

**February 23, 2022**

*Rescheduled from February 16, 2022*

**Regular Session**

**City of Gaston**

**Zoom Videoconference**

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

**Absent:** Billy **Nice**

**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 7:04 PM.
- 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  
Councilor Billy **Nice**: *absent*  
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with Recorder **Blanchette** announcing Washington County Department of Health and Human Services submitted an email requesting to use Brown Park for holding a vaccine clinic. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** recommended Council have them hold the vaccine clinic at City Hall instead of at the park stating he will reach out to discuss these details with them. Also discussed is offering them the use of the City's Onion Lane property if they wish to hold a vaccine clinic outside instead of indoors. No further public comment heard.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Mayor **Meeker** called for citizen communication with none heard.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called to begin staff reports beginning with the Police department:  
**Police:** Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to the Council for January:
  - Police activity significantly increased from last month. A significant amount of time was spent dealing with a local resident who was arrested for pawning items that were reported stolen. In recent weeks, this individual's car was towed, and his black pickup truck abandoned that was along Old Hwy 47 was later towed. Also, this individual was caught rummaging through a resident's barn and pawning several items to different pawn shops.
  - The One-Horse Tavern was broken into damaging property and losing approximately \$8.00 in change from the register before the alarm went off. Suspect is a male in his 50's or 60's. The same suspect tried to pry the doors open to the Gaston Market.
  - Male juvenile defecated on the top of the smoking bench at the One-Horse overnight. Identified the juvenile through security cameras.
  - Protests at the school resulted with protesters blocking the driveways of the school with approximately twenty kids and two parents trying to recruit more protesters by going back on school property and were instructed they could not come back on school property.

- Councilor **Richter** reported a four-door older chevy truck with a flag with crossbones was reported driving fast on South Road. Once the radar trailer is fixed it will be placed on South Road to help monitor speeds.

**Public Works Report:** Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** provided January's report for Council with the following:

- Clean Water Services is performing work on their sewer line on Gaston Road and installing piping to mitigate flooding.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street sidewalk is completed.
- Monday Pump Tech is coming to make repairs on the pump station.
- Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Fish & Wildlife.
- Meeting with the school for the sports fields use. The City is requesting the School pay their user fees before using the ball fields at Brown Park and requests the School wait for the City to grant access to use the fields.
- Discussion heard on hiring a part time intern employee for the water system. This position is 32 hours for five months through Clackamas Community College. More information is needed to determine if the intern money was previously reallocated for increasing the public works specialist's wages. A consensus of the Council was made that if the City has the monies, the Public Works Specialist can move forward with hiring an intern to begin in two to two and half months before the new fiscal year.
- Councilor **Richter** asked about the dead-end street sign for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Public Works replied there were issues with the locates and will be installing the dead-end sign soon. Two separate locations were determined for the Stop sign and the Dead-End sign.
- Applying for funding to update the water master plan, seismic funding for the reservoir, and for a full system leak detection survey.
- Potential property purchase from Scott **Flaherty** is still moving forward holding a meeting next week.
- Councilor **Dooley** had questions about installing a street lighting on 1<sup>st</sup> and Cottonwood due to recent break ins. More information was requested.

**Supervisor Report:** Councilor **Bell** reported that staff has been in communication regarding closures and illnesses at City Hall. Councilor **Bell** thanked Council for their patience with the last couple of month's water meter reading and problems that resulted in water bills being sent to customers late.

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

- Legal: Recorder **Blanchette** provided clarification to Council adopting the Telecommunications Franchise with Zippy and that at last month's meeting the Council adopted the franchise prepared by the City Attorney. After speaking with the Attorney, it was emphasized the City adopt the attorney's prepared franchise and reject the franchise prepared by Zippy Fiber. Tonight, is the second reading and final adoption of the Telecommunications franchise as prepared by the City Attorney.
- Financials:
  - Budget: the City will begin reviewing next year's budget starting March 16, 2022 at its first budget meeting for fiscal year 2022-2023. Suggestions of qualified applicants participating in the budget process was discussed. No action.
  - Gaston Heights: The City attorney has been collecting information to require Gaston Heights pay for their development fees associated with phase 2.
- Funding Options for Onion Lane: The City will need to acquire additional industrial land if the City plans to purchase the Flaherty property with a loan through Business Oregon further explaining the purpose to purchase the property would be to add property within the City; not take away developable land.

- Planning to attend the mid-year conference for Oregon Association of Municipal Recorder in April with the bill included in Bills Payables.
- TextMyGov proposal is included for Council to consider. This provides the City with a clear complaint/concern process that enables Gaston residents/customers to text pictures or file complaints online 24/7. The program also supports 24/7 emergency reporting in the event the City suffers an emergency the City can respond instantly. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** indicated his support for the program and requested Council consider approving the proposal.
- Franchise: Staff will be working with PGE on a renewal for the City's Franchise.
- By consensus of the Council, it was requested to include a wage increase for the Recorder for fiscal year 2022-2023.

## VI.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to approve the consent agenda with a motion made by Councilor **Bell** following second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Councilor **Bell** asked about the cluster mailbox bill with the Public Works Specialist providing information that the cluster mailboxes are for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and required by code. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Dooley, Meeker, Martin, Bell, and Richter**. Nay: None. Motion carried.

*Bills Payable February 2022 \*Exhibit A\**  
*January 19, 2022, Regular Council Meeting*  
*January 23, 2022, Special Meeting*

## VII. NEW BUSINESS:

**Washington County Police Services Contract 2022 Annual Review:** Deputy **McCreary** discussed the police services contract and noted the City can reduce costs by changing the contract removing the shift differential. Mayor **Meeker** asked what the indirect costs for police services with **McCreary** stating he will provide the information next month. Councilor **Martin** requested to table the contract with Washington County Police Services until the budget committee meetings in March. Council mutually agreed to table the decision to approve the 2022 Police Services Contract.

**TextMyGov Proposal:** Tabled until the budget committee meetings in March 2022.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Adopt Ordinance No. 22-001 Telecommunications/Zipty Franchise: (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading):** Motion to adopt the Ordinance 22-001 Telecommunications Franchise with Zipty as presented by the City attorney for its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, was made by Councilor **DePiero** following second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried with aye votes heard by: **Dooley, Meeker, Martin, Bell, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

**Projects Update:** Not much to update Council with projects but staff is looking into grants. Currently the City will be working next on the SCA Grant for 1<sup>st</sup> Street that must be completed within 3 years by ODOT. Councilor **Richter** asked about the property at Onion Lane with Public Works Specialist **Mapes** reporting an upcoming meeting to discuss further actions that will be taken to move forward with the loan and purchase of the **Flaherty** property.

## COMPLAINTS:

**New— None heard.**


## Old—

Trash Dumpster for 1st Street: Discussion heard on concerning surrounding property owners dealing with additional folks dumping their trash and garbage leaving the neighbors to pick up after the garbage truck dumps the dumpster. Sometime ago the property owner changed from tenants having their own trash bins to using a large dumpster for all but has requested the City

wait until the tenants' leases are up to make the change back to tenants having their own residential garbage receptacles. Public Works asked the Council to adopt an enforcement ordinance restricting the garbage dumpsters and only using residential trash receptacles. A consensus of Council was made requesting the property owner go back to the residential size receptacles once the leases for their tenants are up. The property owner is responsible for the trash they leave behind. No further action needed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **DePiero** with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 8:00PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.

  
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Mayor David Meeker

Attest:   
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City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette