

**January 10, 2023
Emergency Meeting
City of Gaston**

In-Person & Zoom Videoconference (*meeting held at 102 E. Main Street, Fire Station, Gaston*)

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

Absent: Tim **Sullivan**

Others Present: Gaston resident Scott **Hoodenpyl**

Staff Present: Public Works Director Rick **Mapes** and City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**. No other audience members were in attendance.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 4:04PM
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present arriving at 4:11PM
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present
Councilor Robert **Dooley**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: Present
Councilor Tim **Sullivan**: *absent, with excuse*
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **116 Front Street Building Closure:** Public Works Director **Mapes** explained to Council that Councilor **Bell** came in last Thursday requesting cones be placed near the 3rd bay door garage doorway because the frame facing Hwy 47 was visibly sagging creating a safety concern for people walking on the sidewalk. Upon further investigation advanced signs of damage including dry rot and other visible cracks on the south side wall caused by water damage have caused enough concern to close the City Hall facility and relocate the business office temporarily.

City County Insurance Services requested that staff move into a temporary facility until a structural engineer can assess the damage. A second inspection was held with a separate representative from the City's insurance company further reinstating the need to relocate City Hall facilities due the building being unsafe. Once a structural engineer can assess the damage, City staff could move back into the building if it is determined that the current damage would not cause significant health and/safety concerns. It was determined the Recorder create a temporary workstation from her home in Gaston and Public Work Director **Mapes** work from his vehicle until further determination is made about the structural integrity of the building.

Public Works Director **Mapes** provided options for council to consider moving forward with a temporary City Hall facility needing to be established; 1. Install a temporary power source at Onion Lane and place a temporary office facility until repairs can be done to the building. It is possible the building could be condemned and must be demolished. 2. Rent the 7th Day Adventist Church on 1st Street that has been up for sale at \$2,000 a month temporarily for 3 months. Further discussion was heard on the City Hall's building of prior roof leaks, repairs and insurance claims that have been filed on the building the last few years. Mold and evidence of mice, lead paint, and asbestos have been reported on the building as well. Council **Richter** discussed contacting the local real estate agent to find a place to rent or purchase for a new City Hall facility.

Councilor **DePiero** arrived at the meeting at 4:11PM.

Following a lengthy discussion on options, it was decided to move forward on a temporary office unit at Onion Lane with a motion heard from Councilor **DePiero** to move forward and set up a temporary office unit seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried, voting Aye: **DePiero, Meeker, Dooley, Bell, Richter, and Martin**. Nay: None.

Next week's regular Council meeting will be had at this location, 102 E. Main Street Gaston and via Zoom. Staff will contact the Knights of Pythias for use of their meeting hall if the Gaston Fire Department becomes unavailable to hold regular council meetings in.

Council decided to clarify the motion stating the purchase amount for the temporary jobsite trailer per month would not exceed \$1,000 or staff will need to come back and ask Council for additional funds. Councilor **Martin** motioned the temporary office unit will not exceed 1,000 per month and was seconded by Councilor **Bell**. Aye: DePiero, Meeker, Dooley, Bell, Richter, and Martin. Nay: 0.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Bell** with second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 5:02PM. Aye: 6. Nay: 0.

Mayor David Meeker

Attest: _____
City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette