

**August 17, 2022  
Regular Session  
City of Gaston  
In-Person & Zoom Videoconference**

**Present:** Mayor David **Meeker**, Mario **DePiero**, Bill **Martin**, Robert **Dooley**, Tim **Sullivan**, Margaret **Bell**, and Don **Richter**.

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Deputy Jarrod **McCreary**. No other audience members were in attendance.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 6:01PM
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:  
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present  
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present  
Councilor Robert **Dooley**: Present  
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present  
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: Present  
City Councilor Tim **Sullivan**: Present, *arriving at 6:37PM*  
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for addition or deletions to the agenda. Recorder **Blanchette** requested Council consider adopting tonight the Resolution recently added to the agenda updating the Water Master Plan.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNIATON:** Mayor **Meeker** asked for citizen communication with none heard.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports beginning with the Police department:

**Police:** Deputy **McCreary** reported for the month of July was mostly quiet, arrests were up; fight in front of the fire station, gas can and weed eater reported stolen, a vehicle crashed into the river, domestic assault at both the Riverside Apartments and Vista Ridge. Marine patrol tried to float the Wapato Creed but was unable due to farmers consuming water and beaver dams causing a lack of water flow.

Wapato Car Show went on without incidents.

**Recorders Report:** Recorder **Blanchette** provided her report to the Council for July with the following:

The City continues to work towards completing the audit report as the City received a letter from the Secretary of State's Office declaring the City will begin to have 10% withheld from all tax revenue until the Audit report is filed with the State. Staff has been working extremely hard at fulfilling the auditor's requests and are waiting for the final review by Pauly Rogers to complete the audit.

It was request by staff and Council to have the Recorder provide an explanation of the financial reports from the accountant.

The City will be applying for funding provided by Washington County for Gaston to have high-speed internet. This is still in the preliminary stages of planning.

**Public Works Report:** Due to budget numbers, the City will be waiting to continue projects until after the City receives some clarification on the finances.

Public Works Specialist provided updates on the pump station, grants, and maintenance with the A/C down again from the library. The inmate work crew was used to assist with Park clean up and prep for the street for painting. Discussion was had on issues with the Onion Lane property and clean up. It was ultimately decided to have a company provide a cost estimate for the removal of the Onion Lane barn. Discussion also heard again on hiring the public works part time help. Possibly 3 days a week, in the same program as discussed previously with Clackamas Community College. The Public Works Specialist will be attending a conference next month for construction excavation safety with Councilor **Martin**.

Tim **Sullivan** arrived at the meeting at 6:37PM

Public Works Specialist **Mapes** announced Lieutenant **Ray** will not close the highway without a permit from ODOT to hold the Good Ole Boy's Parade for the Car Show.

Harold **Crass**, Gaston resident came to speak to council regarding his water bill jumping 35%, more than a \$20 dollar increase from his last bill. His normal bill is less than 1,000 gallons of usages and only pays \$25. Everything is increasing in costs and the City had to raise water rates which had not been done in five years. The City of Gaston purchases their water from Hillsboro Water and Hillsboro has raised their bill 10% every year for the last five years. No action.

- VI. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor **Meeker** asked the Council why the City is paying for the electricity at Brown Park for the Car show for camping and camp trailers over the weekend. Several questions were brought up from invoices the City pays for and is reimbursed for from the Car Show. Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda including August 2022 Bills Payable and July 20, 2022, Regular Council Session. Motion was made by Councilor **DePiero** and seconded by councilor **Martin** to adopt the consent agenda. Motion carried. Aye: **Meeker, DePiero, Martin, Dooley, Sullivan, Bell, Don, and Richter**. Nay: None.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 22-007 A Resolution of the City of Gaston Authorizing a Loan from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund:** Public Works explained the City met with Business Oregon who is providing \$20,000 with a total of \$40,000 to update the Water Master Plan. To use these funds, the Council must formally adopt a motion approving these federal funds. Motion to adopt by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Bell** to adopt Resolution 22-007, A Resolution of the City of Gaston Authorizing a Loan from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Aye votes heard from: **Meeker, DePiero, Bell, Richter, Martin, Dooley, and Sullivan**. Aye, Nay: 0.

**Secretary of State, Audits Division 2020-2021 Audit Letter:** Previously discussed earlier in the meeting. No action taken.

**ARPA Funds Request for Water Bill Assistance:** Discussion was heard on providing 2 residents with water adjustments, offering \$250 through the GYFT program and to match that amount from the ARPA funds of \$250 to then set up payment arraignments after the water customer pays \$250. This will put \$750 towards their bills. **Bell** made a motion to set them up with \$250 with the City matching \$250 as well as them contributing \$250. Motion seconded by Councilor **Sullivan**. Aye: **Meeker, DePiero, Bell, Martin, Richter, Dooley, and Sullivan**. Nay: None.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS: (none)**

**IX. COMPLAINTS:**


**New**— 400 Front Street-Hazardous Vegetation: This has since been taken care of by the inmate work crew and not a valid complaint. No action taken or needed.

**101 Park Street:** Pool: All swimming pools require a fence around per building code. It was discussed to have the person file a formal complaint and discuss this at the next meeting.

**Old**— 304 Church Street: Hazardous Vegetation: No updates were provided.

- X. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **DePiero** with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 7:57PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, Sullivan, DePiero, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.

  
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Mayor David Meeker

Attest:   
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City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette