

January 13, 2016
Regular Session
City of Gaston

Council: Mayor Tony **Hall**, Council President Richard **Sager**, Randy **Hoodenpyl**, Chris **Jeffries**, David **Meeker** Jerry **Spaulding** and Don **Richter**. Washington County Deputy Bobby **Wormington**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**, Public Works Director Rich **Williams**, City Engineer Erik **Hoovestol** and others present are represented on the signup sheet. (attached)

I. Mayor Tony **Hall** called this meeting to order at 7:11PM

II. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor **Sager** informed Council he spoke with the owner of 124 Front Street, property next door to City Hall. The do not want to sell the property due to losing parking for their home. If the City wants to make repairs to the south end wall, the City will need to hire the cleanup of the area. Councilor **Sager** states the property owner is willing to sign papers granting access to the property to clean and repair the area but is not interested in selling the property.

Councilor **Hoodenpyl** reported he is seeking volunteers by word of mouth.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Susy **McKenzie**, Gaston School Superintendent introduced to the Council a letter from the Parent Teacher Club (PTC) asking or a contribution to the elementary carnival this month. The City has \$4,300 set aside for community support in which Mayor **Hall** asked what the appropriate donation amount would be with community member Patricia **Garner** stating the carnival expenses total approximately \$300 when she previously volunteered for the carnival. Motion to approve \$300 for the Parent Teacher Club was made by Councilor **Richter** and seconded by Councilor **Hoodenpyl**. Those voting aye: **Hoodenpyl, Richter, Jeffries, Spaulding, and Meeker**. Nay: **Sager**. Motion passed.

IV. ROLL CALL: Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:

Councilor Jerry **Spaulding**-present,
Councilor David **Meeker**-present,
Councilor Richard **Sager**-present,
Mayor Tony **Hall**-present
Councilor Chris **Jeffries**-present
Councilor Randy **Hoodenpyl**, and
Councilor Don **Richter**.

V. STAFF REPORTS:

Police: Deputy **Wormington** reported for the month of December there were 97 incidents total; 32 were public demand, 65 self-initiated, three adult arrests were had and one juvenile was referred to the juvenile department. There were 34 traffic stops with seven citations. On the 1st of December and 11 year old started a fire in the school bathroom which was referred to the juvenile department and fire marshal. December 3, an individual was placed on a police officer hold for being a danger to himself. A 23-year-old man drove from Forest Grove to Gaston in which reckless driving was reported, turned onto E. Main Street and continue until blowing the engine up at Springhill and Flett road, he ran from the vehicle and was apprehended when

additional units arrived. A vehicle was towed that was parked in front of a private driveway. An individual was arrested at the Country Mobile Estates after several agencies were unsuccessful at obtaining the individual who was wanted for parole violation in addition to being the suspect in several burglaries, identity theft, stolen vehicle. After his arrest he was lodged with an additional 25 charges of local burglaries and thefts. A domestic issue was resolved on Mill Street. No crimes identified. Deputy Wormington stated that five elementary students from Gaston took part in the shop with cop program for Christmas. This program helps those who are struggling to provide Christmas for their families an opportunity to do so. Total contracted hours expected are 132.85 with total hours dedicated being 170.

Office: Recorder **Blanchette** reported Public Works Director Rich **Williams** would not be at the meeting due to personal issues, however a public works report was provided for Council to review. Discussed from his report was a proposal from Best Electrical to address the telemetry issues recently had with the water department. Council requested to have additional bids for the telemetry. Property owner at 45900 SW South Road, Thomas **Jordan** discussed with the council concerns he's had regarding the overflow and excess water due to the recent telemetry issue. Recorder **Blanchette** reported water leaks discovered in the children's library area were reported, with Council wanting additional information before hiring a roofer. Mayor **Hall** addressed Council with proceeding to update the charter by adopting council procedures following a unanimous decision to start this process in a work session. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

VI. Land Use Compatibility Statement OLCC Tier 1 Marijuana Business: Mayor **Hall** introduced Leonard **Jones**, property representative for 102 Onion Lane who was present to discuss the property owner's intention to operate a business in Gaston as a tier 1 marijuana producer. The City has not adopted restrictions for marijuana businesses or sales and the business location complies with the City's zoning and land use ordinances. The City at this time cannot prohibit any such business from the City. A lengthy discussion heard of those against having a marijuana business close to the school, general store, and playground area at the City park. Many community members provided their opinions of dislike having this business operation at the location with several agreeing the location is too close to the school and playground in which there are many better locations to have such a business outside of town. The business will employ up to 12 individuals. Further discussion heard regarding smell, security and other liability concerns, which was recanted with **Jones** saying the state has very strong mandates addressing these issues as so they will not be a problem. School Superintendent Susy **McKenzie** stated that something deemed legal may not be ethical or right, and wanted stated for the record that anyone who cares about this community and cares about the kids in the community would look strongly at anyway to prevent something like this from being here because it sends the wrong message about our community, to our students, to the school and its sad day that I'm even here listening to this. Deputy **Wormington** commented that this issue is new to the Sheriff's office as well with it being hard to believe it won't be difficult to prosecute those within 1,000 feet from a school in and this operation appears to be within that 1,000 feet threshold. Each Councilor provided their opinions with Councilor **Spaulding** stating he would not approve this, Councilor **Meeker** stated he is supportive of new businesses but does not welcome this one at all. Councilor **Sager** said he doesn't have a problem with it as it's legal and the state is licensing it. Councilor Jeffries stated she is for new businesses however; it's not the

best location and sides with **Spaulding** and **Meeker**. Councilor **Hoodenpyl** stated he cannot support a business such as this and Councilor **Richter** said he could not support a business like this. Following discussion heard of the Council not supporting or wanting a business such as this in Gaston, it was decided amongst the Council by motion to put this issue on the ballot to have the registered voters of Gaston decide if marijuana businesses can operate within City limits. Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to put this issue on the ballot for voters to decide if marijuana businesses can operate in the City was made by Councilor Jeffries and seconded by Councilor Richter.

Attorney Ruben **Cleaveland** left the meeting at 7:39pm.

VII. City Project Memos: Mayor **Hall** discussed with the Council updates of the master plan done by the City's engineer. Updating these projects with current figures is important if the Council wishes to seek funding of projects in the futures, more specifically toward the country mobile estates pump station in this case. If the City wishes to proceed with the Church Street project, spending money on updating cost figures is necessary. City Engineer Erik **Hoovestall** was present to explain to the Council on Costelloe and Hedin Drive, 18 homes and two hydrants are serviced on one line that is intended to switch to a higher pressure line as they have lower than industry standards water pressure. In the future, the intention is switch over water at Salter between Hedin and Trail Street to a higher-pressure zone. It is more than providing back up power for 18 homes on the hill, it also guarantees continuous water pressure for hydrants in the case of an emergency. Potentially this pump station can serve up to 100 additional homes as Gaston continues to have future development. City Engineer **Hoovestall** further explained that these presented plans are not fully engineered as these are preliminary plans at this moment, plans would be reassessed with electrical engineering to determine actual power usage. Funding for this project was discussed with Budget Chairperson **Sager** initiating the budget reflect a "projects" line item rather than put money aside for Church Street fund other priority projects. No further action.

Police: Mayor **Hall** called for Deputy **Wormington** to provide his report at this time. Deputy **Wormington** reported that for the month of November was a very slow month. Total incidents were 79, public demand 20, self-initiated 59, one arrest and four citations. Subject arrested on an active warrant. A vehicle was entered into with a sub-woofer and other radio items missing. The Washington country speed trailer was placed on each end of town contributing to the lack of speeders and traffic stops. Southbound traffic had 35,283 cars in a 5 day span with an average of 25.08 mph. Northbound location had more than 5 days and had more than 50,000 on an average of 27.08 mph. Excepted hours: 128.57 with dedicated hours: 157.75. An RV parked on 3rd Street and is parked directly in front of the school sign, will be speaking with the owner soon to have it parked elsewhere. Mayor **Hall** asked Deputy **Wormington** about the recent thefts occurring throughout town ATV's being reported stolen with Deputy **Wormington** responding to having one ATV reported stolen three months ago from a farmer. This was closer to the Yamhill County border on Springhill Road and has not been recovered. Down the road from this incident, two ATV's were stolen from a locked shed; it is unlikely these thefts are related.

OLD BUSINESS:

VIII. Ordinance No. 2015-01 An Ordinance Adopting and Ratifying the Gaston City Code Relating to General Provisions and Penalties. Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-01 An Ordinance Adopting and Ratifying the Gaston City Code Relating to General Provisions and Penalties with this being the second reading, as the 1st reading in November failed due to a tie vote. Councilor **Meeker** made a motion to “approve Ordinance No. 2015-01 as written.” Mayor **Hall** called for a second with none heard. Motion failed.

IX. Appointment of Council Liaison for Parks and Recreation Committee. Mayor **Hall** asked Councilor **Hoodenpyl** if there was still interest for him to serve as the Council liaison for the Parks Committee with Councilor **Hoodenpyl** confirming his interest. No further interest to serve as the liaison with Mayor **Hall** appointing Councilor **Hoodenpyl**. Motion to appoint Councilor Hoodenpyl as the Parks Committee liaison was made by Councilor Sager with second heard from Councilor Jeffries. Motion passed with aye votes heard from: **Hoodenpyl, Jeffries, Meeker, Richter, Sager, and Spaulding**. Nay: 0.

COMPLAINTS:

Mayor **Hall** requested to have all the complaints removed from the ongoing list due to the City’s inability to enforce at this time. Mayor **Hall** called for any complaints from the Council or audience with Councilor **Meeker** wanting to inquire the street sweeping company why they have not swept on 3rd Street between Park and Oak Street.

Mayor **Hall** asked for help reading water meters as Public Works Director **Williams** is away at training at the moment. Councilor **Meeker, Sager, and Richter** all volunteered to help read water meters at 8am tomorrow morning.

Mayor **Hall** thanked each Councilor for their work volunteering throughout the community and individual projects that have been accomplished.

X. MINUTES: Recorder **Blanchette** reported she did not have the minutes finished but is waiting to hear back from a community member who can possibly transcribe them for the City.

I. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: A few questions were had on the bills payable with Councilor **Sager** requested to have Firwood Design include a detailed description of what work performed. Councilor **Sager** moved to “accept the accounts payable as presented,” with Councilor **Meeker** seconding the motion. Motion passed. Aye Vote: **Hoodenpyl, Jeffries, Meeker, Richter, Sager, and Spaulding**. Nay vote: 0.

II. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor **Hall** asked for any further business, none heard. Meeting adjourned at 8:39PM.

Mayor Tony Hall

Attest:

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette