

**May 18, 2022
Regular Session
City of Gaston
In-Person & Zoom Videoconference**

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Mario **DePiero**, Bill **Martin**, Robert **Dooley**, Billy **Nice**, 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 7:03PM.
- II. **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 Billy **Nice**: Present
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Public Works Specialist requested to remove the Brown Park User Form from the agenda. Mayor **Meeker** and Council agreed to strike the Brown Park User Form from the agenda.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Erika **Stark** sure of the location, layout and wanted to make sure the layout of the Farmers Market and to move a porta pottie over to the Onion Lane location. Public works suggested contacting the Fire Department for the use of power during the Farmers Market. Cones will be placed in certain locations for parking to ensure safety. A map was provided by **Stark**.
- 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 March:
 - County network is down and cannot use the computers to provide stats for the City.
 - Inmate workers the water tower, the playground area, the restroom of fish and wildlife with more days planned.
 - One in town arrested. More concerns with this specific resident were brought up by additional persons in town and others associated through the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Supervisor Report: Margaret **Bell** reported she is coming down to town to help the Recorder with some filing in the office. Public Works has been busy. The current bills this month include purchase of a new mower for \$8,900 to haul behind the tractor to mow and mulch grass at Brown Park

Public Works Report: Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** provided April report for Council with the following:

- Lines on Matteson road at the country estates sprung a leak and used the vac trailer, exposed the area and determined there was a 1-inch meter feeds a 2 inch main that goes

under the country mobile road, through the field and up west. Found a lot of things down there that is questionable and is repaired should last a few years. It's not the best scenario for a 1-inch service providing water to other meters.

- Inmate work crew up 3 times doing park, blackberries, piles of trash removed, bringing the dumpster to City Hall and spoke to the City about putting the garbage behind City Hall.
- The park is still flooded. Most of the fields are under water with having the city truck stuck down there.
- Waiting to fix the water line break down by the fire department until weather improves and contractors are available.
- Fisher family Trust donated the property at Brown Park in 2007 the City was late filing earmarking the property to the City. After discussion was with Council it was decided to pay Flaherty the \$10 fee per year to have access to the property. It looks like it would be 2-3 years before Flaherty can donate the property.
- The white truck is going to the shop on Friday.
- The old mower is running but still need to find bearings to repair to working condition.
- Mayor **Meeker** provided comments declaring the need for equipment in the future as well as help. The City will increase in population with Gaston Heights and will need to accommodate for the increase. Public Works further explained the area fixed at Matteson Road needs to be completely rebuilt near country mobile estates. There is a leak in the vault for cove orchard. What currently is happening with the system is the age and the lack of maintenance done towards it. The hydrants are bad, there's no restraints put in the ground and the meters have not been flushed. Water rate increases were discussed to raise rates for the base fee. It was decided to have Public Works prepare a resolution for council to review and adopt increasing fees. Discussion heard on increasing the base fee by \$15 and with the rate remaining the same but providing 2,000 gallons. Also, to add \$3.50 per customer fee for a monthly stormwater fee.

Kelly Connect Services Proposal revised: Mayor **Meeker** requested to have representatives from Kelly Connect provide their revised proposal as there were in attendance online. The meeting was turned over to Bruce **Campbell** who explained their revised proposal does not include library computers as was originally proposed. This significantly drops the cost down and Kelly Connect provides additional services not exclusive to IT services including video monitoring, 24/7 support, and new equipment. By mutual consensus the Council agreed there is not enough money to engage into a contract with Kelly Connect. No action taken.

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

- Legal: Recorder **Blanchette** requested Council to designate either the Recorder or the Public Works Specialist as the main point of contact in moving forward with the RFQ process in obtaining engineering services. Council directed the Recorder to prepare the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to select a city engineer.
- Financials:
 - Fund balances have been corrected from last month as well as other minor corrections have been made towards the finances from the accountant.
 - 2020-2021 audit is near completion.
 - Supplemental budget hearing was had with the current year's resolutions to adopt the budget will be ready next month.
- Land Use:
 - Inquiry was heard from surrounding property owners outside the urban growth boundary wanting to annex into the area. Staff is working with the Planner in preparing a non-remonstrance agreement for 316 Church Street.
- Municipal Court: Approximately four individuals were arraigned, and one had a trial.

- 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.
- FYI:
 - The Spring Cleanup and bulky waste day was held the 1st week in May.
 - Reporting for ARPA funds were submitted April 30th as required by the American Rescue Plan Act.
 - The League of Oregon Cities has reached out to the City in providing a location to host a small cities lunch on June 22nd. Discussion heard to have the Gaston Market provide lunch for this event.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Recorder **Blanchette** provided a second bills payable list and requested Council include the bills payable list 2 to with the 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 **DePiero, Martin, Meeker, Bell, Nice, Richter** and **Dooley**. Nay: 0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to adopt **Resolution 22-001 A Resolution Extending Workers Comp Coverage to Volunteers of the City of Gaston, Resolution 22-002, A Resolution Declaring the Eligibility of the City of Gaston to Receive State Funds and Declaring Municipal Services Provided by the City of Gaston, Resolution 22-003, A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues, Resolution 22-004, A Resolution Imposing and Categorizing Taxes, and Resolution 22-005, A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Appropriating Funds**, was made by Councilor **Richter** and seconded by Councilor **DePiero** to Motion carried with aye votes heard from **DePiero, Martin, Meeker, Bell, Nice, Richter**, and **Dooley**. Nay: None.

Councilor **Nice** provided a verbal resignation from Council seat 5, vacating his Council seat. Motion to accept **Billy Nice's** resignation was made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. The position was declared vacant and open for appointment with that appointment occurring at the next council meeting. Aye: **Martin, Meeker, Bell, Nice, Richter**, and **Dooley**. Nay: **DePiero**. Motion passed.

Mayor **Meeker** announced that every Thursday there's a food bank in town and if anyone knows someone who needs food, please direct them to the Wapato Church Thursdays 5-7PM.

By a mutual consensus of Council, it was agreed to permanently change the meeting time for the regular council meetings to 6 0' clock by Councilor **Martin** with seconded heard by Councilor **Richter**. Aye: 6 Nay: 0

OLD BUSINESS: *None heard.*

COMPLAINTS:

New— *None heard.*

Old— *None heard.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Bell** with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 8:32PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Richter**, and **Dooley**. Nay: None.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette