

**June 15, 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**. Others audience members present are represented on the sign-up sheet. (*attached*)

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 6:27PM.
- II. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor **Meeker** called for questions from the Council regarding appointing Tim **Sullivan** to seat 5 with a term ending December 2022. None heard, Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to appoint Tim **Sullivan** was made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion passed with aye votes heard from: **Meeker, Martin, Dooley, DePiero, Richter**, and **Bell**. Nay: 0. Mayor **Meeker** administered the Oath of Office to Tim **Sullivan** and sat at the City Hall table.
- III. **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
Councilor Tim **Sullivan**: Present
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- IV. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports beginning with the Police department:
Police: Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to the Council for May with the following:
 - There is a total of 59 incidents, with 18 of those self-initiated, public demand calls up 18 for a total of 41 calls. 6 reports, 2 arrests, 19 traffic stops and 4 tickets were written.
 - Other items discussed are the residents which appear to be camping on property on South Road that is not within the City limits and issues from Salter Street residents.**Supervisor:** Mayor **Meeker** called on Councilor **Bell** to provide council with a report with the following:
 - Research is being done for ball field uses amongst neighboring parks; how each ball field charges for sports uses and maintenance of fields. Some miscommunications between the ball field users and the City have occurred but it continues to get better as time goes on. The City will be working on a new contract for ball use next year.**Public Works Report:** Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** provided his report to the Council with the following:
 - Cove Orchard water meter has failed and currently water is being bypassed without metering at this time. A new meter and parts have been ordered but needs to be engineered to ensure longevity and accuracy or possibly move to a different location
 - Repairs have been made towards the line near Country Mobile Estates that provides water through two other meters which a tee was installed.

- Inmate work crew removed blackberries along the highway and provided maintenance towards the park. Lunch and refreshments were provided by the deputy and city.

At this time, Public Works Director **Mapes** physically left the meeting and Councilor **DePiero** (*attending virtually*) was disconnected from the meeting.

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

- Legal:
 - Ordinance 22-002 has been provided for council's consideration for election processes.
 - Temporary contract between the City and Tetra Tech is in place and currently working with the attorney with the RFQ.
- Financial:
 - As discovered by the accountant, PERS corrections were made in the accounting system.
 - Fund balances have been corrected as reported previous grant revenues were allocated to the wrong fund accounts. Those corrections have been made.
 - Working with Pauly Rogers in providing the necessary information needed to complete the 2020-2021 audit.
 - Several resolutions are on the agenda for Council to consider for the 2021-2022 supplemental budget and for adopting the 2022-2023 budget.
- Planning/Land Use: Preparing a non-remonstrance agreement for 316 Church Street as well as questions heard for annexing property within the urban growth boundary. No action taken or needed.
- Municipal Court: No Updates.
- Cottonwood Street grant is near completion administratively. Still working on completing final paperwork to receive the final \$189,000 for ODOT's portion to pay and for completing administrative work towards the SCA Grant funds and 3rd Street in the amount of \$25,000.
- June 22, 2022, a luncheon is scheduled to take place at Gaston City Hall sponsored through the League of Oregon Cities. Please RSVP if interested in attending.

V.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Councilor **Bell** and seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Aye: 6, Nay: 0. Motion carried with aye votes heard from **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: 0.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Juneteenth Holiday Designation: Motion made by Councilor **Sullivan** and seconded by Councilor **Richter** to declare Juneteenth a legal holiday for the City of Gaston and to close City Hall in observance each year. Motion passed with aye votes heard from: **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richer, and Dooley**. Nay: 0. This includes making changes towards the employee handbook to recognize Juneteenth holiday as a paid holiday for employees.

Knights of Pythias Trophy Sponsor: The Recorder explained the City pays each year for the Mayor and Public Works Trophy awards for the Wapato Car Show and have for Council to consider paying again this year, 2 awards at \$130 each. Council by mutual consensus agreed to pay the \$260 for the car show awards for the 2022 Wapato Car Show.

City Recorder Wage Review: Discussion heard amongst the Council and City Recorder on current wages and desired wages with a motion made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Dooley** to increase Recorder **Blanchette's** wages to \$25 an hour effective July 1st, 2022. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None

Ordinance No. 22-002, An Ordinance of the City of Gaston Regarding Nomination for Elective Office: Motion to adopt Ordinance 22-002 was made by Councilor **Bell** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: 0.

Resolution 22-006 A Resolution Increase Water Rates and Establishing Fees: Lengthy discussion lead by Councilor **Bell** was heard for recommending changes to the draft resolution updating the water rates for simplicity and economic factors relating to the number of users per established account per multiple units. It was decided to have the base fee of \$40 per 2,000 gallons, \$50 for out of town, country mobile estates, and trails end pressurized system. It was decided to have the per 1,000 gallons cost at \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons for in town water rate and \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons for out of town, country mobile and trails end pressurized system. Cove Orchard was raised to \$6.00 per 1,000 gallon and the bulk water standpipe sales at \$15.00. Motion to adopt Resolution 22-006 with the updated corrections was made by Councilor **Bell** and seconded by Councilor **Martin**. Motion passed. Voting Aye: **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Sullivan, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.

OLD BUSINESS: *None heard.*

COMPLAINTS:


New— 304 Church Street: Hazardous Vegetation: By mutual consensus of the Council agreed to send the property owner a letter noting the noxious weeds violation and to remove the violation as outlined in a letter sent to the property owner. The Recorder was directed to send the property owner a letter requesting the hazardous vegetation be cleared by the next council meeting.

Old— *None heard.*

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Bell** with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 9:11PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, Sullivan, Bell, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette