

**July 20, 2022  
Regular Session  
City of Gaston  
In-Person & Zoom Videoconference**

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Deputy Jarrod **McCreary**. No other audience members were in attendance.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 6:01PM
- 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  
City Councilor Tim **Sullivan**: Present  
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for a any addition or deletions to the agenda. None heard.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNIATON:** Mayor **Meeker** asked for citizen communication with none being heard.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports beginning with the Police department:

**Police:** Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to Council for June noting stats are similar to last month. Theft of an America Flag and Trump Flag occurred off Park Street. Report of a motorcycle stolen and was later found to be impounded, no crime. Calls continue to come in non-emergency from residents within the City limits concerning persons who are living on property that is outside City limits and appear to be houseless. Deputy **McCreary** stated those with concerns will need to contact Washington County, not the City to file complaints. Resident on Park street person ate 15 mushrooms but reported okay. Resident on Main Street was reported burning garbage in a burn barrel but when the Fire Department responded, the resident reported he had guns in his house causing a level 3 response from the Sheriff's office and the fire was put out by the time police arrived. No crime. Radar signs have been installed on E. Main street by donations. The Sheriff's work crew has been working on the park providing regular maintenance and will be coming out a couple more times in the summer and possibly throughout the winter.

Mayor **Meeker** thanked Rick and Jarrod for doing a great job on the Park. Also, a Thank You to Councilor **Dooley** for volunteering at the park as well. The One Horse and the Gaston Market donated food for the inmate work crew and Council thanked them for their support.

**Public Works Report:** Public Work Specialist **Mapes** provided a summary of what work was performed in June.

- E. Main Street water repair resulted with multiple leaks and will need replacing. After digging up the road a 6-foot by 18-foot hole was discovered as well as a wood plank road with the water meter underneath the wood road. Cove Orchard will need to move its

- vault and meter. Water system survey is scheduled, trying to contact American Flow Control to install hydrants, and cross connection are all items being worked on.
- The City was awarded a \$40,000 grant towards the water master plan. Update on the water master plan, seismic upgrades and leak detection is included in this funding.
- Inmate crew is working on the park as well as help from Councilor **Dooley** spraying weeds and cleaning up trash.
- Tualatin Valley Irrigation District found beaver dams with one being fully removed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> beaver dam scheduled for removal later this year.
- Rehabbing the old mower. Mowed down by the farmers market area.
- Issues with storm lines on Salter street with the storm line in need of repair.
- Pothole repairs on 3<sup>rd</sup> street by Main street, street signs put up. With the new signs up people are slowing down.
- Issues with City Hall building:
  - Bathroom in the library is falling apart, toilets falling off the floor and is not secured.
  - The roof still has leaks.
  - Onion Lane building, parts and equipment, lumber to fix the doors but need help putting those up.
  - Does the Council have any use of the building or know the building can be used for? The bid to repair the building was over \$100,000 to make it structurally sound. No action taken.
- Trails end pump station requires three-phase power and is waiting for Gaston Heights to move forward with installing power.
- Spoke with the City attorney about Gaston Heights with Gaston Heights continuing to dispute charges and asking the City for confirmation on obtaining funding for the water reservoir to secure his funding. No action taken.

Mayor **Meeker** announced when volunteering, volunteers must wear a safety vest and closed-toed shoes. No flip flops.

Councilor **Bell** inquired about 1<sup>st</sup> Street and scope of the project with the west side sidewalk and possibly widening Oak as well. It was requested to postpone the project to work with other prioritized projects specifically water repairs.

Safety lights for the truck were ordered and would like to purchase new street signs and posts totaling \$896 for construction signs. Also, would like Council to consider purchasing a “NO DOGS” sign for the park. Councilor **Sullivan** made a motion to purchase construction signs, Councilor **Martin** seconded. Aye: 7, voting aye: **DePiero, Martin, Meeker, Dooley, Bell, Sullivan,** and **Richter**.

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

- Legal: Tim **McDonald** continues to contest the billings for engineering services but is requesting the City provide him with confirmation the City is obtaining funding for the reservoir.
- Financial: 2020-2021 Audit is a huge priority with other items being pushed to the wayside such as the Engineering RFQ. The RFQ is being worked on as much as possible with priority given to the City’s finances.
- Municipal Court: Court was held last night with 2 people appearing and one requesting a trial. A total of gross revenue for the city’s municipal court system made \$2,226.00 for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- Cottonwood Street: Completed the grant closeout material and received remaining grant funds totaling \$176,000.00 for the Safe Routes to School grant. \$25,000.00 is awarded to the City from ODOT’s Small Cities Allotment Grant for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

- A water customer from Country Mobile Estates submitted an invoice for Council to reimburse him costs related to damages done to his house due to him not having a shutoff on his side of his water connection. The City's water shutoff at the meter was damaged and could not be shut off completely. The City was going through staff changes when originally requesting assistance with shutting the water off at the City's shutoff. This did take time for the City to make repairs to the water shut off, but the resident alleges damages to his floor were caused by the City's negligence in providing the customer with access to shutting his water off in a timely manner.
- Response letter was received at City Hall for 304 Church Street's hazardous vegetation stating he hired a company but did not complete the work and cannot do it himself due to health reasons. He is requesting assistance from the City in recommending landscaping companies from him to use.
- Council seats and the Mayor seat open for reelection.
- Updated bills payable list is included for council to review.
- Training is scheduled in Seaside for the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders and requesting to attend in September.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA:** Councilor **Bell** wanted more information on the invoice from the City Planner citing the Clean Water Services Western Basin Master Plan. The City should not be paying for Clean Water Services bills if the City did not facilitate the meeting. The Recorder was instructed to provide this information next month. Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda for July 2022 with Councilor **Sullivan** motioning to adopt following second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. Motion carried with aye votes heard from **Depiero, Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: 0.

At this time Councilor **Bell** left the meeting at 7:31PM.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Declaration of Council Seats 4, 5, 6, and Mayor Position Up for Re-Election:**

Councilor **DePiero** motioned to declare the seats open and up for reelection and was seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried. Voting Aye: 6, Nay: 0

**Knight of Pythias Wapato Car Show Porta Pottie Clarification:** Discussion was heard on the Knights of Pythias paying for their porta potties for the car show at last year's car show. The City in the past has paid for this expense but due to increased expenses and the pandemic, Council has agreed they will no longer pay for the porta potties. Councilor **DePiero** made a motion to have the Knights of Pythias pay for their porta potties for the Wapato Car Show. seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed. Voting Aye: **DePiero, Martin, Meeker, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None. It was further clarified the City will no longer pay for the Wapato Car Show Porta Potties this year or in the future.

**E. Main Street Major Water Repair Decision:** Water repairs for E. Main Street repairs were discussed with approximate cost estimates ranging \$10,000 to \$30,000. Discussion was heard on boring and installing the 6-inch water line. Councilor **Martin** stated the public works specialist should determine what option of repair the City should undertake and should install a 6-inch line to benefit future development. It was mutually agreed to have Public Works Specialist **Mapes** price out 450 feet the boring vs. trench to install a 6-inch line repair. Council agreed to hold a special meeting if decisions need to be made to move forward with the repair.

**Ted Bracken Water Damage Repair Reimbursement Request:** Mayor **Meeker** declared the City will not be reimbursing this request citing the same response from Councilor **Sullivan** that in no time prior has the property owner NOT responsible for water on their side of the meter at any time with any water utility. Once water goes through the meter it is the responsibility of the

property owner. Discussion heard on shut off valves in mobile homes proving additional clarification on the reimbursement request of \$1,500. Repairs to his flooring totaled \$2,800 but states the City is responsible for his portion of his insurance premium not shutting off the water in a timely manner for him to make the necessary repairs. Motion was made by Councilor **Martin** not to reimburse his request and was seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried. Voting Aye: **Richter, Meeker, Dooley, DePiero, Sullivan, and Martin**. Nay: None.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**  
**Gaston Heights Update:** *(previously discussed)*

**IX. COMPLAINTS:**  
**New—** None


**Old—** 304 Church Street: Hazardous Vegetation: A letter was received and reviewed by the Council from the property owner citing his delay removing vegetation is due to equipment failure from the landscaping company hired. The property owner is requesting recommendations for contracting a more reputable landscaping company as the one hired has not returned. Councilor **DePiero** made a motion to give the property owner 30 more days to remove the violation. Motion was seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** will contact the property owner and notify him of his options. Motion passed. Voting Aye: **Richter, Meeker, Dooley, DePiero, Sullivan, and Martin**. Nay: None.

Mayor **Meeker** requested Council to be more involved with volunteering at the City and to organize a work session to help facilitate projects. No action taken.

Discussion heard on the seismic upgrades the Tualatin Basin Joint Project are planning for the Scoggins Dam. Clean Water Services (CWS) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) formed the Tualatin Basin Dam Safety and Water Supply Joint Project — or “Tualatin Basin Joint Project” for short — to preliminarily address the seismically at-risk dam and how to potentially develop additional future water supplies for Scoggins Dam. No action taken.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Martin** with second heard by Councilor **DePiero**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 7:36PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, Sullivan, DePiero, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.

  
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Mayor David Meeker

Attest:   
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City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette