

**March 22, 2019  
Special Meeting  
City of Gaston**

**Present:** Mayor Jerry **Spaulding**, David **Meeker**, Bill **Martin**, Mario **DePiero**, Sarah **Branch**, and Suzy **Carver**, and Don **Richter**.

**Staff:** City Clerk Sharon **Bregante-Candau**, Public Works Director **Whittaker**

I. Mayor Jerry **Spaulding** called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Clerk **Bregante-Candau** conducted the roll call for the record with:

Councilor Mario **DePiero**: present

Councilor David **Meeker**: present

Councilor Bill **Martin**: present

Mayor Jerry **Spaulding**: present

Councilor Sarah **Branch**: present

Councilor Suzy **Carver**: present

Councilor Don **Richter**: present

III. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **Bills Payable-March 2019**

Clerk **Bregante-Candau** confirmed the outstanding March 2018 bills from Portland General Electric had been added since the last meeting and addressed clarifying questions from Council. The total Bills Payable was \$37,500.35.

Public Works Director **Whittaker** clarified the water deposit refund approved by Council at the last meeting was not a Bills Payable item, adding a credit had been made on that account.

Motion by Councilor **Branch**, seconded by Councilor **DePiero**, to approve the March 2019 Bills Payable, totaling \$37,500.35. Motion carried 6 to 0 to 1. Ayes: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Branch, Richter, and Carver**. Nays: 0 Abstained: Mayor **Spaulding**.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Washington County Sheriff's Contract**

Mayor **Spaulding** stated that rather than approving the contract, he preferred an explanation of costs from the Sheriff, which could be done at the next Regular Session.

Mayor **Spaulding** noted another Special Meeting was scheduled for next Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and City Attorney Ruben Cleaveland would explain the report, which he encouraged the Councilors to read, adding Council would make a decision regarding City Recorder Blanchette. He noted only one report was available and it must be read at City Hall; no copies were allowed, though City Attorney Cleaveland might provide some for the Councilors at the meeting. The report would not be provided via email.

Councilor **Branch** clarified the contract with the Washington County Sheriff's Office included a cost of living increase of 3.9 percent, but otherwise remained the same as the existing contract. Councilor **Richter** noted most cost of living increases this year have been 2 percent. Councilor **Branch** noted an initial budget meeting was scheduled before the Regular Session next week, so it would be helpful to see where the increase fit in the budget picture, rather than approving the contract tonight. Based on her review, she strongly suggested the City continue with the current agreement. Councilor **Richter** agreed. Councilor **Meeker** requested a definition of the indirect costs shown on the schedule.

Public Works Director **Whittaker** recognized Clerk Bregante-Candau for the phenomenal job she had done with addressing the work that needed done and connecting with vendors and identifying where things may have fallen through the cracks, as well as organizing everything

and getting the till in line. Councilor **Branch** noted this Bills Payable was more comprehensive than previously seen, adding Clerk Bregante-Candau had done an excellent job.

Mayor **Spaulding** clarified Council could not discuss filling the open position at this time, although the matter would eventually come before the Council.

Councilor **Branch** requested future discussions about a potential lease agreement with the Gaston School District for utilizing Brown Park, rather than a seasonal contract, as well as including weekly or bi-weekly cleaning services in the budget, which she strongly advocated, and potentially having a City Manager.

Councilor **Martin** commented the City should have had one long ago or none of this would have started or been happening right now; plain and simple.

Councilor **Branch** asked about the City's involvement to get volunteers to join the Budget Committee. Clerk **Bregante-Candau** stated she had sent letters to the list of people recommended to be on the Committee. She also contacted the newspaper about publishing the public notices for the budget meeting in accordance with all of the budget rules and regulations.

Councilor **Branch** added she wanted to ensure water improvement projects were addressed in the budget as well, due to the significant, ongoing issues.

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor **Spaulding** confirmed there was no further business and adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.



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Mayor Jerry Spaulding

Mayor David Meeker

Attest:



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City Clerk Sharon Bregante-Candau