

**December 15, 2021
Regular Session
City of Gaston
Zoom Videoconference**

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Bill **Martin**, Robert **Dooley**, Billy **Nice**, Margaret **Bell**, and Don **Richter**.

Absent: Mario **DePiero**

Staff Present: Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Deputy Jarrod **McCreary**.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: *absent*
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present
Councilor Robert **Dooley**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: Present
Councilor Billy **Nice**: Present, *arriving late at 7:30PM*
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with Recorder **Blanchette** announcing a complaint was received about sight-restrictions and parking concerns at the Screamin' Chicken for Council to review, further explaining there should be no parking along the curb on the corner of Park Street and Hwy 47 due to restricted sight. Painting the curb red or back to yellow was discussed. The complaint also identifies a horse statue used by the One-Horse Tavern is difficult to see around when it is placed on the sidewalk. Public Works will contact ODOT and determine what options the City has for painting the curb red along the highway at the Park Street intersection.

Councilor **Richter** asked about the Dead-End sign on 3rd Street with Public Works Specialist **Mapes** replying other signs and street posts have not come in yet but is waiting to install them when everything became available.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** None heard.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports starting with Police report:
Police: Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to the Council for November with the following:
 - Property at 1st and Main Street has been reported to City Hall of several parking issues including the parking of a convertible that is covered with a tarp parked along back of the Knights of Pythias meeting hall. The parking area for the Knights of Pythias is within the City's right-of-way and due to the Knights of Pythias adding diagonal parking spots; parking enforcement becomes an issue without proper signage. Deputy **McCreary** requested installing "No Overnight Parking" signs to assist enforcement along the City's right-of-way in the future. A parking citation has been issued to the property owner of the car into the City's municipal court and will be arraigned by the Judge next month.
 - A naked man was located at the trailer court who is known as being homeless.
 - Gaston School contacted the police after an incident was reported of a substitute male PE teacher opening the girl's locker room to yell at middle school students to "hurry up"

caused an investigation and resulted with no crimes being committed; just bad judgement being used.

- A burglary was reported on 2nd and Main Street with miscellaneous items taken.
- On 2nd Street and Church reported someone cut a valve stem on the victim's tire. No suspect information.
- A fight at the school occurred between two 8th graders with one of the students making threats to the school and other students. The student has been trespassed and is no longer a student in Gaston. This investigation is ongoing.
- Information on drones was provided to the deputy by a local resident in town working for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) says you cannot shoot a drone that is flying over your property but could throw something at it. A license is required for anything that flies over 300 feet. This was due to last month's complaint heard made by several residents of a drone flying over homes in town. This issue is ongoing.

At this time, Councilor **Nice** arrived at 7:30PM.

Recorders Report: Recorder **Blanchette** provided her report to the Council for November.

- Legal: The attorney is working on a telecommunications franchise for the City to adopt. Most recent adopted telecommunications franchise was in 1993.
- Financials:
 - Fund balances as of December 1st reflect a large increase in the General Fund for property tax revenue received in November.
 - The City was informed by the auditors, Pauly Rogers will be filing an extension with the Department of Revenue to complete the 2020-2021 audit.
- No updates from Business Oregon for the loan the City is seeking to purchase property near Onion Lane.
- Municipal Court was held on November 16th with 1 trial scheduled and 4 others arraigned. Court scheduled for January 18th will include 2 trials with a minimum of 10 individuals arraigned to attend court.
- The City received a donation to use towards the City's GIFT program for those in need of assistance with their water bill from the Pythian Sisters.
- Staff is working with grants.gov for reimbursing the City for with CDBG funds for 3rd Street. Only construction costs can be attributed for grant funds.

Public Works Report: Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** provided his report for Council with the following: Councilor **Bell** asked why the Gaston Heights contractors are moving so much dirt with the Public Works Specialist replying that J L J Earthmovers have an agreement with Tim **McDonald** to move dirt around from one construction site to a different construction site.

- This week for 3rd Street construction continues with completion of the remaining retaining wall and will begin pouring concrete, sidewalks, and driveway aprons soon. On Monday the change over to the new water line will occur.
- Last Monday, Pump Tech came out to replace pumps at the mill street pump station but later discovered, one pump required rebuilding and was taken by them to rebuild.
- The Water Master Plan is being revised by the engineer with the most recent revisions occurring back in 2009. The water master plan identifies water issues, leaks, and cost estimates for upcoming water projects identified by the Council. By updating the Water Master Plan, the City has a greater chance of qualifying for grants or federal monies when identified in master plans adopted.
- Public Works Specialist **Mapes** requested Council schedule a work session annually beginning Saturday January 15th, 2022 from 10am to 1pm to review/approve projects and infrastructure needs before budget season begins. Other items to be discussed include 1st

street sidewalk, the hazardous fence at Brown Park and water projects that are being updated in the Water Master Plan.

- Trying to get the radar trailer that was recently donated to the City by Washington County Land Use and Transportation up and running. Batteries have been replaced but will need more time to get the radar trailer up and running.
- The Mayor and Public Works Specialist met with Fish and Wildlife today who are seeking public comments (due January 15, 2022) on the Wildlife Refuge that is slated to open after the new year. They are also working on a kiosk near the restrooms to provide information on wildlife and history of the area. Hunting begins tomorrow, December 16th. Discussions heard between Public Works and the Fish and Wildlife for possibly installing a valve near the dike to divert water into the lakebed in hoping it reduces the flooding along E. Main Street and Gaston Road.
- Ice and snow are predicted in the forecast and Public Works will be using the tractor to plow snow if needed.
- Councilor **Richter** asked if ODOT will sand and gravel the school routes in town as done in years past. Discussion heard on prior years when ODOT graveled the routes to school for buses but was informed that ODOT can only gravel roads if they are coming from the McMinnville substation. If drivers are from the Coast, they cannot dump gravel for the City.

- VI. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to approve the consent agenda with a motion made by councilor **Bell** following second by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Dooley, Meeker, Martin, Bell, and Richter**. Nay: None. Motion carried. *Bills Payable December 2021 *Exhibit A* November 17, 2021 Regular Session*

Councilor **Bell** asked why the City is continuing to pay for the porta pottie at the Park when the City closes the park and has the porta pottie removed every year. It was discussed to move the porta pottie from Brown Park parking lot to the Onion Lane/ Wapato Wildlife Refuge parking lot because Fish & Wildlife cannot open their restroom due to COVID restrictions. Council requested the porta pottie be removed and requested Fish & Wildlife provide their own porta pottie the refuge is opened transferring ownership of the restroom to the City.

Council **Bell** instructed staff to immediately stop all city administrative work for Gaston Heights until the developer pays the remaining development fees owed to the City for planning, engineering, and legal services. A payment was agreed upon by both parties to be paid October 1st, but continues to accrue interest because payment was made 16 days late. The first payment amount was agreed upon by the Council and the Developer with the Council considering reviewing the remaining amount only if the first payment is made. The remaining amount continues to accrue interest in addition to interest accrued from the 15 days the 1st payment was late beginning October 2nd. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** will contact the engineer and let her know.

- VII. NEW BUSINESS:**
Consider Work Session Dates for Upcoming Projects: *(this issue previously discussed in the meeting)* Work Session scheduled for January 15, 2021, 10AM to 1PM at City Hall.

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**
Onion Lane/Property Purchase Update: *(no updates at this time)*
3rd Street Improvements Update: *(this issue previously discussed)*

- IX. COMPLAINTS:**

New—

Trash Dumpster for 1st Street Apartments: Councilor **Dooley** gave an update with the apartment trash dumpster with public works explaining it was approved by the City previously to allow for the apartments to use a large garbage bin instead of individual garbage cans. Public Works spoke with the property owner and are working on keeping the trash picked up.

400 Front Street, Overgrown Ivy on Sidewalks: Mayor **Meeker** announced the overgrown ivy was resolved and is no longer on the sidewalk. By mutual consensus the Council it was decided the issue was resolved and no longer a complaint with the City.

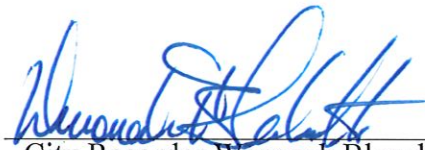
Councilor **Martin** voiced a complaint on Park and Trail Street relating to an RV trailer parked along the street that is causing traffic to bottleneck at the intersection. No action taken.

Old— *None*

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Richter** with second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 7:56PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette

Utensils