

**June 13, 2018
Regular Session
City of Gaston**

Present: Mayor Tony **Hall**, Jerry **Spaulding**, David **Meeker**, Bill **Martin**, and Don **Richter**,

Absent: Rob **Hale** and Jon **Wismer**

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**, Public Works Director Brent **Whittaker**, City Clerk Sharon **Bregante-Candau** and Washington County Deputy Rob **Richards**.

I. Mayor Tony **Hall** called the regular meeting to order at 7:53PM.

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

Councilor Jerry **Spaulding**: present

Councilor David **Meeker**: present

Councilor Bill **Martin**: present

Mayor Tony **Hall**: present

Councilor Jon **Wismer**: *absent (excused)*

Councilor Rod **Hale**: *absent (excused)*

Councilor Don **Richter**: present

III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Hall** declared at this time with the number of citizens in attendance requesting to discuss recent crime activity in town, more specifically on South Road with the local sheriff. Mayor **Hall** moved the Sheriff's Report to the top of the list with Deputy **Richards** calling for further additions or deletions to the agenda. None additions or changes heard.

IV. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

Police: Deputy Rob **Richards** introduced himself to the audience explaining he is the contract deputy for the City of Gaston since March 2018. He reviewed his monthly report with the following: 81 total incidents with 45 initiated by himself, 36 public demand, 16 reports, 6 arrests, 26 traffic details and 9 citations. The expected contract hours were 138 with 154 were provided to the City of Gaston. Deputy **Richards** provided in his report his emphasis with the "See Something, Say Something" campaign needing to be utilized with suspicious activity and here-say involving drug activity and thefts of the area. If no one calls the Sheriff's office and reports suspicious activities; the police have very little to resolve these thefts in town. Deputy **Richards** clarified for the audience his contract hours for the City are 30 hours per week; that does not mean people need to wait to report suspicious activity with him, contact the County's non-emergency number and report it immediately. Response times might be delayed based on the priority of call it is but all. Deputy **Richards** reported the activity stats for the month of May with May 16 a residential burglary happening overnight. Several items and cash was taken, case is still pending. Ace Tavern has had a few small thefts; one arrest. Three domestics in town, one happening at Brown Park. Farmer had trailer and irrigation piping reported stolen. An incident on June 4th, a female was arrested on 3rd Street after rummaging around at one house and theft and criminal trespass. This person appeared to have no known ties to the area. From Mill Street, a domestic situation occurred resulting in a naked man running into the Ace Tavern to call for help, both suspects arrested, close closed. Deputy **Richards** asked the audience for questions relating to South Road with Mayor **Hall** citing for

the record that each person must state their name for the record after being recognized by the Chair.

- **Matthew Porter:** Just a few questions for you Sheriff, in your statement you said the Sheriff's department is always in call for the City of Gaston, what about, apparently, it's a big thing that it's not the City's problem. We all moved out here, we know the police response and all that stuff, but outside the City limits it seems like we're on our own, which if that's how it is, fine, but you know—
- **Deputy Richards:** I'm going to answer that. It's weird how it works so if this was the Gaston Police Department and I was a City of Gaston police officer, then this group and myself would say yes, you need to go to Washington County. This isn't where the jurisdiction is for that particular address. But the good thing is they contract with the Sheriff's office; I'm contracted for 30 hours, obviously I work 40 and then there's the entire resource of the sheriff's office on top of that, because that address is inside Washington county Sheriff's office jurisdiction. So, I guess what I was telling you earlier is I'm still a resource to come to. That's why I can talk to you today, in general terms about what's being done.
- **Matthew Porter:** —what is being done?
- **Mayor Hall:** (hitting gavel) Order.
- **Deputy Richards:** It's easy when there's 15 cop cars are there with their lights and sirens on and you know somethings being done but so if they question were to come up of what's being done? The Sheriff's office is aware of and have been aware of for a long period of time at that address and the occupants that stay there. The occupants that live there, I won't use names on purpose because it's not my place to use names in public settings. So, the name that belongs to the home, very well known, as well as the names of the individuals that live there, have residency there, but we considered them or talk about them as being homeless and transients. I have to deal with the law so I have to deal with residency rights and those types of things. We have our detectives working the group of people, and the place of residency. Our detectives are working them; I'm working it, we have an SIU (Special Investigation Unit) special investigation unit that is working it as well. Shy of some big massive thing; crime, we deal with crime (right?) crime won't be an obvious quick thing. And I'm being brutally honest, it won't be a fast thing.
- **Dennis Alex,** I have a question, I live off of Patton Valley and Richmond, we've talked many times. You've got a problem in this town. You have a big drug problem, and it's been going ongoing for a long time. Everybody kinda sees it; everybody kinda doesn't want to say anything about it, but it's been getting worse and worse.
- **Deputy Richards:** That's a glorious statement you just mde: everybody sees it but nobody wants to say thing about it.
- **Dennis Alex:** Yeah but your pamphlet says see something-saying something and we've all been saying something. I mean look at how many thick books I got (raising 4 pocket notebooks). Look how many deputy cards, can't even get a hold of them guys. So it aint like we haven't been trying. The problem is this thing is really bad, it's getting worse and problem is they're manufacturing. They're right across from the Tualitin River and dumping the evidence in the river. So, everyone downtown here, you wanna get a drink from the water, forget it. You've got manufacturing chemicals in there that they're using for manufacturing. Because they don't want to be caught with that evidence when you

guys do show up. You guys got a rap sheet on those guys a mile long; they're convicted felons, with weapons now carrying AR-15's. Don Walton, to the east of them can't even hardly get out of his damn house, him and his wife.

- Mayor **Hall**: Where was this located again?
- Dennis **Alex**: Over on South Road
- Mayor **Hall**: I know where that property is were talking about at and where are you in relation to this property? —
- Dennis **Alex**: I'm over on Patton Valley Road.
- Mayor **Hall**: Okay.
- Dennis **Alex**: I've got a bird's eye-view right at everything that goes on across the field over there. And this all takes place between 12 and 3'o-clock in the morning down there. It's busier than the damn tavern going on over there with cars coming and going. But the thing is, everybody's been notified. You guys, and your (winn) team knows about it. And it's like when you'll get around to it, we haven't caught them in the act and this and that. And my next-door neighbor—
- Deputy **Richards**: I'll tell you straight up that's not the case, I don't know—
- Dennis **Alex**: How long has this been going on?
- Deputy **Richards**: Here's a prime example of, this gentleman can tell you here right there was a house in Forest Grove it took two years to make it happen.
- Dennis **Alex**: The thing is, all these thefts like you got better things—Walt's been broken into, we all know who it is.
- Deputy **Richards**: You don't know who it is. See, you know who it is at your level. You don't know who it is at the law level.
- Dennis **Alex**: I live around it and in reality, I see it with my bare eyes I know who it is. But again, I make a call, you see something say something, and you guys come out. Well I didn't catch them in the act, okay well, here's his license number, here's where he drove over and back to and then they got so bad, they stole, already over 23,000 dollars' worth of stuff at the place where I'm at right now. And the thing is it isn't stopping. They started coming with cars, now they quit coming in with cars now there on mountain bikes. And they don't have electric over there so they have to steal gas to feed their generators that's why a lot of people on South Road come out of Gaston—
- Mayor **Hall**: Yeah, the whole town of Gaston's here.
- Councilor **Richter**: Missing gas cans and anything else.
- Dennis **Alex**: It's affecting everybody in this town. The thing is, is something's going to happen during the day where somebody's going to have to take it upon themselves when they come in their house. I just don't want to go down that road, after all that's why we pay you and all the narcotics agent's you guys have been down there before. Now Don Walton he's pinned down in his house, basically, they already stole from him. *(omitted from record)* signature is when he rips off your house, last thing he does is he takes a picture on the wall and turns it around backwards and then when you go and say hey seen any strange traffic or something like that, he'll say "well, no-no but by the way did you turn that picture around on your wall?" Oh hell, who would only know but the person in there stealing from you? This is kinda his signature. They got a lot of drugs and he's infected, he's got Hep C and god only knows what else; you don't want to manhandle this guy. The deputies know about him. And the thing is, it's in your school, eventually this stuff is getting into your schools. You've got bus drivers that are taking kids going

out in the countryside and dropping them off with these kids damn near in tears because they know that when they that leave bus, that's the last safe place they're going to have before they go into a house with their mom and dad doing drugs. And that is something we shouldn't have to put up with. Now I don't live inside the City limits, because I live outside the outskirts of town, and this is where it's taking place. But you got a lot of customers here in town buying this stuff and using this stuff as their closets addicts. I've followed it going as far as Forest Grove High School. So, you think you're signs have problems, I think you've got some more serious problems than with drugs and it's getting in your schools. Then you wonder why kids are acting out. Hell, they don't have a safe home to go home to. How can you study with your mom and dad doing drugs like that? Ain't getting the right sleep, probly you ain't getting the right food. It's a problem and it think it'll be one of your number one things to address around here today. But it aint getting better. And that's before we even talk about what's going on up in Cherry Grove. This stuff is all out in the outskirts of town.

- Mayor **Hall**: We are aware of three locations of different crews that are working, even though it's outside of our City. We are aware of the one in Laurelwood, we are aware of the one in Cherry Grove, and we are aware of the one on South Road. And in the past, we've let our deputy; Council has approved our deputy to work on somewhat on our time when he's closing a case where he was able to apprehend and solve a case where he had a whole chop-shop organization. So, we do allow, we've allowed our past deputy to do that and he was successful with at least that part of it in all the thefts.
- Dennis **Alex**: Well that's as bad as it is right now, that down here at the Gaston Market; they take bottles in, right? People from South Road out there from *(omitted from record)* They bring their used bottles down and they'll like the Old 800 Milwaukee's Malt Liquors by the way, inside there, the bottle kids have to count those bottles, or cans; well he's finding needles inside them cans or bottles and don't think they're shooting B-12 up there.
- Mayor **Hall**: Well we do have an issue with that.
- Dennis **Alex**: Well the thing is they're subject to handling that stuff as with any other situation, a hazmat crew would have to deal with that, but because he's just a simple kid handling these returned bottles, hell he don't have to put up with that. That's why this needs to be taken care of.
- Mayor **Hall**: Just a minute—
- Dennis **Alex**: But the vandalism isn't not going to get any better. Soon as the weather warms up—
- Maybe you and I can talk about it another time.
- Well I think the whole damn town needs to know about this.
- Matthew **Porter**: That's why I put that out there, that's why all these people.
- Mayor **Hall**: And I think you and I can talk about that another time, I'm anxious to hear to know more. As so, and I'd like you all to know, we're aware of a lot of this already. So, we are aware of it. We've had a number of conversations about this in Council.
- Dennis **Alex**: Well it is affecting the kids in town.
- Mayor **Hall**: Yes, I agree with you on everything you said so far. I wasn't aware that you contacted the police and got nowhere.
- Dennis **Alex**: The last three months.

- Mayor **Hall**: That's what I'd like to talk to you about. Now some of the things we've talked about is bringing our own police force back, like we used to have.
- Dennis **Alex**: Yeah, that's only good inside the City limits. It's taking place, it's coming out of Yamhill County.
- Mayor **Hall**: I agree with you, it's coming from—
- Dennis It's not just local guys. You also got MS-13 whether you want to realize it or not. They're operating and bringing that stuff in that how you make a lot of money and they got a lot of customers.
- Mayor **Hall**: Thank you, the Chair recognizes the lady in the back.
- Sue **Dailey**: I'm a resident of South Road. I drive up and down that road half a dozen times a day, I mountain bike up and down that road and I'm seriously to the point where I'm going to start packing because when I come by that house that were talking about. They're parked three-abreast, they've got backpacks, and you know they're selling drugs. Every time it's a different car. It is one of the most fearful things I've been through in my life and I've lived up here for twenty years. Not only that, this morning when I was coming in town, there was a kid, probly who were talking about; a guy on a mountain bike carrying a tv. Now where to you think he got that tv? He probly stole it from somebody, but nobody; there's never a sheriff around when any of this is happening and this is broad daylight. It's seven-o'clock in the morning, seven-o'clock at night. How come about a year ago, the swat team was up there, Washington County was up here, Oregon State, the Sheriff, there was probly \$50,000 of equipment on that road, they told me they had him, he'd not get loose, three days later he was out driving again. What is the issue here? Why do we spend so much on this and it's still going on?
- Mayor **Hall**: Now deputy, we do not have enhanced sheriff's patrol outside the in community of Gaston?
- Deputy **Richards**: No
- Mayor **Hall**: So, we do not have enhanced sheriff's patrol like other rural communities have within Washington County.
- Matthew **Porter**: Is it time to write petitions, congressman; who do we write—
- Mayor **Hall**: That I'm not sure of, that we can look into. I think you have to pay a tax.. Just a minute, I think there was a lady back behind you.
- Candy **Griffin**: I live out at 3rd Street. He was saying, you know if you see something say something. Well, memorial weekend, my neighbors were out of town, their uncle, not a very good person, I caught over on the property asked him what he's doing. I called my neighbor, they said call the cops. The cops show up twenty minutes later put him in handcuffs, as he's calling me a bitch, you know for calling the cops on him. But they let him go. You know, he's over on property he's not supposed to be on. You guys don't even come back to me, the witness who sees him on the property who's reporting it, which I've done a hundred times and yet they still get released. You know we see them physically trespassing, I call the owns, the owners call the cops, and I'm standing there waiting for the cops to come talk to me. Nope they let him out of the handcuffs and let him go.
- Deputy **Richards**: So that particular gentleman was family?
- Candy **Griffin**: He used to live there, they bought the property, he has no rights there—

- Deputy **Richards**: Just that particular case, that's what we're talking about? The homeowners, chose not to prosecute for trespass. That's why he was released. They chose not to be victims. In that particular case that we're talking about.
- Mayor **Hall**: The Chair recognizes—state your name.
- James **Marshall**: I live out in Cherry Grove, James Marshall, I get out and hunt and fish, hike around. I was going through an empty Christmas tree lot and ran across a whole load of irrigation pipe with bowels cut covering the whole thing. You know like a four-wheel-drive road, I called up Washington County said there's a load of irrigation pipe hidden in the brush in Cherry Grove and they said well we have no evidence of wrongdoing. At this point where not going to do anything about it.
- Deputy **Richards**: But they did do something about it. It very well could, just like her case, poor communication from the Deputies and that's hard for me to control.
- Candy **Griffin**: They told me to stand there and they'd come back and talk to me.
- Deputy **Richards**: Right, and they should of, absolutely one-hundred percent.
- James **Marshall**: I didn't even get a chance to describe to him where it's at. He didn't even take my information. Yeah, I don't think so.
- Deputy **Richards**: It did. The next day I got the report. So, they took a report, so there's no serial numbers or identifiers on the irrigation pipe. They took the report and the information you gave them, they took photographs of the pipe. I got that information because I had already filed the report off of, the gentleman off of old 47 here who had his stuff stolen. He was not able to identify it was his. So then, and it does kind of grind to a halt knowing sure, more likely than not, dumped in a field underbrush is probably stolen, but without a victim, our hands are tied.
- James **Marshall**: Well I know the farmers don't usually take the time to cover them with branches—
- Deputy **Richards**: No, and I'm with you it's probably more likely than not stolen and his stash but without a victim or an owner.
- Mayor **Hall**: Just a minute, there's a lady, stand up and state your name, she's been waiting.
- Maryanne **Schiller**: I had no idea you guys were talking about this tonight. But I lost, not lost, but lost my husband last year because of meth because when we moved to Cherry Grove five years ago, he started working at the mill and not Stimpson, but Fox. It was a blanket problem, so much so that within a very short period of time he was a meth addict and within a couple of years, I just couldn't put up with it anymore and I had to kick him to the curb. They're smoking meth outside the Lakestop every day at lunch. They are smoking meth all around the mill every day at lunch. They are driving up and down the highway smoking their crack pipes while driving up and down the highway. There was a lemonade stand last weekend or last week; I don't know if you guys heard about this, next door but there was a young boy that had a lemonade stand outside in Summit and Cherry Grove Drive who had to shut down because there was meth pipes in the bushes behind where he had set up his lemonade stand. I know probably five houses where there is meth being made. You can smell it when you drive by. I know because I had to deal with my husband, you know trying to help him and know where he was. I'm sure half the people around here know that. But what do you do about it? Because, I know all this information, a lot of us know this information but when I call them up. I haven't called them up because, hey I happen to know that everyone is smoking meth everyday at the

Lakestop. I mean what's the point. I haven't called them up because what are they going to do about it? What's the point in me calling? If the point in it is me seeing something and saying something when I don't see what's even going to happen. I see a point, I'm worried, I'm scared to death about my children and I have four of them; we've had people come in the house. I got home before anybody ever did and dealt with a prowler in my house before anybody ever showed up and got a call about forty-five minutes later that a deputy would be out eventually. And I have stuff being stolen all the time and you what I'm no longer reporting it because, what's the point? It's just there, I can point out houses and go: "that one," "that one," and that one. But why? And that's out in Cherry Grove. And you know the theft problem you guys are having out here? It's because they're out there and coming to town. That's where they're getting it from. They're not, most of your guys are not even living in Gaston causing the problem. They're out there. I guess that's what I've got to say but, but yeah cause there's nobody out there.

- Mayor **Hall**: Thank you, the Chair recognizes the lady here.
- Angel **Sheets**: I have a question. Or maybe it won't do it, but I've talked to some users and they know exactly when you work. I don't even know when you work
- Deputy **Richards**: Neither do I.
- Angel **Sheets**: Is there any way you could like switch your hours?
- Deputy **Richards**: That's what I'm saying; I don't even know when I work.
- Angel **Sheets**: Oh, okay. It's like I'm saying, there's so much stuff to go through and unfortunately, these squatters have so much rights, it's ridiculous. So, you do your job and there's so many things that you have to follow.
- Deputy **Richards**: Absolutely, and I'll tell you straight-up; if you have a user who is telling you I know when deputy Richards works, he's lying to you.
- Angel **Sheets**: Yeah, they also told me that you told them they could park their car here and I knew they were lying.
- Mayor **Hall**: Thank you, the Chair recognizes Ivan, state your full name Ivan:
- Ivan **Watkins**: I am the neighbor to *(omitted from record)* the property we're talking about.
- Deputy **Richards**: To the west?
- Ivan **Watkins**: Yes, I've been there fifteen years. I've repeatedly ran them off my property. I've called Washington County hundreds of times. I've written this all down, nothings ever been done. It's gotten worse the last two or three years, it's really gotten bad. It used to be just *(omitted from record)*, a lot of us probly grew up with *(omitted from record)* and you could run him off but now it's turned into something different. There's a lot of —
- Deputy **Richards**: And I would fully agree with you, that probably 95% of everything that's going on there or here from there is not caused by *(omitted from record)* anymore because of his medical conditions. Not saying he's not doing—the mass majority is the people he's got staying there.
- Ivan **Watkins**: I don't know, you know you say to keep reporting it. All that does is cause animosity. They see you go to their house, they see you come to mine. They see you leave, they know you're the one whose called it. All of a sudden I've got beer bottles thrown all over my yard—
- Deputy **Richards**: But there's two things to that. There has to be some level of ownership, that now I understand that when it starts to get to the point of safety for you, your family—

- Ivan **Watkins**: It's gotten to that point years ago.
- Deputy **Richards**: So, what I'm saying is that you have to make the calls. Nothing will ever change if those drug houses you know about in Cherry Grove, the one, two, three, four, five, will never stop without someone knowing.
- No, you've told us right now—
- We're working it. I have to; if we were talking strictly about drugs, let's not talk about theft or other crime. Let's just talk about the meth issue. For me to get a search warrant and go on that property I have to prove to the judge, not have probable cause, not think, not have fifty-one percent, I have to prove to the judge that this going on, and that I have to do this to get the warrant. To go there try and find the evidence to prove it.
- Ivan **Watkins**: Real quick, I'm not trying to pick on you. I want to tell you a story, last summer there was gal who had a station wagon, one of the transients in the area, I seen repeatedly, had conversations with police officers, she was still there; same station wagon, down on South Road. I'm sitting at home and I'm watching the news, and then they show this picture of this f*%king station wagon and—
- Mayor **Hall**: (*hits gavel*) Order please.
- Ivan **Watkins**: --rammed three Washington County Sherriff's in Forest Grove, had warrants out of Tillamook County. She's now been arrested. I watched these officers talk to her for weeks beforehand. Why wasn't she arrested, why wasn't she out of there. A month and a half later, she's back with her boyfriend moving stuff out of there. So that's where the frustration come in.
- Deputy **Richards**: And that's the frustration. Why was she not arrested before? I don't know. Maybe the warrants weren't out yet, maybe they weren't issued yet? I don't know the answer to that particular case, but I can tell you a citizen's frustration with the Washington County court system, oh dear god, is echoed ten-fold by us because we're the ones who have to go out and arrest, fight, use physical force, have physical force on the rest of these folks over and over again. So, it's our court system.
- Mayor **Hall**: Chair recognizes this gentleman right here, state your name for the record.
Matthew **Porter**: On that comment on getting a search warrant and all that stuff; I mean if all these people are felons and on probation and all this stuff; where's the random house checks that show up the guns and show up the drugs and you're instantly arrested. They don't tell you when they're coming, they just knock on your door and parole officers or probation officers and all those people are supposed to be checking on these people, right? I mean that's one thing that should be happening—
- Deputy **Richards**: Right, parole and probation officers can do that to a degree. I can't.
- Matthew **Porter**: No, that's what I'm saying, If he's on one, then he should—
- Deputy **Richards**: What these guys know, as confused as we might be with the legal system; they're not, obviously, because they live it and trying to avoid it. You're on parole or probation whether it may be drugs, weapons, whatever, it might be and a parole officer knocks on your door and wants to search your property, you tell them no.
- Matthew **Porter**: Really?
- Deputy **Richards**: Well if you don't let me search your property, it's going to be a probation violation and I'll take you to jail. Great. Take me to jail on a probation violation vs. the meth that's in my home. You know what I mean? But I just gave you guys some advice for anyone who is on probation. I would say a probation violation is up to a fourteen-day hit in Washington county jail.

- Angela **Gullet**: Wouldn't you guys just get a warrant anyway?
- Matthew **Porter**: Yeah, they're violating it, they give up their rights as a probation person, so they don't have rights in all that search and seizure, right? I mean
- I've managed two or three, the majority of it is gone, correct.
- Mayor **Hall**: Chair recognizes, state your name for the record:
- Brittany **Goering**: So, trying to find a solution; and I hope you find proof over there, but can we get the water tested as that, the gentleman that left—
- Matthew **Porter**: Yeah, before and after—
- Brittany **Goering**: He said they were dumping it into the river and across the way from there. Can we have the water tested above that property and then below the property.
- Deputy **Richards**: Yeah, that would be a great idea
- Matthew **Porter**: There are other agencies that do that—
- Brittany **Goering**: And that would narrow it down, what area it's being dumped into. And then something would have to be done about it. It goes down to the Tualatin River in Beaverton, they're going to be all over it.
- Susan **Dailey**: Get DEQ involved.
- *(several people speaking at once)*
- Mayor **Hall**: The Chair recognizes the—order please *(hitting gavel)* Are you finished? Yeah okay, we've got to move around here, we're running out of time, so we need to wrap this up. Chair recognizes, state your name for the record.
- John **Stoffer**: I'm the one west of Ivan, I drive by there early in the mornings on the way to work. They have hoses across the road heading going down the river.
- Deputy **Richards**: Pumping in or pumping out?
- John **Stoffer**: At four in the morning. They have generators—
- Mayor **Hall**: It drops down to the river right there, it takes a lot of "oomf" to get the water up.
- Matt **Porter**: With the amount of energy, you'd think they could carry buckets.
- Mayor **Hall**: Okay, we really need to wrap this up because we have other business to attend at this council meeting. We appreciate—
- Ivan **Watkins**: I got one last thing to say, if in the very least, I would appreciate consistent drive-bys, slow drive-bys, eye contact with them. Let them know you're around, in the very least. That would be appreciated.
- Deputy **Richards**: Yeah. There was some, I know a lot of you guys are here because of the facebook thread. A couple things off of there too; my post was on there, I don't know if you saw it or not, but for those of you did, I deleted mine off of there because of some of the stuff that was being said, I didn't want to be associated with this. It is not a four-car response home. There's no fear from the Sheriff's office about going there. Somebody was told that and that is not the case. I've been there probably four or five times on calls as soon as march. Most of the time it was for medical. As frustrating and as hard as it seems to be, the Sherriff's office is not just doing nothing about the problem.
- Matthew **Porter**: I know we're a small town, is it possible to budget for more than thirty hours? I know it's just a random question but—
- Mayor **Hall**: Let me answer this, he directed this question toward me. It costs us about \$141,000 for thirty hours. That kind of answers the questions for us, we'd like to do more, but—

- **Matthew Porter:** Are there help for rural people?
- **Mayor Hall:** There are grants, but we don't have a police force. We contract with the police force, so we have to contract for grants.
- **Matthew Porter:** Can we have a volunteer Sherriff, like they do for the Fire Department?
- **Mayor Hall:** If you would like to pay more taxes, this is for the enhanced sheriff's program, there is a program, and I've talked to Washington County commander, not the current one but the commander before, the one we had years ago and if you can talks amongst yourselves from the community and impose a tax on yourself, it's calle da LOL tax.
- **Deputy Richards:** It's a local option levy,
- **Matthew Porter:** Any idea of what that costs?
- **Deputy Richards:** It's up to you. Here's the two parts, that gets you
- **Matthew Porter:** Well according to him you could impose that tax and have funding to pay for an officer to come out and patrol.
- **Deputy Richards:** So, the Washington County Sherriff's office has roughly, don't quote my numbers, two hundred plus deputies that work the road. So that's the entire west end and past Timber and we're about south per county through the post office, the unincorporated areas including Aloha, highly populated, right? The entire Bethany area, which is our biggest population area. So, two things, are the deciding factors of how many deputies throughout the shifts per day the areas get. It's population and call load. So, when we go rural, we lose population, but we have to keep the call load up. You see what I'm saying?
- **Matthew Porter:** If we call more, we get more?
- **Deputy Richards:** Yes, that is correct. Now it's not: we called five times yesterday so how come we don't have a deputy out here today.
- **Matthew Porter:** You want us to call the non-emergency number, or you want us to call 9-1-1?
- **Deputy Richards:** I only want you to all 9-1-1 if it's an emergency. Feel free to use it if it's an emergency. But otherwise call non-emergency.
- **Mayor Hall:** Alright we need to move on.
- **Barbara Cripe:** I just have one quick question. I'm technically Yamhill County, I live out on Williams Canyon so when there's an issue, they've told us to contact Washington County too. Basically, right there, so if anybody else in here is from Yamhill County that's what the Washington County Sheriff's told me is let us know too. You know if you have any thefts so they're aware.
- **Mayor Hall:** Thank you, but before we do this, I'd like the Council to raise their hand if you've ever had anything stolen from you from your property? So, There's three of us. I've had stuff stolen from me at least three times. I had a pressure washer stolen from me that wasn't even 9 hours old. It never even got to get used. I had cans stolen off my back porch. I've watched trucks unload five people at a time and go house to house going up in their driveways looking for anything they can take. So, here in Gaston, we're fully aware of this issue and we've had many discussions at council about it. And I've talked to Officer **Richards** and his bosses about it. We've tried other solutions, trying to get more reserve officers, trying to get more coverage. And we seem to be hitting nothing

but a dead wall. It's all about more money, more money, more money. And we're a small community here in Gaston and inside the City limits there's 250-300 homes.

- Councilor **Richter**: Write more letters, write a lot of letters.
- Mayor **Hall**: But if we can work together somehow, maybe we could. But it would be about that LOL tax to raise more funding to get more deputies. And maybe we could do something if you guys are motivated. We'd be willing, personally as Mayor, we'd be willing to work with you if we could work something out. And I think Washington County would be willing to work something with you also. It's all about funding and it's all about, you know, get more officers out at cost. I mean the citizens of Gaston pay a lot, and really what do you guys pay? The answer to that is you pay the standard Washington County tax which we all pay but in addition to that we pay \$144,000 for 30 hours. Council recognizes Councilor **Richter**.
- Councilor **Richter**: I wonder if the City could look into hiring an extra county officer for just a month and put it on our budget somehow. For like a month at a time until some of this starts slowing down.
- Deputy **Richards**: And the honest answer is that's above my pay grade.
- Councilor **Richter**: I was just talking with the Mayor, I know
- Mayor **Hall**: That's something we can ask. I don't know how much it would help you because technically here's the problem. We can't justify sending the officers that we pay for here in Gaston—
- Deputy **Richards**: That's the separation from the City vs. rural unincorporated Washington County.
- Councilor **Richter**: But still you see peoples at all hours of night walking in from South road. A lot of them are mountain bikes, bikes everywhere.
- Councilor **Martin**: Yeah because I get up at three-o'clock in the morning and you see and I drive down to go to work and you see people that you shouldn't see in Gaston at.
- Councilor **Richter**: There's a truck and trailer in front of the old seven day Adventist church on second street that has been there for a month now. He moves every once and while.
- Deputy **Richards**: He moves every night. I know his name, got his info, he's not homeless. He's a construction worker working at the High School. He's a traveler, traveling construction worker.
- Councilor **Richter**: Because I see his green car with all the gas cans on top of it parked there.
- City Clerk **Bregante-Candau** I just wanted to mention I live out on the rural part of Gaston and our neighbors below us has their nephew's a heavy-duty meth addict, always coming and going between eleven and three. They're right at the top of our road and our road goes from Gaston all the way out to Hillsboro. And we called with license plates numbers repeatedly, repeatedly. Then we had arrests, we've had no more traffic through there it is a constant thing. We had to get license plates numbers to identify people and we called and called, and called and gave them as much information as we could and then we kept calling and calling. We had had them arrested we haven't had vehicle stopping up there anymore. So, it is a constant thing. You have to call them up and they might not but they told me yeah, I wouldn't want to have that car in my neighborhood. So, I don't know if that's anything that would help but.

- Mayor **Hall**: Alright thank you, we need to move along here. Thank you for sharing this information. Any of you who would like to talk to me anytime later I'd be anxious to talk to you all because I like to gather information like this. You guys aren't the only ones by the way, it's affecting the people, it's affecting all of us within six miles all the way around us that I mean, I know people who have had multiple ATV's stolen from them, they've been hit four or five times already in the last year.
- Councilor **Martin**: The best thing the school has done is for the kids here in Gaston and for all the other kids around is when they closed that campus and they can't leave. That's the best thing they've done so far.
- Mayor **Hall**: Alright, thank you. Now's a good time to leave while I give you some time. If any of you wish to leave now so we can move on. Thank you for coming.

At this time several people from the room left the meeting with Mayor Hall calling for a two-minute recess.

Mayor Hall reconvened the meeting at 8:50PM.

Public Works: Public Works Director **Whittaker** discussed his report beginning with:

- Consumption and Loss: Public Works Director **Whittaker** emailed everyone a copy of the consumption and loss report with a little bit of an increase from 524,000 gallons to 982,000 gallons from May to June the leak detection being scheduled for July with 17.45% in April to water loss of 26.44 in May. Some of the water loss is attributed to hydrant cleaning.
- COWA (Cove Orchard Water Association) update is still waiting for the City Attorney. Mayor **Hall** requested to begin keeping track of all attorney hours spent on all projects.
- 1st Street Sidewalk Project: Public Works Director **Whittaker** reported he has received one improvement agreement since his report was submitted but have since received two. He spoke with the remaining individual on Friday and will be getting the agreement to the City after his attorney reviews the agreement.
- Park Street Sidewalk Project: Park Street sidewalk project meeting is scheduled with the homeowners. The property owner is not concerned with moving landscape and is open to dealing with the current project at hand.
- Hydrology Study: No new updates, however, Public Works Director **Whittaker** explained to Council his meeting with Erik **Hoovestol** intending to have a full report at the July City Council meeting.
- 104 Onion Lane: Public Works Director **Whittaker** explained there were four calls made into the continued cleanup for the property and has met with two contractors for cleanup. No figures have been reported for Council review. Contractor were contacted for the gravel the parking lot area.
- Nuisance Properties: Violation of the nuisance ordinance was discovered at 400 6th Street, abutting the sidewalk with an electric fence. This is a direct violation and will need further instruction from the Council based on the Council needing to declare it an actual violation to continue with abatement proceedings. Further clarification was made that this item is on the agenda under "Complaints."
- Farmers Market: Public Works Director **Whittaker** explained to Council the City has allocated \$800 in vendor fees. Kirstin **Sewall** was not able to attend the meeting tonight but was able to report via email that there were four new vendors with a total of twelve with a variety of products. Facebook reported there are four-hundred and forty-three followers and is a very effective way for communication posts reaching close to six-thousand people. Councilor Richter inquired of payment for Sewall's services with Public Works Director

replying with the first installment of her payment being the first half of the season with this month's bills reflecting her second half of the season payment up to October. That total amount is \$2,400 which is \$300 a month for six months. Mayor **Hall** cited the contract for Sewall's services was signed May 9th with began working some months before. The contract did not state the City would pay her for pro-rated work. Mayor **Hall** wanted to know the Council's position for paying for pro-rated services for April, May, June and July. Reflected in the minutes, if she was successful, Council would continue her contact. There was nothing in the contract about paying her in advance and should be paying month-by-month as the contract states. Mayor **Hall** indicated to Council they need to figure out if the City is paying her for services month-by-month or in a lump sum. Public Works Director explained she has put together a sponsorship where business, both local and outside of Gaston can contribute to the Market. The Knights of Pythias has agreed to sponsor music during the Farmer's Market at the same time as the Wapato Car Show. Kirstin **Sewall's** intention is to complete the sponsorship packets, continue promotions, continue working on the Block Party and Swap meet, and complete WIC and SNAP paperwork. Councilor **Martin** asked how much the City has paid her to date with Public Works Director stating some of the costs have contributed to her insurance costs but Mayor **Hall** replying the City needed to know how much the insurance coverage the City previously agreed to pay. No further discussion heard for the Public Works Director's report.

City Clerk: Sharon **Bregante-Candau** provided her report with the following

- **3rd Street Connectivity Improvements Project:** **Bregante-Candau** explained to Council some of the residents on 3rd Street were confused with the agenda and believed the Council was discussing the project in length tonight. That was not the case, but to informally review the processes necessary for eminent domain during the working session.
- **Yamhelas Trail Property:** The City is on hold with the trail project at this time due to price for purchasing the Union Pacific Railroad.
- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Trail Grant:** Will be present the grant on June 19th for development of the Onion Lane property for paving and ADA accessibility in Salem.
- **Municipal Court:** All citations have been processed and current. Seven citations were written for court with State and County assessments up to date. Washington County Sheriff's Office is processing the background check required to be LEDS certified. This allows for access of driving records.
- **Meeting for 3rd Street:** Meeting for coordinating the development of 3rd Street and possible traffic changes were discussed with the Public Works Director, Deputy **Richards**, Gaston School Business Manager **Chrissy Jarvis**, **Cassie Hansen** Administrative Assistant, and the City Clerk.
- **LOWES Community Partners Grant:** Application was submitted for the School's Horticulture class to develop the pocket park between Mill and Hwy 47 and was immediately denied. The only explanation for not being awarded funding is that there were several applications and had a limited budget.
- **Business Tax 2018:** Business License renewal letters were sent to the surrounding business in town.
- **Safe Routes to Schools:** Working with the Gaston School District in developing an action plan to request funding for sidewalks, paths, and street development through ODOT. This is a new program funded by HB 2017. Mayor **Hall** inquired if this would allow a sidewalk from the trailer court to Cottonwood with City Clerk **Bregante-Candau** informing Council that would include updates to the Transportation Master Plan which is being updated to include the sidewalk from 2300 NW Country Lane to Cottonwood.

Due to timing, Mayor **Hall** asked the City Clerk to highlight the important details of her report with Clerk **Bregante-Candau** replying she completed the growth management transportation plan update through ODOT which was to update the Transportation Master Plan this month. Mayor **Hall** asked Council if they had read the City Clerk's request to increase her work status from 24 hours to 32 hours per week submitted with her report. Mayor **Hall** clarified for Council the proposed budget included within the budget message the intention for putting her at full time status beginning the next fiscal year. Councilor **Richter** cited the City agreed to pay her the \$20 an hour which would remain at part time status with Mayor **Hall** stating the Council should relook into that once the budget was passed.

City Recorder: Recorder **Blanchette** reviewed her written staff report with the following additions:

- **2018-2019 Budget:** Correction is needing to be disclosed with the publication of the 2018-19 Budget on the LB-1 Form published. The publication had the loan being sought after for water meters in the amount of \$60,000 was included and should not have been. This was discussed during the budget committee meetings and determined based on the amount and certain City stipulations.
- **Supplemental Budget:** City Accountant Mike **Marr** provided additional information necessary to include with the supplemental budget process. Those include
 - General Fund Materials & Services Transfer OUT: (\$9,400)
 - Park Fund Transfer IN: \$9,400
 - Water Fund Material & Service Transfer OUT:(\$1,000)
 - Water Fund Personal Services Transfer IN: \$1,000
 - Street Fund Unappropriated Fund Transfer OUT: (\$40,000)
 - Park Fund Transfer IN: \$40,000
 - Park Fund Materials & Services Transfer OUT: (\$9,400)
 - Park Fund Capital Outlay Transfer OUT: (\$44,000)
 - Park Fund Materials & Services IN: \$5,400
 - Park Fund Capital Outlay IN \$44,000.

These changes need to be included with the Resolution 2018-006 A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget when Council adopts this Resolution.

- The City Recorder summarized the following: A new dwelling permit was applied for at 424 Hedin Terrace, Mike Marr has submitted his May financials and was emailed to all Councilors. Field Work was conducted for the 2017-18 financial audit with minor issues being addressed but copies are available for Council is they so wish, and elections forms for the Mayor and City Council seats 4, 5, and 6 will be up re-election in November. No comments or questions.

V. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Mayor **Hall** called for citizen communication at this time.

- Gg's House flyer: Mayor **Hall** turned the meeting over to Angel **Sheets** with her asking the Council if she were able to put her non-profit flyer detailing business information with water bills so all the residents in Gaston are aware of the services that Gg's House provides working with the Gaston's Clothes Closet and provide other services for those in need. Mayor **Hall** stated the City could not include the flyers as it is advertising and the City cannot advertise for businesses. Mayor **Hall** asked City Clerk **Bregante-Candau** if the City could post this on the City's web page and her responding the City can post it on the website under the City's businesses and on the City Facebook page.
- Welcome to Gaston Signs: Marianne **Schiller** presented a handout her ideas for the Welcome to Gaston Signs at the north and south side of Gaston. Discussion had about which ideas were liked and other concepts that represent Gaston. Further discussion heard about monuments and bringing together local businesses to create the monument. Prices for the signs could be

between a couple thousand to nearly twenty-five thousand. Prices for the elk monument could be close to eight to fifteen thousand. **Schiller** indicated once the Council selects two of their favorite ideas from the handout provided appropriate prices could be determined. Council agreed on number one and two from the handout of welcome to Gaston signs displays. Council discussed how much they were willing to spend out of the street fund with a consensus to not to exceed \$20,000 in costs. Mayor **Hall** requested she present the requested information at the work session next month.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Discussion heard from Council regarding the payment for services to **Kristin Sewall** being the Farmers Market administrative director in coordinating the market. The contract for her services stipulates monthly payments but by consensus of the Council payment for services were pro-rated in two payments; one for March through June and second payment for July through October. Payment of \$1,200 was made last month and the remaining \$1,200 in this month's bills. No changes from Council upon further reviewing this payment arraignment. Review for her services, according to the contract will be July 30th. Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Included in the consent agenda:

- Bills Payable for June 2018
- May 9, 2018 Work Session
- May 9, 2018 Budget Hearing
- May 9, 2018 Regular Session

Councilor **Meeker** motioned to approve the consent agenda, with accounts payables totaling \$30,025.77. Motion seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Aye: **Spaulding, Meeker, Martin, Hall, Wismer, Hale, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution 18-006, A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018:** City Recorder Blanchette explained additional changes to the supplemental budget disclosing the publishing will not match the actual amounts being adopted in this Resolution as additional changes in appropriations are necessary for the supplemental process for this 2017-2018 fiscal year. Those changes include
 - General Fund Materials & Services Transfer OUT: (\$9,400)
 - Park Fund Transfer IN: \$9,400
 - Water Fund Material & Service Transfer OUT:(\$1,000)
 - Water Fund Personal Services Transfer IN: \$1,000
 - Street Fund Unappropriated Fund Transfer OUT: (\$40,000)
 - Park Fund Transfer IN: \$40,000
 - Park Fund Materials & Services Transfer OUT: (\$9,400)
 - Park Fund Capital Outlay Transfer OUT: (\$44,000)
 - Park Fund Materials & Services IN: \$5,400
 - Park Fund Capital Outlay IN \$44,000.

Mayor **Hall** called for to adopt the Resolution with the accountant's changes with Councilor **Meeker** with second heard from Councilor **Spaulding**. Motion passed with aye votes heard from **Spaulding, Meeker, Martin, Hall, Wismer, Hale, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

- **Resolution 18-007 A Resolution Authorizing an Application for a Transportation Growth Management Grant from the State of Oregon:** Motion to adopt Resolution 18-007 was made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed with

aye votes heard from **Spaulding, Meeker, Martin, Hall, Wismer, Hale, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

- **Resolution 18-008 A Resolution 18-008 A Resolution Imposing and Categorizing Taxes:** Motion to adopt Resolution 18-008 A Resolution Imposing and Categorizes Taxes for fiscal year 2018-2019 at a tax rate of \$6.6146 per \$1,000 of assessed value was made by Councilor **Meeker** and was seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously. Aye: 7. Nay: 0.
- **Resolution 18-009 A Resolution Adopting a Budget and Making Appropriations:** City Recorder **Blanchette** discussed Council's need to adopt this budget but necessary changes will be needed through a supplemental budget due to increases in spending. The City's primary fund accounts had higher than actual carry over amounts that will need adjusting. Mayor **Hall** called for a motion to approve Resolution 18-009. Motion to approve Resolution 18-009 was made by Councilor **Martin** following second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed with aye votes heard from **Spaulding, Meeker, Martin, Hall, Wismer, Hale, and Richter**. Nay: None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: 104 Onion Lane Prep and Leveling Proposals: Mayor **Hall** called announced the City addressed this in the work session. No further Old Business or action taken.

IX. COMPLAINTS:

New—

- **400 6th Street:** Public Works Director **Whittaker** reviewed with Council that the property is in violation of City Ordinance 2017-001, proposed nuisance violation regarding electric fences. Asking the Council for direction with action needed by Council. Motion to declare 400 6th Street in violation of Ordinance No. 2017-001 and direct the Public Works Director to send the property owner a letter, was made by Councilor **Martin**. Motion seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from **Spaulding, Meeker, Martin, Hall, Wismer, Hale, and Richter**. Nay: 0.
- **109 2nd Street Parking:** Mayor **Hall** Public Works Director **Whittaker** clarified for Council a complaint was received about parking in front on one's own driveway, blocking the driveway with their own vehicle on their own property. This person was cited by the Washington County Sheriff's Office for illegal parking and Mayor **Hall** further clarified it was parking and blocking his own driveway. Further discussion heard on the parking situation and if it was blocking the neighbor's driveway as well. No further action.
- **307 Park Street:** This property in the past has had numerous complaints regarding hazardous vegetation and yard debris. The city received a new complaint regarding the high grass and hazardous vegetation; blackberry vines and grass as high as the fence. Mayor **Hall** asked the Council what to do regarding the complaint. Public Works Director indicated he could assess the property from neighboring properties and send the property owner a letter. Mayor **Hall** instructed the Public Works Director to take pictures and have the Council review at a later time.
- **Dumpster on 2nd Street and Church:** Complaint received from neighbors having a dumpster sticking out onto the roadway from a property using the dumpster during a

construction project. The dumpster has since moved since this complaint and is no longer there. No action.

- **Discrimination Complaint:** Mayor **Hall** had all the Council read the complaint submitted by Carrie Baldwin following a 1-minute recess for Council to review. Public Works Director asked to address the Council in regard to the complaint as it is a very sensitive subject matter; comments are to be kept appropriate and Council needs to be conscientious in discussions of the matter. Public Works Director Whittaker clarified for Council the complaint was filed as specifically about throwing bread in the area but insinuated that motives were based on discriminatory reasons which are not true and unfounded. The individual writing the complaint recited the conversation almost word for word, but does clarify the purpose of the complaint other than citing discrimination. This is for Council's review and the issue has been resolved and nothing to follow up on. No further contact or communication unless directed by the attorney would be considered. Mayor **Hall** asked Council if they have reviewed and want further action. Councilor **Meeker** suggested having more signs at the park.

Old—

- **Multiple Nuisance Violations:** Public Works Director **Whittaker** explained that one property continues to work on their violation and keeps in contact and continues to show progress for clearing the violation. No action.
- **200 Trail Street:** Mayor **Hall** asked if a letter was sent to 200 Trail Street regarding the sticker bushes with the Public Works Director replying no. Mayor **Hall** stated it is hard to see around the corner if those bushes are not kept down.

Robert **Dooley**, resident asked if the City had any ordinances regarding waste collection pickup locations and if there was a designated location set up if the ordinance or franchise agreement. Mr. **Dooley** wanted to know if there was a regulation or rule that requires the garbage can be hauled back to the appropriate address and not left at the pick-up location week after week. The property owners for the apartments used to take the dumpster back to the apartment area but now leave it and **Dooley** has had to move the dumpster off the street out of the way. Mayor **Hall** indicated if the City received a written complaint, the City could contact Waste Management and request better service. There have been many issues regarding parking in the area. Mayor **Hall** stated the City could send a letter to the property owner and ask them to move the dumpster back to the apartment after garbage collection.


Lois **Hancox**, owner to Scoggins Creek Coffee announced she will be dust control in the lot across from City Hall by spraying oil. This will happen sometime next week and will be doing more than usual as there has been an increase in traffic in the area.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor **Hall** asked for any further business, none heard. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM with motion made by Councilor Meeker and was seconded by Councilor Spaulding.



Mayor Tony Hall

Attest:



City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette