

**October 20, 2021
Regular Session
City of Gaston
Zoom Videoconference**

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

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 7:00 PM.
- 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:** Mayor **Meeker** called for additions or deletions to the agenda with Councilor **Richter** asking for the City to purchase radar speed signs for Church Street. Mayor **Meeker** called for a motion to purchase two (2) speed radar signs for Church Street with Councilor **Richter** motioning to purchase radar speed signs for Church Street with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Concerns with speeding on Church street was discussed with Deputy **McCreary** stating several techniques have been attempted towards reducing speeds but ultimately cannot enforce traffic complaints all hours of the day. No further discussion. Voting: Aye: **Richter, Martin, DePiero, Dooley, and Meeker**. Nay: **Nice and Bell**. Motion carried.
- IV. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Mayor **Meeker** announced an addition to the agenda unders citizen communication from Juanita **Lint** Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce for the Cities of Forest Grove & Cornelius and Rob **Drake**, City Manager of Cornelius. Both spoke to Council on behalf of the Chamber explaining the Commerce provides support to local businesses asking if the City is interested in joining. Gaston's business district is underrepresented in Washington County with Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce successful at preventing the second restaurant shutdown earlier this year is asking for memberships from Gaston. Originally disbanding years ago, the City of Cornelius joined the City of Forest Grove's Chamber of Commerce and is extending the invitation to Gaston. Fees range from \$150-\$1,700 for business memberships and provides business networking, exclusive incentives and opportunities that promote business development.

Councilor **Richter** announced additional items for the agenda asking for a "Dead-End" sign at the stop sign on 3rd and Church Street. Public Works will install a Dead-End sign at the noted located.

Due to technical difficulties PowerPoint presentation was not available on-screen for viewing from Juanita **Lint** and Rob **Drake** discussing costs, benefits, and incentives that Gaston businesses would benefit by joining the Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce. An email of the Power Point presentation will be sent for Council to review later. Council decided to have the Chamber of Commerce contact local businesses directly to obtain membership as Council will not require Gaston business to gain membership as a condition or an option of a licensed business within the City.

Juanita **Lint** and Rob **Drake** left the meeting at this time.

V. **STAFF/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Mayor **Meeker** called for staff reports starting with Police report:

Police: Deputy **McCreary** provided his report to the Council for September:

- Stats for the month of September reflect overall calls for services with police activity down.
- The Knights of Pythias building was tagged with spray paint.
- Domestic disturbance on Salter Street. This happens at least once a month.
- Local resident walking around acting strange and was placed on a mental hold.
- Several calls for service on Church Street resulting in violation of a restraining order with suspect taken to jail.
- Rape reported, still being investigated at the 100 block of 3rd Street.
- Washington County Health Department asked the City Library for use of their facilities to hold a vaccine clinic after protesting was alleged at the previous location selected. Gaston Library denied Washington County Health Department use of the Library due to insurance reasons with the City holding the clinic their City Hall location October 19th and October 21st.
- Deputy **McCreary** discussed with Council requesting Washington County Land Use and Transportation reduce speed on Springhill Road to Gaston Road to gradually slow traffic down to the 20MPH speed by Brown Park.

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

- The Attorney approved bond and insurance information for 3rd Street widening project.
- Financials will be available and sent to Council via email as prepared by the accountant in addition to again announcing the contract police services continues to use more than 60% of the annual general fund budget.
- America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were received with the City having deposited \$80,138.40 on September 24th with four categories identified for use of these funds as negative impacts from COVID, premium pay for essential works, paying the difference City revenue lost by COVID, and capital improvements towards investments into infrastructure.
- Working in obtaining a loan through Business Oregon from the Special Public Works Funds for purchasing the onion lane property offered by Scott **Flaherty**.
- Corrective Action Plan was submitted to the Oregon Department of Revenue.
- No updates for Rob **Danielson's** annexation of Country Mobile Estates.
- Meeting concluded there were no issues from the State Fire Marshall, the City, or the School removing the street extension of Cottonwood Street instead using the property for ball fields for the Gaston Heights Development.
- Hillsboro raised wholesale water rates from 1.63 ccf to 1.65 ccf effective January 2022.
- Training scheduled for both staff members to attend Outlook Office 365 virtually November 8th, 2021.

Public Works Report:

- Meter repair completed at Country Mobile Estates requiring the use of the pipe freeze kit.
- Fence repairs are being completed at the Park to restrict unauthorized vehicles from accessing the fields.
- Lead and Copper tests were performed this month with no issues and tests completed.
- Cove Orchard vault was repaired thanks to Western Iron Works. A large piece of equipment driving over the lid caused the lid to sink inside the vault but is repaired.

- Addressed flooding issues at Right Choice Automotive suggesting they add a storm line at the back of their property and connect it to the City's storm system.
- Purchased materials to secure the door at the Onion Lane building.
- No payment has been made from Gaston Heights for planning and engineering services previously recognized by Tim **McDonald** in paying a portion of these fees by October 1st. The City Attorney is looking into the issue.
- Improvements completed at the Mill Street pump station resulting in significantly less power usage at the pump location due to a wiring issue and ordered the rebuild of a water pump.
- Quote from Western Iron Works was provided for Council to consider purchasing posts to install street signs for a total of \$1,726.70. Motion made by Councilor **DePiero** and was seconded by Councilor **Martin** to order the parts from Western Iron Works for signposts. Motion carried. Voting Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Dooley, Richter, and Nice**. Nay: None.
- Motion to purchase street safety cones, temporary closed street signs, and relevant safety supplies not to exceed \$5,000 with ARPA Funds was made by Councilor **Martin** and seconded by Councilor **DePiero**. Motion carried. Voting Aye: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Dooley, Richter, and Nice**. Nay: 0.
- Discussion heard on the need for the City to purchase a dump trailer with Council ultimately deciding to obtain three quotes and select the cheapest dump trailer using ARPA funds. Motion was made by Councilor **Nice** with second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried with Aye votes from: **Meeker, Martin, DePiero, Bell, Dooley, Richter, and Nice**. Nay: 0.
- Lease agreement between the Library and the City was discussed with the Public Works Specialist asking Council for direction with the Library using areas not approved in the lease agreement with the City. By consensus of the Council, staff was directed to send the library a letter requesting them remove their items from the two areas within 30 days.
- Sports teams not affiliated with Gaston School, known as Gaston Youth Sports, has not paid field use fees, or submitted paperwork to reserve Brown Park. Concerns were brought up when a reservation using Brown Park for a celebration of life was made in advance but ended up conflicting with Gaston Youth Sports use of the field at the same time. Council instructed staff to send Gaston Youth Sports a letter requesting they fill out the appropriate paperwork and pay appropriate fees, or they will lose use of the ballfields. Council also requested the City invoice Gaston School for their use of the field established for school baseball and softball seasons. Gaston Baseball and Softball did use the ball fields for the 2021 ball seasons.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor **Nice** called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda with Councilor **Bell** motioning to approve was seconded by **Nice**. Motion passing. Voting aye: **Meeker, Nice, Martin, Dooley, DePiero, Bell, and Richter**. Nay: 0.

*Bills Payable October 2021 *Exhibit A**

July 15, 2020 Regular Council Session

September 15, 2021 Regular Council and Executive Session

Mayor **Meeker** requested staff to remove the regular porta potty toilet leaving the ADA porta potty toilet at Brown Park.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Decision on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Allocations: *(issue previously discussed in the meeting)*

Street Sign Hardware Supplies: *(issue previously discussed in the meeting)*

Outlook Training November 8, 2021: Training scheduled for Recorder **Blanchette** and Public Works Specialist **Mapes** to attend virtually. No comments or questions heard from Council.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

Onion Lane/Property Purchase Update: *(issue previously discussed in the meeting)*

Gaston Heights Billings: As previously noted in email correspondence, the developer is to pay by October 1st amounts previously stated in the email dated Sept. 9, 2021 and has been referred to the attorney at this time.

IX. COMPLAINTS: Recently filed complaints will be address at the next meeting. No complaints heard at this time

X. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor **Martin** with second heard by Councilor **DePiero**. Motion carried unanimously closing the meeting at 9:04PM.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette