

**September 1, 2021
Special Meeting
City of Gaston
Zoom Videoconference**

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

Absent: Billy **Nice**

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes**. Also, present: Scott **Flaherty**, and Eva **Kristofik**, Representative of the US Fish & Wildlife.

- I. Mayor **Meeker** called to order the special meeting at 7:00PM
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present
Councilor Billy **Nice**: *absent*
Council President Bill **Martin**: Present
Mayor David **Meeker**: Present
Councilor Bob **Dooley**: Present
Councilor Margaret **Bell**: Present
Councilor Don **Richter**: Present
- III. **Property Exchange/Purchase Discussion Onion Lane Parking Area:** The City of Gaston is discussing options to either exchange property from a neighboring property owner or purchase property before Fish and Wildlife considers options for the property themselves. Public Works Specialist Rick **Mapes** explained the City will need to survey all properties and go through a land use process for a line lot adjustment that includes new descriptions written to consider trading properties. The City can save money completing the paperwork rather than have the attorney provide the work. Eva **Kristofik**, Representative of the Fish & Wildlife said Scott **Flaherty** does not wish to partition his property but is willing to trade a portion of the ball field that is similar in size for the City's property at Onion Lane. Several Councilors expressed concern with moving forward with an option without knowing how much it costs. Further discussion heard on the City purchasing the property that is owned by Scott **Flaherty** with him stating he would like to provide the city the opportunity to purchase his property or trade the property that has City ball fields which he owns for Onion Lane, the most valuable piece of land in the area. Scott **Flaherty** is looking to sell the property for the amount originally invested in and will carry the loan if the City is interested in financing the property over time. Councilor **DePiero** called for a vote to research funding options to finance a down payment of \$50,000 to purchase the property. Also, to research what costs would be for trading the property if financing was not an option. Councilor **Bell** does not believe the City should purchase **Flaherty's** property but supports trading properties. Voting to support the research for costs and options for both the purchase and trade proposals: Aye: **DePiero, Martin, Meeker, Bell, Dooley, Richter**. No Nay votes were heard.
- IV. **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilor **Martin** motioned to adjourn the meeting, following second heard by Councilor **Richter**. Motion carried. Aye: 6, Nay: 0. Special Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.



Mayor David Meeker

Attest: 

City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette