

**October 19, 2022
Regular Session
City of Gaston
In-Person & Zoom Videoconference**

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Mario **DePiero**, Bill **Martin**, Robert **Dooley**, Tim **Sullivan**, Margaret **Bell**, and Don **Richter**. Washington County Commissioner Jerry **Willey**, Laura **Cornils** Patty **Oeffner**, Chris **Hansen**, Rick **Lorenz**, and Jacob **Marsh**.

Absent: None

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 6:01PM
- 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
City Councilor Tim **Sullivan**: Present
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with none heard.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNIATON:** Commissioner **Willey** was present to speak to Council regarding his position as a Washington County Commissioner and concerns community members have with Washington County and the upcoming election. Commissioner **Willey** discussed Washington County's ban on flavored tobacco with comments heard from Deputy **McCreary** regarding the inability to cite minors for MIPs. Other items discussed Psilocybin and expanding broadband internet services. Commissioner **Willey** left at 6:22PM

Laura **Cornils** representative of Gaston Youth Sports was present to discuss with the Council concerns that information is not being provided adequately and appropriately throughout the Community in respect to the upcoming elections. Notice for upcoming elections should be made more available for community members to know what seats and positions are up for reelection. It was suggested to use the water bills note area to ensure that community members are notified of important events with the City. Further discussion led to confirming with Laura **Cornils** and her high school class in preparing a City newsletter to be distributed with water bills.

- V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**
Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports beginning with the Recorders Report:

Recorders Report: Recorder **Blanchette** provided her report:

- Audit report is finally completed for 2020-2021 fiscal year and has been submitted to the Secretary of State to release the 10% hold on tax revenue withheld from the City for the audit report late. Councilor **Bell** asked for a refund due to Pauly Rogers filing the City's audit report late with the Recorder responding the City would benefit to solicit for a new auditor. A consensus of the Council was made to hire a new audit company.
- Financial report for September was provided by Mike **Marr** and emailed to Councilors.
- Municipal Court will be held on November 15th and a trial is scheduled.

Police: Deputy **McCreary** reported for October stats are higher than before but no major issues.

- Resident at E. Main Street acquired a dog and went to jail with the dog left in the house. After some work, the Deputy assisted the resident and was able to turn the dog over to animal control.
- A dead fish was thrown from someone's car to someone house on Main street.
- Someone smoked 12 cigarettes at a resident's home that had nothing was stolen but did not live there.
- Instructed a class at the Gaston High School regarding drugs and the drug dog.
- A report of a naked male at oak and 2nd street was made only to find out it was in Hillsboro not Gaston.
- Fire station has a drunk male come in asking for assistance.
- Someone called dispatch for water needed from City Hall.
- Someone called dispatch for building permits regarding 101 E. Main Street.
- National Guard notified the City that the Homecoming game will have a howitzer and will fire off for each touchdown the Gaston School makes.
- Salter Street property owner is back at his house that has had calls for domestic disturbances.

Public Works Report: Public Works Specialist provided his report for October with the following:

- Will be working with a vac trailer to locate the water line to provide water service for the Coffee Shop and John **Lumley's** property. Parts and materials are still difficult to obtain due to supply demands.

At this time, Gaston Water customer Jacob **Marsh** arrived at the meeting at 7:09PM.

- Requested to purchase slats for the fence along the reservoir by Costelloe Drive.
- The Gaston Library has been open for 5 months with Public Works asking Council if they are still interested in using the facility for future Council Chambers. Mayor **Meeker** has a meeting with him next Tuesday to discuss their use of the building. No action needed.
- The park continues to have vandalism and fixed the fence on the east side of the park.
- Will speak with Gaston Youth Sports to remove stuff from the dugouts. Discussion was heard on closing the park for maintenance and using a roller in the spring potentially having fields closed for the 2023 year and reopening in 2024. It was decided not to close the park at this time, but additional discussions are needed to determine what will be done for maintenance for use in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor **Meeker** asked about the power usage at the Gaston Park discussing the Gaston Youth Sports and Wapato Car Show power usage during their events. It was requested the Recorder invoice Gaston Youth Sports and the Knights of Pythias for the power usage during their events. Councilor **Bell** motioned, and council **Richter** seconded for consent agenda. Motion carried. Aye: **Meeker, DePiero, Martin, Dooley, Sullivan, Bell, Don,** and **Richter**. Nay: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Water Meter Install: Public Works Specialist **Mapes** spoke to Council and informed them Hiland Water company installs water meters but is not happy with previous work done throughout town. Public Works was instructed to provide Council with a cost estimate for installing water meters already purchased to replace residential water meters with electric reads.

A 3rd bill was received by the City regarding Ted **Bracken's** request the City pay for damages caused by a leak that happened on the customers side of the meter. In the July meeting, Council

reviewed and denied paying a \$1,500 invoice submitted to the City from his insurance company. Mayor **Meeker** stated that 2 years ago the resident said he had a leak under his house and could not find it. As previously discussed, anything on the customer side of the meter is the customers responsibility. Council directed staff to write a letter telling him that the City is not responsible for his bill and not to send the City anymore correspondence or it will be turned over to the attorney.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: *None*

VIII. COMPLAINTS:


New—Jacob **Marsh**, resident at Country Mobile Estates was present to discuss his water bill informing Council he has lived at the park for 3 years. The water bill has never been larger than \$200 and last month the bill was \$519. Further discussion resulted with the City offering a credit of \$250 towards the bill but that the reading is correct but unsure why the reading was so high. Motion to credit \$250 off Jacob **Marsh's** water bill was made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **Richter**. Aye: 7, Nay: 0.

Old— *None*

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor **Bell** with second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 7:31PM. Aye: **Meeker, Martin, Sullivan, DePiero, Richter, and Dooley**. Nay: None.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette