

**November 18, 2020  
Regular Session  
City of Gaston  
Zoom Videoconference**

**Present:** Mayor David **Meeker**, Council President Bill **Martin**, Mario **DePiero**, Andrew **Sewall**, Margaret **Bell**, and Don **Richter**.

**Absent:** Tony **Hall** and Public Works Specialist Richard **Mapes**

**Staff Present:** City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jarod **McCreary**.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the regular meeting to order at 7:40 PM. *(this meeting is delayed due to technical difficulties)*
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:  
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: present  
Councilor Andrew **Sewall**: present  
Councilor Bill **Martin**: present  
Mayor David **Meeker**: present  
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: present  
Councilor Tony **Hall**: *absent*  
Councilor Don **Richter**: present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with the Recorder announcing the Public Works Specialist will not be present at this meeting due to an illness but requested Council's approval on the Onion Lane property and the telemetry upgrade.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:**  
Mayor **Meeker** called for citizen communication with none heard.
- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**  
**Recorders Report:** Recorder **Blanchette** provided her report with the following:
  - Legal:
    - The attorney is reviewing the proposed contract for Waste Management's waste collection franchise.
    - The City Charter Update measure appears to have passed and to those who ran in the recent election for the 3 open positions won those seats unopposed.
  - Complaints: Received an update on the nuisance complaint at 104 2<sup>nd</sup> Street confirming the local Deputy and property owner confirmed the fence which was cited in the complaint violating the Livestock Ordinance has been removed.
  - Financials: November tax revenue will offset the negative balance in the General Fund once those are collected. That is approximately \$230,000 that will be collected mostly in November, but throughout the remaining fiscal year. Monthly statements that are provided by the accountant will be emailed to Council after the meeting.
  - Planning: The minor land use partition was approved.
  - Municipal Court: Court was held November 17<sup>th</sup> with six appearing before the Judge with fourteen on the docket and is the first time with the new judge. Traffic school will be an option for many folks as a diversion option.
  - Other items occurring include bulk water sales and the need to have the standpipe meter replaced due to water loss, 100 3<sup>rd</sup> Street stormwater drainage repair, and 301 W. Main Street multiple chickens, possible violation of the livestock ordinance. By mutual consensus of the Council, staff was directed to follow the nuisance process outlined in the nuisance ordinance sending a letter of violation to 301 W. Main Street for their chickens, citing there are more chickens than what is allowed in the livestock ordinance. A complaint was also heard regarding multiple dogs at 101 3<sup>rd</sup> Street citing they have

more than what is allowed per the livestock ordinance which is no more than three dogs. Ziply was contracted to establish a telecommunications franchise considering the last franchise adoption occurred in 1993.

- Grants:
  - Received the street grant for the Small Cities Allotment (SCA) for 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Hoping to receive additional funds for 1<sup>st</sup> Street from the Safe Routes to Schools program.
  - Cottonwood project has been slightly changed the scope of work to accommodate for the last property owner declining to sign the temporary construction easement. This will allow for the project to proceed.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Street property offer letters have been sent to the property owners with 2 of the five responding positively.

**Police:** Deputy **McCreary** provided a verbal report for October to the Council:

- Municipal Court was held on November 17, 2020, reporting the judge offered school to six of the individuals who showed up. A total of fourteen were arraigned, noting eight did not show up for court. Offering traffic school will reduce revenue from the Court system and will not be able to maintain the municipal court operations if the City offers everyone traffic school. Discussion heard on processes and procedures for operating municipal court systems. No action taken.
- There is a two-week pause for COVID with several phone calls made questioning the Governors authority.
- PGE was consulted about installing lights along Highway 47 near the Onion Lane property.
- The City submitted a vegetation lease form to clean up the railroad right-of-way which includes several hundred feet of briars and blackberry bushes on their property.
- Stats for October include zero arrests and numbers from last month mirror this month.

Mayor **Meeker** turned the meeting over to Dean **Kampfer** from Waste Management.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS:

**Waste Management Franchise:** Dean **Kampfer**, Municipal Marketing Manager from Waste Management discussed with Council extending the franchise agreement with hopes of carrying a contract for franchise services for Gaston another seven years. Included for Council's review is a draft agreement prepared by Waste Management requesting questions at this time. Councilor **Bell** stated in the draft contract, under Terms and Conditions that Waste Management will not collect Metro fees because the City of Gaston is outside of the Metro Portland area. **Kampfer** responded that when collection services occur outside the metro area; they apply their excise tax to those areas. It is suggested to contact Metro if there are questions regarding their fees. Further discussion was heard on correcting specific language in the contract. Yard debris will be available with a 64-gallon cart that is picked up every other week at a subscription cost. No action taken

- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda which includes bills payable for November 2020, September 16, 2020, Regular Session, and October 21, 2020. Questions heard on the bills payable regarding on call engineering services and water fund classification designation for the emergency electrical repair from Five Star Electric. Motion to approve the consent agenda was motioned by Councilor **Sewall** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried. Aye votes heard from **DePiero, Richter, Sewall, Martin, Meeker, and Bell**. Nay: None.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

**Terminate Contract with Hiland Water Inc., for DRC Services:** Motion to terminate the contract with Hiland Water Inc., for DRC Services was made by Councilor **Richter**. Public Works Specialist **Mapes** is certified for Level 1 Distribution with the City will no longer need Hiland Water for Direct Responsible Charge (DRC). Motion was seconded by Councilor **Bell**. Motion passed. Aye: **DePiero, Sewall, Meeker, Bell, Richter, and Martin**. Nay: 0.

**X. COMPLAINTS:**

**New—**

Railroad Easement Briars: Recorder **Blanchette** explained the City is seeking to establish contact but has not been successful with contacting a representative of the railroad company requesting maintenance in removing briars along several hundred feet or allow the city to remove the briars.

Discussion heard on repairing the water line on E. Main Street to include new water connections to the City property, the Subaru Repair Shop, and Coffee Shop. Due to the Public Works Specialist absence from the meeting, it was decided amongst the Council to table decisions towards E. Main water lines until he is available to answer questions. It was requested to have a special meeting if the water leak at E. Main Street was causing a concern but needed the Public Works Specialist to make that determination. Also discussed are capital improvements needed and water meters needing to be replaced.

Councilor **Martin** motioned to approve the purchase of a truck bed toolbox for \$7,999 and was seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Voting Aye: **DePiero, Sewall, Meeker, Bell, Richter, and Martin**. Nay: None.

Councilor **Martin** made a motion to purchase the trailer. No second heard. Motion failed. It was determined that the Public Work Specialist will need to answer questions before the Council approves the purchase.

**Old— (None)**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor **DePiero** with second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 8:58PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor David Meeker

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette