

**March 16, 2022
Regular Session
City of Gaston
In-Person & Zoom Videoconference**

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

Absent: Mario **DePiero** and Don **Richter**.

Staff Present: Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes**, City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Deputy Jarrod **McCreary**.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 7:51PM.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: *absent*
Councilor Bill **Martin**: Present
Councilor Robert **Dooley**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: Present
Councilor Billy **Nice**: Present
Councilor Don **Richter**: *absent*
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with the meeting being turned over to the property representative of 113 Front Street discussing the property owner was contacted by the City informing them they are not allowed to park an RV on the property and live in it as it appears that someone is living there.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Mayor **Meeker** called for citizen communication with comments heard from heard the property representative at 113 Front Street. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** explained having a recreational vehicle at the property can only be used as storage on the property as it is zoned industrial and using the property as a residence is not allowed within the industrial zone criteria. The City will be sending the property owner a letter requesting that the RV be used as storage on the property and not as a residence requiring it be remedied within 10 days of the date of the letter. No action needed or taken.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called to begin staff reports beginning with the Police department:
Police: Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to the Council for February:
 - Stats are down for the month with no major issues. One incident involved a parent getting mouthy with a referee and had the police called. The individual left before police could arrive.
 - Another incident was reported in which an individual was able to convince another to send nude photos from a group chat and was trying to extort money or said photos would be sent to his parents. Mom called the police and was told likely these scams are done over-seas with not much else is able to be done but was told not to send nudes to anyone online.
 - Main and 1st Street resident that has had issues with multiple has 6 charges pending from previous thefts in the area but previously arrested for a felony theft involving reported stolen tools which were later pawned at the pawn shop where the tool was found. Within the next couple weeks, the evidence will go before the grand jury to determine if he gets help or jail time. At this time the deputy asked for questions with none heard.

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

- Legal: Recorder **Blanchette** provided an update that the Gaston Heights attorney and the city attorney are trying to resolve the issue of Tim McDonald owing the City for development fees which Tim **McDonald** does not agree to pay.
- Financials:
 - This month's finances reflect positive numbers for the General Fund and the accountant's report is available and will be sent to the City Councilors.
- Funding Options for Onion Lane: Public Works Specialist **Mapes** is the lead on this project and will be working with Business Oregon to purchase the Flaherty property.
- 316 Church Street: Partition for adding a lot line to split one property into two separate properties was filed with the City and awaiting further information from the City Planner.
- Several inquiries have been made for the 10-lot, Scoggins Heights subdivision which has some stormwater and sewer utilities, but the subdivision previously approved in the early 1990s is not finalized.
- Municipal Court was held March 15th with two individuals seeing the Judge for arraignment, one pleaded not guilty and will be going to trial, the second pleaded no contest and is eligible for traffic school.
- Staff is working with the City Engineer and Business Oregon in funding a Water Masterplan update, leak detection study and a seismic assessment for City Hall. No updates.
- 3rd Street and Cottonwood Street grant projects are close to finalizing those projects with required reporting to their respective agencies.
- The Communications franchise was adopted and signed by the City and forwarded to Zply Fiber for their signature.
- Mid-Year Recorders conference is in April and registered to go April 14th and 15th to Lincoln City.
- TextMyGov proposal is included for Council to consider. This provides the City with a clear complaint/concern process that enables Gaston residents/customers to text pictures or file complaints online 24/7. The program also supports 24/7 emergency reporting in the event the City suffers an emergency the City can respond instantly.

Public Works Report: Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** provided February's report for Council with the following:

- Conflicts with the Gaston School, Gaston Youth Sports and the City using Brown Park's ball fields have resulted with fields unable to use and are meeting tomorrow to discuss this issue. Looking at purchasing a turf roller to help prepare the fields for ball play.
- Posted the part time job opening starting at \$36,000 as part time until the next fiscal year and then move to full time. It was decided Public Work Specialist **Mapes** will complete recruitment for the position and recommend to Council hiring a seasonal worker.
- Meters installation was discussed, water radio reads along with budget additions to include purchasing a public works vehicle.
- Gaston Heights will begin installing water services as part of phase 2 of the development.

Supervisor Report: Councilor **Bell** reported staff has been in communication regarding closures and illnesses at City Hall. Councilor **Bell** thanked Council for their patience with the last couple of month's water meter reading and problems that resulted in water bills being sent to customers late.

VI.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to approve the consent agenda with a motion made by Councilor **Bell** following second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Dooley, Meeker, Martin, Bell, and Richter**. Nay: None. Motion carried.

*Bills Payable February 2022 *Exhibit A**

January 19, 2022, Regular Council Meeting
January 23, 2022, Special Meeting

Councilor **Dooley** requested the City install a street light on Cottonwood and 1st street to improve visibility due to additional thefts in town. No action taken.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

CDBG National Community Development Week April 11-April 15, 2022, Mayor **Meeker** read aloud the proclamation with Councilor **Martin** motioning to approve the National Community Development Week Proclamation Week April 11-15, 2022, and Councilor **Bell** seconding the motion. Motion carried with aye votes heard from: **Dooley, Meeker, Martin, Bell, and Nice**. Nay: 0

OLD BUSINESS:

Washington County Police Services: It was decided to table the Police Services annual contract for Police Services for 2022 for after the budget committee meetings.

TextMyGov Proposal: It was mutually decided amongst the Council to table any decisions for additional services for after the budget committee meetings to determine if the City has the money.

Projects Update: none.

COMPLAINTS:

New— *None heard.*

Old—

Trash Dumpster for 1st Street: Public Works provided a report of the communication between the property owners of the apartments and the City regarding the trash bin requesting their tenants subscribe to individual garbage containers. It was previously decided to require the property owner require tenants obtain their own garbage containers rather than having one large trash bin that is being taken advantage of and is unlawfully being used by others. Council directed Public Works to research enforcement ordinances regarding Waste Collection services.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **DePiero** with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 8:00PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette