

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

Present: Mayor Tony **Hall**, Jerry **Spaulding**, David **Meeker**, Don **Richter**, Bill **Martin**, Rod **Hale** and Jon **Wismer** arriving at 6:45pm.

Absent: City Clerk Sharon **Bregante-Candau**.

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**, Public Works Director Brent **Whittaker**,

Mayor Tony **Hall** called this meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call: City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call:

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

Mayor **Hall** called for any corrections or changes to the work session agenda. He announced moving Wayne **Weibke** representative of the Friends of the Yamhales Westsider Trail from Citizens Communication during the Regular Session to the agenda on the Work Session. Also, to add Brent **Whittaker** as a change private citizen to discuss archery matters. Councilor **Richter** would like to have a discussion on the dump truck located outside of town on the south side that is for sale. Mayor **Hall** indicated at the end of the work session, Council will discuss the consider the purchase to buy a dump truck.

3rd Street Widening and Property Acquisition Process Review:

Mayor **Hall** directed Council to refer to information provided in packets relating to the property acquisition process that the City will need to undertake moving forward with the construction and widening of 3rd Street. It is important for the Council to review this process, participate and hold meetings for public during this project. Mayor **Hall** opened the floor for discussion. Councilor **Martin** asked what part of the process is the City at and if the City has spoken with the property owners regarding the widening yet; the Mayor replied that the City will soon begin the project but does not have an action plan being in the preliminary stages of the project. Part of the acquisition process is public outreach and information. The City will need to come up with an action plan before notifying residents. The project has been awarded grant monies from Community Development Block Grant, MSTIP Opportunity Fund and Special Cities Allotment Grant. The City has recently been informed of changes to the scope of work requiring stormwater improvements not originally included in the project but will be required to provide at an additional cost of approximately \$30,000. In discussions with Community Development Block Grant regarding increased costs for stormwater, they are willing to go to their Policy Advisory Board to request additional grant funds to offset costs associated with changes to the project as with the City contributing much more than anticipated. Councilor **Martin** wanted to know how the people on 3rd Street felt or if they wanted the street improved or not. Further discussion had on what the outlook of Gaston will look like within the next two years, reducing

or changing the amount of right-of-way and flexibility in the project to reduce impact and improve street and pedestrian traffic. As with any project; these street improvements will have some opposition but the City in the preliminary stages establishing an outline and discussion of what will go on during construction. Mayor **Hall** stated now is the time to have discussions on eminent domain as he is not particularly in favor of the process but will support the Council regardless. Public Works Director clarified to Council the City can construct the street and sidewalk without the extra right-of-way identified, but the City needs to consider the increasing traffic and growth of Gaston as the exception for acquiring additional property for utilities. He went on to further clarify the City has made changes to the scope of work that includes lessening the improvements to the east side of the street and major improvements exclusively on the west side including the sidewalk. Public Works Director **Whittaker** explained he is in favor of changing the traffic pattern to a one-way street as it's been briefly discussed with some of the property owners. Councilor **Richter** indicated the City will need to make accommodating improvements as the school is building a future for Gaston. Mayor **Hall** stated the City will need to complete this project in the next two years and does not want something along this project to fall through the cracks and indicated this is a big project with staff and Council needing to be informed of the procedures and steps along the way. Public Works Director **Whittaker** concurred the best thing the Council can do is read the material and become familiar with ORS 35 regarding eminent domain. Mayor **Hall** indicated he was recently contacted by developers interested in a vacant lot on 3rd Street next to the church to put in an apartment complex and concurred with Councilor **Spaulding's** opinion that development needs to move in the direction of the City's increasing population. Mayor **Hall** called for further comments or questions on 3rd Street. None heard.

Wayne Wiebke, -Friends of the Yamhales Westsider Trail:

Mayor **Hall** informed Council Wayne **Wiebke** from the Friends of the Yamhales Westsider Trail was present to provide an update on the trail and request a letter of endorsement towards the trail to Yamhill County, grant applicant for further development of the Yamhales Trail. Wayne **Wiebke** updated Council on the status of the Yamhales Trail with Yamhill County recently voting 2:1 in favor of amending their county-wide transportation master plan, adopted in 2015 proposing the purchase and development of the Yamhales Trail but by December 2017, the County was able to finalize purchase of over 12 miles for the trail system. The amendment would allow for construction of the trail only after the master planning phase was complete and approved by Yamhill County Commissioners. The City Clerk requested a letter of support for a grant at Brown Park from the Friends of Yamhales Westsider Trail organization as they are more than happy to provide and are interested in having the deed reciprocated by asking the City for a letter of endorsement to support Yamhill County in further acquisition of funding as the Friends of the Yamhales Westsider Trail organization will no longer need to continue efforts applying for grants at this time. Wayne **Wiebke** wanted to make note the City of Yamhill will begin their efforts in preliminary discussions of the Yamhales Trail and will have a meeting next week which he will be attending. The City of Yamhill will discuss their planning of the trail which the City of Gaston has already got ahead start with but will be a meeting also to discuss the trail with surrounding business owners, which have had a lot of opposition recently. He suggested it would be advantageous to benefit both cities to connect and discuss the trail together. Mayor **Hall** stated the City cannot move forward with the trail system without a deal with Pacific Union Railroad with the portion of the trail the City is trying to acquire. Public Works Director

Whittaker asked the Council if a representative from Gaston either Staff or Council would be in support to attend the City of Yamhill's meeting scheduled June 22nd at 10am. Councilor **Meeker** requested he would be involved with this meeting. It was suggested to the City Council by Wayne **Wiebke** that this is the first of many meetings where the City of Yamhill is meeting with the business owners and residents who would be directly impacted by the trail. It may not be in the best interest of the trail to have the entire City Staff and Council attend this particular meeting; it may seem overwhelming with that many in attendance, but he will convey this meeting with the City of Gaston, and reiterate to Yamhill that Gaston and Carlton work with the City for this trail project. Mayor **Hall** asked if this meeting would be a good time to introduce the transportation line that would provide transportation for use of the trail has money recently allocated money through the pipeline from Yamhill County. The state has allocated monies for rural communities for bus transportation and work together for a mass transit system. **Wiebke** suggested contacting Yamhill County regarding the allocation of these transportation monies. By consensus of the Council Brent **Whittaker** was directed to attend the meeting at Yamhill on the 22nd at 10AM in reference to the Yamhales Trail. No further discussion.

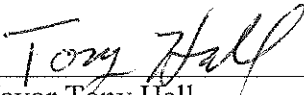
Mayor **Hall** introduced Brent **Whittaker** as a citizen of Gaston coming before the Council asking the City to support an archery fundraising event sponsoring the Gaston Youth Sports at Brown Park. Preliminary discussion had with Sylvan Archers, already having met with their board; asked if the City would be interested in hosting an archery shoot. They would provide the equipment and supplies and had even approached him and be willing to sponsor individuals from Gaston to become certified archery instructor to begin a school program if the school was interested in providing its students with after school programs. The purpose of coming before Council with this idea is to ask the Council for permission to host the event at Brown Park for Gaston Youth Sports and be granted a variance or an exception to the discharge of firing a weapon in city limits. This would give kids year-round other than standard sports and avenue other than getting into trouble. Councilor **Meeker** wanted to know where the arrows would be aimed toward with **Whittaker** stating they would be aimed at the dyke. Discussion heard on insurance costs and programs offered through Silvan Archers that would benefit the school through grants.

Mayor **Hall** called Brent **Whittaker** back to the position of Public Works Director and instructed the Public Works Director to research information regarding the ability to fire arrows in town with a consensus from the Council.

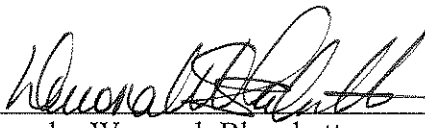
Mayor **Hall** asked the Recorder to announce for the record how much money the City has collected from the Gaston Farm and Artisan Market since May 17th with a total of \$800 in fees. Those monies go toward the park fund for costs associated with the farmers market operations.

Mayor **Hall** announced Councilor **Richter** was interested in purchasing on behalf of the City a dump truck that is for sale outside of town. Discussion heard on the benefits and features of the vehicle and discussed buying this sort of vehicle and versatility it could offer the City instead of a tractor. Councilor **Spaulding** stated the City would benefit better with purchase of a tractor, not a dump truck. No further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor **Hall** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 6:57PM.



Mayor Tony Hall

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette