on Medical Processing Sites Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, Recreational Marijuana Producers, Recreational Marijuana Processors, Recreational Marijuana Wholesalers, and/or Recreational Marijuana Retailers; Referring Ordinance;

and Declaring an Emergency: Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to adopt Ordinance No 2016-001 Ban on Marijuana in the City of Gaston. No motion heard, motion failed.

VIII. Resolution 16-001: A Resolution Approving Referral to the Electors of the City of Gaston the Question of Banning Medical Marijuana, Processing sites, Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, Recreational Marijuana Processors, Recreational Marijuana Wholesalers, and/or Recreational Marijuana Retailers within the City. Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to adopt Resolution 16-001. Councilor **Spaulding** motioned to “adopt Resolution 16-001,” with second heard from Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed. Voting aye: **Jeffries, Meeker Spaulding Hall, and Richter**. Nay: **Sager**.

IX. Consolidated Screw Contract Approval: Council reviewed the contract agreement drafted by the City Attorney. It was requested to remove # 1 under E, the second sentence: (*City may enter Owner’s property for removal and disposal of surplus items and machine oil without notice to the Owner.*) Motion to “adopt the contract as amended” was made Councilor **Sager** and seconded by Councilor **Jeffries**. Motion passed. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

MINUTES: Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to adopt the minutes for March 2016. Motion was made by Councilor **Sager** and seconded by Councilor **Meeker** to “approve the minutes from March 9, 2016.” Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to accept the accounts payable. Councilor **Sager** motioned to “accept the accounts payable” with second heard by Councilor **Spaulding**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Jeffries, Meeker, Sager, Richter, and Spaulding**. Nay: **0**.

I. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor **Hall** asked for any further business, none heard. Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Mayor Tony Hall

Attest:

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette