

August 19, 2020
Executive & Regular Session
City of Gaston
Zoom Videoconference

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Council President Bill **Martin**, Mario **DePiero**, Andrew **Sewall**, and Don **Richter**. Others present include Tony **Hall**, Margaret **Bell** and Dave **Benson**.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Sheriff's Deputy

- I. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present
Councilor Andrew **Sewall**: Present
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Council Seat 5: *vacated by Recall Election 2020*
Council Seat 6: *vacated by Recall Election 2020*
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor **Meeker** closed the regular meeting to open the executive meeting at 6:37PM, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. Mayor **Meeker** closed the executive session at 6:58PM.
- III. Mayor **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 7:00PM.
- IV. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present
Councilor Andrew **Sewall**: Present
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Council Seat 5: *vacated by Recall Election 2020*
Council Seat 6: *vacated by Recall Election 2020*
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- V. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for deletions or additions to the agenda. None heard.
- VI. **COUNCIL SEAT APPOINTMENT 5 & 6:** Mayor **Meeker** announced his intention to appoint Tony **Hall** and Margaret **Bell**. Mayor **Meeker** opened the floor for discussion with Councilor **Sewall** voicing concerns appointing Margaret **Bell** due to **Bell** filing as the chief petitioner initiating the recall of Suzy **Whittaker** and Sarah **Branch** from the Gaston City Council. Councilor **Sewall** stated his opposition for appointing Margaret **Bell** citing the recall looks to be a personal vendetta for positioning herself a seat on Council. Councilor **Sewall** commented that by appointing Margaret **Bell** and Tony **Hall** they may create more problems and drama to a City that has been dealing with issues for some time. Tony **Hall** and Margret **Bell** provided responses to Councilor **Sewall**'s opposition. Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to appoint Margaret **Bell** and Tony **Hall**. Motion made by Councilor **Richter** and seconded by Councilor **Martin** to appoint Tony **Hall**. Motion carries with aye votes heard from: **Richter**, **Meeker**, **DePiero**, and **Martin**. Nay: **Sewall**. Motion to appoint Margaret **Bell** was made by Councilor **Richter** and seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Voting Aye: **Richter**, **Meeker**, and **Martin**. Nay: **DePiero** and **Sewall**. Motion carries.

At this time Mayor **Meeker** administered the Oath of Office, first to Tony **Hall** followed by Margaret **Bell** with Tony **Hall** appointed to seat 5 and Margaret **Bell** appointed to seat 6.

VII. STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Police: Deputy **McCreary** provided his report for the month of July citing stats are similar to last month:

- On 3rd and Park Street mental health issue resulting in a restraining order violation and ultimately arrested.
- A resident was shipping marijuana out of state by the pound and was later arrested. The suspect alleges that someone came to him asking him to mail the marijuana for him.
- Concerns were voiced for security issues in the parking area near the Fish & Wildlife refuge, suggesting the blackberry briars need to be removed to help visibility in the area as well as installing lights. Contact has been established with the railroad company to permit the City to remove the blackberry briars with help from volunteers. Looking to install new motion detection lights or lights on the power poles that would offer better visibility. Councilor **Sewall** stated the refuge will be open from dusk to dawn with signage provided by Fish & Wildlife for police to enforce after it opens in September.
- Councilor **Martin** announced E. Main Street will be closed August 24th until November 30th due to the bridge repair.
- An individual known by police in Yamhill County and involved in a shooting at NW Country Mobile Estates where he shot a man and ended up at the Screamin' Chicken is wanted by police for eluding. His vehicle was later found by the swat team. Water was shut off and the meter locked at the individual's property but later discovered that the lock was cut, and water had been accessed illegally.

Recorders Report: Recorder **Blanchette** provided her report with the following:

- Charter: submitted the filing for the charter update for the upcoming elections.
- Financials: Fund balances as of July 1st were prepared by the accountant and available upon request.
- Planning: Minor partition land use application was submitted for consolidating lot lines.
- Wildlife Refuge Parking Area: The MOU (memorandum of understanding) has been signed with Fish & Wildlife filing for construction permits to construct the parking area and restroom.
- Municipal Court: Rescheduled to September 15th with potentially 14 individuals arraigned due to rescheduling court a 2nd time.
- Water: No water loss information was reported for June and July. Several complaints have been made to City Hall of the Gaston Heights construction crew using the hydrant to access water. In speaking with the Developer for Gaston Heights and only by speaking with the developer, the City was told that JLJ Earthmovers damaged and repaired the City's hydrant meter that was installed on behalf of the City on the water hydrant on Hedin. The City was not contacted about this until after the repair and was informed JLJ Earthmovers removed the meter and repaired the meter. JLJ Earthmovers continue to remove the hydrant at the end of every day. Councilor **Sewall** stated JLJ Earthmovers should not have access to the hydrant or be repairing the City's hydrant meter. It was suggested by staff to contact the City Attorney regarding the damage and repair of the water meter.
- Elections: City Hall has received two signature petition sheets from individuals filing for Council seats; one being Don **Richter**, the second being Bill **Martin** with one week left to turn into City Hall.
- Development Agreement for Gaston Heights was signed by the City and Tim **McDonald**.

Complaints:

- 1.) Moreno's Tires, multiple tires: Letter has been sent to the property owner requesting removal of the discarded tires from the property.
 - 3.) Proposed cost for 100 3rd Street storm drain repair: The City engineer proposes the cost to repair the storm drain between \$5-\$10,000.
 - 4.) 205 2nd Street: It was reported the chickens are gone and no longer at the property.
 - 4.) 124 Front Street Green Awning: A letter was sent to the property owners, no update.
 - 5.) 104 2nd Street: 2 separate complaints received about chickens and their smell.
- Grants:
 - Cottonwood Street: Still need to have the temporary construction easement signed by one last property owner. No updates.

- 3rd Street Widening: Appraisals not complete but will possibly push the project into November.
- 1st Street Sidewalk: Grant application was submitted for the Small Cities Allotment Grant. Also working with the Safe Routes to School grant in hopes of applying for construction funds for 1st Street sidewalk.
- The local Gaston Autobody Shop proposed \$700 to repair the Red City Truck, the wheel bearings and the clutch is going out.
- Hiland Water is aware of the 2nd leak located at E. Main Street and due to shutting the valve and opening the hydrant stopped the 1st leak and created the 2nd leak. This leak is coming from a separate location and somehow connected but Hiland Water is unable to repair this for a couple of weeks. Discussion heard on the need to fix the leak sooner than what Hiland can with Council directing the Recorder to receive three proposals for repairing the leak and holding a special session to select a contractor.

VIII. **PRESENTATIONS:** No presentations at this time.

IX. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion made by Councilor **DePiero** to accept the consent agenda with the bills payable at \$77,456.11. Councilor **Bell** seconded the motion with aye votes heard from: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Sewall, Bell, Hall, and Richter**. No nay votes heard.

Bills Payable August 2020

January 15, 2020, Work Session

January 15, 2020, Regular Session

January 22, 2020, Executive Session

January 29, 2020, Executive Session

July 15, 2020, Work Session

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Acceptance of Bid-Cottonwood Street Sidewalk: Motion to accept Lee Contractor as the lowest bid for the Cottonwood Street Sidewalk was made by Councilor **Sewall** and seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Motion passed. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Sewall, Bell, Hall, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

Discussion/Consideration for Hiring Public Works Specialist: Councilor **Richter** made a motion to hire Richard **Mapes** at \$24 for the probationary period of 180 days. Motion seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Councilor **Sewall** requested the City pay for his backflow and cross connection certification with Council agreeing by mutual consensus. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Sewall, Bell, Hall, and Richter**. Nay: None. Council requested successful completion of a background check and employment references before initially hiring.

XI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Waste Management Franchise: Meeting with Waste Management was held earlier in the day between staff and Waste Management to discuss options and services available for the new franchise. It has been requested to add yard debris as a subscription service for Gaston residents. Dean **Kampfer** from Waste Management was present to explain to Council proposed changes to the new franchise, further discussing when the current franchise expires (July 2021), rate increases, and other services provided. A draft franchise will be created by Waste Management for Council to review at the next Council meeting.

X. **COMPLAINTS:**

New—

- **104 2nd Street:** Two separate complaints were received for 104 2nd Street concerning chickens. Both complaints are regarding the same issue: the number of chickens and smell at the property caused by chickens. Discussion heard on the city's nuisance ordinance as well as the city's livestock ordinances that define location and number of chickens allowed per acre. Motion to declare 104 2nd Street a

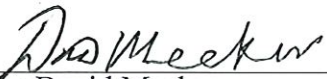
nuisance and send a letter was made by Councilor **DePiero** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Sewall, Hall, and Richter**. Nay:0.

Old—


- 304 Church Street-Obnoxious Vegetation: It was decided to provide the property owner with more time to remove more vegetation and review next month.
- 100 3rd Street: Council approved recommended repairs suggested by the City Engineer as previously provided in a proposal for no more than \$5,000 to make necessary improvements to the storm drain system at 100 3rd Street.

Councilor **Sewall** wanted to thank volunteers who cleaned up Brown Park the last month mowing and removing limbs. Without a Public Works Specialist, it's been difficult to perform maintenance and wanted those who volunteered to know that the City Council is grateful for their efforts.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor DePiero and second heard by Mayor Meeker. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 9:00PM.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette