

MINUTES
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
STANFIELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS
150 WEST COE AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Stanfield City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tom McCann at the Stanfield City Council Chambers, located at 150 West Coe Avenue, Stanfield, Oregon.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Mayor Tom McCann and Councilors Pam McSpadden, Susan Whelan, Don Tyrrell, Del Manley, Jason Sperr, and Jack Huxoll. Also present were City Manager Blair Larsen, Municipal Judge Rose Emerson, Librarian Cecili Longhorn, Finance Director Jerry Carlson, and Library Board Member Marcia Flemmer. Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt was absent.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Tom McCann led the audience and members of the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILOR WHELAN

Municipal Judge Rose Emerson conducted the swearing in of Councilor Susan Whelan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 3, 2017

Mayor Tom McCann approved the minutes for the January 3, 2017 council meeting as written.

RESOLUTION 1-2017 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING RESTORING RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY RIGHTS

Mr. Larsen said that this was a priority of the League of Oregon Cities, as a loophole in the State's recreational immunity law was created recently by an Oregon Supreme Court Decision. The League asked that Cities pass this resolution to show support for legislation to fix it.

Councilors Sperr and Manley moved and seconded to approve the resolution. Ayes: McSpadden, Whelan, Tyrrell, Manley, Sperr, and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

BUDGET CALENDAR

Mr. Larsen presented his proposed budget calendar for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget, and asked if any adjustments needed to be made. He said that seven budget committee members would need to be appointed, as all previous members' terms have expired. The consensus of the Council was to seek first to appoint members who have previously served, then fill in the gaps with new members. Mr. Larsen said that he would see who is willing to serve again and report back.

Councilor Whelan asked when the Council does Mr. Larsen's personnel evaluation. Mayor McCann said the Council does that at the beginning of March. Councilor Whelan asked if pay raises are based on performance, or just availability of funds. Mayor McCann said it is based on availability of funds. Mr. Larsen said that he tries to base raises on merit as much as possible, but it is a balancing act between that and trying to retain employees. He said that the budget makes the funds available, but the City Manager authorizes the pay raises. The Council and staff discussed performance evaluations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Court: None. Mr. Larsen reported that Officer Marcum is out of the academy, and now in field training here locally. He said that Officer Toombs is on light duty due to an injury. He said that he met with the attorney the previous day to start work on the lawsuit that is pending against the City. He said that the attorney is optimistic. Mayor McCann asked what the process is. Mr. Larsen explained that right now they are trading documents back and forth, and then in the summer there will be depositions conducted of all the people involved. He said that that point would be the most likely time for the case to be settled.

Public Works/Building: Mr. Morris reported that his staff has been busy with snow removal. He said that the City purchased a used street sweeper from Umatilla that needs significant and expensive repairs, but was very inexpensive to acquire. He said that current staff would be doing the repairs, and the City of Umatilla would help. He said that it is also a hydro-excavator. He

said that these machines cost \$100,000 new, and this is costing less than \$14,000. Councilor McSpadden asked who approved the expenditure. Mr. Larsen said that he and Mr. Morris discussed it, and found that the existing budget was sufficient to make the purchase. Councilor McSpadden asked about the gate at the compost yard. Mr. Morris said that they are just waiting on the weather to get started. Councilor Huxoll asked about the building next to City Hall, and said that he hadn't seen it advertised anywhere. Councilor Tyrrell said that he saw it in the real estate section of the paper. Councilor Huxoll said asked about the firewall between City Hall and the empty building. Mr. Morris said that he had contacted a contractor about doing it. The Council and staff discussed the building for sale.

Finance/Administrative: Councilors Sperr and McSpadden moved and seconded to table the issue of approving the February bills until the next meeting in order to give more time for them to be examined. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Whelan, Manley, Sperr and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Carlson explained that on the bill list there are some large expenditures for contributions to the employees' Health Savings Accounts, but those are only paid once per year, and this is the first year we are paying those. Councilor Sperr asked why those expenditures are such round numbers. Mr. Larsen explained that the contribution was set to match the deductible of the City's new High Deductible Health Plan, which is \$3,000 for the employee and spouse and employee and family plan. He said that the City is making a big effort to ensure that employees are not losing out on this change, even to the point of giving a \$50 per month raise to all benefit-eligible employees.

Councilors Sperr and McSpadden moved and seconded to approve the finance report for the month of December, 2016. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Whelan, Manley, Sperr, and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Safety: None.

Library: Mrs. Longhorn said that there was a slip and fall, but the patron is fine. She said that they put cones up and the front door is closed when the weather is icy. She said that a heating unit went out and was repaired, but the furnace is old, and units are going to start going out, and will cost a lot to replace. She said a new furnace would likely be \$6,000 to \$8,000. She said that three people came off of Library Board because of expired terms, and one is now on the City Council. Marcia Fleming recommended Crystal Zielke, Gloria Rodrigues, Susana Gomez to be appointed to the Library Board. She said that she and Kim Mills have been on the board too long, and need to say goodbye. Mrs. Longhorn said that all of them have agreed to serve, and it provides a good diverse board. Councilors Sperr and Huxoll moved and seconded to appoint the recommended persons to the Library Board. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Whelan, Manley, Sperr, and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Councilors Sperr and Huxoll moved and seconded to approve all the committee reports. Ayes: McSpadden, Tyrrell, Whelan, Manley, Sperr and Huxoll. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Cecili Longhorn said that many people at the Library have commented on how the sidewalks are better cleared in Stanfield than they are in Hermiston.

Mr. Carlson asked if everyone on the Council had received an audit report. The Council all indicated that they had. Mr. Carlson said that it was a relatively clean audit, the only issues were some internal oversight issues, many of which are due to our small size. He said the City also needs to be more diligent on keeping adequate receipts. Mr. Larsen said that the auditors are happy to come to a Council meeting to talk about the audit.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor McCann recommended to the Council the Elected Officials training class coming up in Hermiston at EOTEC to everyone. He said that it is a very good class. Councilor Whelan said she has registered for it already. Mr. Larsen asked if any others would like to be registered for the class. Councilors McSpadden, Manley, and Sperr indicated that they are interested in attending.

Mr. Larsen said that the furniture has been rearranged at City Hall, and it makes things work better. Councilor McSpadden said that it is too bad that Council meetings can't be held there, as the Council Chambers are not adequate. Mr. Larsen said that facilities should be part of the budget discussion this year. He said that he would love to be able to combine City Hall, the

Council Chambers and Police Department into one building. He said he would even combine the library into that mix too, but that would be very difficult at this point. The Council and staff discussed the buildings. Mayor McCann recommended that this topic be sent to the Public Works and Building Committee.

Mr. Larsen updated the Council on the condition of the Elephant's Trunk, and said that both that building and the one at the end of the block where Fun Fashions is located will be put up for auction sometime in the spring. He said the Macon Brothers Auctions will be handling it. He said that he wanted to get the word out and find a good buyer for the properties.

Mr. Larsen said that he is working on a couple of grant applications, one for the Stage Gulch Trail, and one for Main Street revitalization.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilor Huxoll asked about the proposed affordable housing complex. Mr. Larsen said that the Umatilla Housing Authority has purchased the property from the school district, as well as the house they need to demolish in order to get access to the property. The Council and staff discussed the proposed development.

Councilor McSpadden asked about the Panoramic Ridge Development. Mr. Larsen said that the owner of the property is looking to sell all of it, but has committed to the builder to sell him the properties in the next two phases.

Mayor McCann asked about the status of the reader board. Mr. Larsen said that it is still delayed by the weather.

Councilor Whelan said that she asked Mr. Larsen about the big picture of what goes on with the Council, and the goals the Council has in place. Mr. Larsen said that goals were set, but they are more than 5 years old. He said having a goal setting workshop would be a good idea. He suggested holding one before the budget discussions start, and one of the meetings in March would be a good time.

Councilor Sperr said that he would like to spend money on other things besides a new place for the Council to meet, like the Library. He also apologized for missing recent council meetings.

Councilor Whelan said she was surprised by the council stipend check she received. She said that if the Council went without stipends for a term, then there would be an extra \$11,500 to use for something else. The Council discussed stipends.

Mayor McCann said he wants to invite the high school student body government to council meetings, and get them interested in community projects. He wants to get the high school more involved with the City. He also announced that his eye tumor was not malignant, and is now gone.

Mr. Larsen asked if the Council wanted to set a date for a goal setting workshop. Councilor Sperr suggested the first meeting in March.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Mayor Tom McCann adjourned the regular meeting of February 7, 2017 at 8:11 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for February 21, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Blair Larsen, City Manager/Recorder

Attest: _____
Mayor

Date of Approval: _____