

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER

City Council Minutes

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Wayne Stuart at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION Pastor Evan Goeglein with Faith Lutheran Church delivered the Invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Wayne Stuart led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

QUORUM **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Mayor Wayne Stuart
City Councilor Jack Bird
City Councilor Pam VanArsdale
City Councilor Rick Kempa
City Councilor Barb Hilty
City Councilor Barb Gregory via phone

STAFF PRESENT:
Mark Reagles, City Administrator
Carol Weir, City Recorder
Mike Bollweg, Public Works Director
Jim Williams, Chief of Police
Paige Chick, Clerk Typist

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Mike Franell, Attorney at Law

MEDIA PRESENT:
Brian Mortensen, Rogue River Press

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations; Rogue River Chamber of Commerce: City Councilor Rick Kempa reported that he was not able to attend the meeting but did mention that they were looking to hire a person for the welcome center and that the web site was doing well.

Community Relations; Rogue River Community Center: City Councilor Barb Hilty reported they had hoped to demolish the food pantry building on February 8, 2022 and hoping to have the new building done by the end of February. The were

continuing to do their drive thru monthly dinners.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon: Mayor Wayne Stuart reported that there was no meeting.

Finance Committee: Mayor Wayne Stuart reported that they had met twice during the month of December 2021 to review and approve the bills as submitted and signed 71-checks totaling \$286,782.42.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported they met via zoom talking about the time line for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), beginning with the 2024-2027 cycle showing a time table of how projects would get started, then presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and then become part of the TIP. They also talked about changing their application process like the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO) had changed their process. She said that if the Census counts showed a big increase something that could happen would be that the area would change to a Transportation Maintenance Area (TMA) changing the way funding was done, there was more money but there were also some setbacks to that. Right now they could do a simple fund exchange with ODOT, the money that came from the Federal Government was exchanged with ODOT with fewer requirements but Federal money always had a lot of strings attached. ODOT just changed it to \$0.92 on the dollar with a lot less requirements for using them. The problem with becoming a TMA they would no longer be able to that, so there were both some big pluses and some big drawbacks. There were also some advantages to merging with the RVMPO too.

Personnel Committee: City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported they talked about impending retirement of City Administrator Mark Reagles and the advancement to the Corporal position.

Planning Commission Liaison: City Councilor Barb Gregory reported they discussed accessory buildings with the aging population wanting to rent out their main homes and live in an accessory dwelling on the same property. They reviewed the Ordinance but showed interest in the City Planner coming to talk about the item with them. They were reviewing Rogue River's Strategic Plan and they had worked on a survey to be sent to the residents. And, they were concerned with multiple trailers on one lot for living spaces as it related to setbacks and other things that weren't right, the subject of mobile food vendors came up but at time they decided not to consider it since there had not be any interest shown for it. They got a report from the Southern Oregon Sanitation regarding the customer survey regarding yard debris with only a 26% return and the majority of residents said no.

Police Commission: Wayne Stuart reported there was no meeting.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported they met via zoom discussing how ODOT planned to use the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act money that had not been appropriated yet so no one had seen any of that money but ODOT had plenty of good ideas of how to spend \$1.2 million they were supposed to be received for safety projects, \$30 million mostly distributed through the MPO, \$200 million for bicycle and pedestrian programs, \$200 million for public transportation in rural and urban communities, putting money toward mitigating climate change, \$52 million to expand electric car charging stations, \$82 million for carbon reduction programs, \$94 million for resilience projects due to climate change. When the money actually came in ODOT would decide how it would be distributed. The biggest thing out of the meeting was that Art Anderson would be retiring who had been the regional manager for at least 20-years.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Wayne Stuart reported they met via zoom and that the COG had gotten the go-ahead to purchase the Central Point Senior Center where they would be expanding their services and ACCESS would continue with their operations. Their audit had been completed and no major concerns were found. They heard from Greg Walden that the short session would be starting and Rick Dyer expressed the water usage for illegal purposes but not sure how they were going to handle it but as summer got closer his concerns were getting very serious.

Council Advisory Committee: Chair Francis Gilbert reported they discussed the pros and cons of MyTextGov.

PUBLIC INPUT:

John Joyce as resident of Brookside Village commented that the City's website calendar had not been kept up to date with meeting dates and times so he rides his bike to City Hall to see the calendar posted outside. He felt it should be available for the public to see. He also said that where he lived he had to look at the Ice House which he agreed was a fiasco and it was his understanding that everything was pending legal matters but he asked how it all came about, what was the dynamic. He asked how Mr. Hurst got away with what he did, who dropped the ball.

City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that since the City was currently in litigations they were precluded from saying anything but once the process was over he offered to sit down with Mr. Joyce and have that conversation.

Mr. Joyce said he had attended the meetings and asked how Mr. Hurst bamboozled the City.

City Administrator Mark Reagles told Mr. Joyce that he could read the transcripts once they were done with the legal process.

Mayor Wayne Stuart announced that City Councilor Don Daugherty's memorial service would be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church on Rogue River Highway.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM 1 State of the City Message

Mayor Wayne Stuart delivered the following State of the City Message:

It is once again my pleasure to deliver the 2021 State of the City Message. This past year brought many changes and challenges to our community. We continued having to deal with the Pandemic and the variants. City Hall was open but was on lock down to the public. We were still able to conduct daily business through phone calls and appointments.

On a brighter note, we had the Rooster Crow Car Show, celebrated Halloween with our business (within guidelines) and Santa came to the Plaza for the "Winter Wonderland" celebration.

We completed the second stage of our sidewalk project funded by the Oregon Small City Allotment Grant. Work will still continue through next year.

The City Council heard the annual audit report conducted by KDP Certified Public Accountants LLC. The City then adopted the 2020-2021 audit.

Work on Rooster Park continued with the IRT National Guard coming from Washington to lay the ground work for the Pavilion and restrooms. The City is hopeful the park will be usable for Rooster Crow Weekend in June of 2022.

This year we lost several key citizens that will be missed. The City Council accepted the resignation of City Councilor Bob Pascalar, the passing of City Councilor Don Daugherty, and the lady of the murals, Wanda Nesbitt passed away. We accepted the resignation of Don Collins from the Planning Commission and the resignation from Tree City Committee member Judith Rose.

From the Rogue River Police Department Chief Curtis Whipple, Corporal Robert Buren and Reserve Officer John Foster retired. We did hire Chief Jim Williams to become our next Police Chief and Officer Joe Turner became are newest officer in May.

In the Public Works Department we hired Gregory Smith and Don Wolter.

We also made some appointments, Jack Bird to City Council, Jay Chick to Position 1 on the Planning Commission and Christine Johnson to the City Council's Advisory Board.

The City received new LED street lights through the LED Street Lighting Improvement Program offered by Pacific Power.

Last fall we dedicated our Hiroshima Tree at John F. Fleming Memorial Park. The guest speaker was Hideko Tamura, a survivor from the Bomb dropped on Hiroshima Japan. The Ginko tree grew from seedlings from the surviving Ginko tree. She promotes planting these trees as a reminder of a nuclear free planet.

We are still working with Civil West Engineering Services in regards to our water infrastructure. More will be happening in 2022.

As we look forward to 2022 as we have in the past, we will continue to have challenges that will need to be addressed. With the dedication of the City Council, staff and myself as your Mayor, we will continue to be good stewards for the positions we hold, always being mindful of the citizens we represent now and for the future of our town, Rogue River.

Respectfully, Mayor Wayne

AGENDA ITEM 2 **Council Bill No. 22-2434; Resolution No. 22-1391-R:** A Resolution establishing a fee schedule as provided in Rogue River Municipal Code 13.10, the City of Rogue River Sewer Ordinance, and repealing Resolution No. 21-1380-R.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (VANARSDALE) AND CARRIED TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 22-2434-R.

AGENDA ITEM 3 **Vacancy:** Declare a vacancy of City Council Position No. 5.

MOVED (VANARSDALE), SECONDED (KEMPA) AND CARRIED TO SADLY DECLARE THE VACANCY OF CITY COUNCIL POSITION NO. 5.

AGENDA ITEM 4 **Budget:** Adopt the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget Goals and Policies.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (BIRD) AND CARRIED TO ADOPT THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET GOALS AND POLICIES.

AGENDA ITEM 5 **Appointment:** Appoint City Councilor Jack Bird to the Sign Review Board and Police Commission.

MOVED (KEMPA), SECONDED (VANARSDALE) AND CARRIED TO APPOINT CITY COUNCILOR JACK BIRD TO THE SIGN REVIEW BOARD AND POLICE COMMISSION.

AGENDA ITEM 6 **Appointment:** Appoint City Councilor Pam VanArsdale as Chair of the Finance Committee.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (KEMPA) AND CARRIED TO APPOINT CITY COUNCILOR PAM VANARSDALE AS CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

AGENDA ITEM 7 **Appointment:** Re-appoint David Marshal to the Budget Committee.

MOVED (VANARSDALE), SECONDED (HILTY) AND CARRIED TO RE-APPOINT DAVID MARSHAL TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE.

City Administrator Mark Reagles announced that the family of Don Daugherty had offered to allow friends to go to the apartment and see if there was anything they'd want in remembrance of Don.

City Recorder Carol Weir reminded the City Councilors that there were still two vacancies on the Budget Committee.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale commented that it could be beneficial to tell people that it was a short term commitment of only one to two meetings a year.

City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that he had shared with the Planning Commission about the vacancies on the City Council, the Budget Committee and that Councilor Bird could use some help on the Sign Review Board.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale recommended reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce and ask them to put something out to their members and on their website.

MOVED (VANARSDALE), SECONDED (HILTY) AND CARRIED TO RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:35 P.M.

AGENDA ITEM 8 **Executive Session:** City Council to meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Mayor Wayne Stuart declared the meeting reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale commented that she realized it was a challenge but she had said that the public should be able to go to the City website and she when meetings were going to be held and what the agenda consisted of, even if it didn't get on until the day before it was owed to the public. She realized the difficulty to keep up with everything staff did and add one more task since website updates were a daily thing. She felt that once the monthly calendar had been processed it should be added to the website. She said Mr. Young had a legitimate complaint.

City Recorder Carol Weir commented that the calendar could be done for a year at a time.

Clerk Typist Paige Chick said the calendar on the website did not work, it was outdated and could not be updated.

City Administrator Mark Reagles said that staff had been working with a company for over a month to redo the website and they were just waiting to meet with them again to move forward with the project. He also commented that if the front office remained as busy as it had been a part-time person would need to be hired to accomplish that task and other duties that were falling behind.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale asked if part of the COVID money could be used as part of an outreach that the City was suppose to be doing.

City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that once everything was said and done the COVID money could probably be used for just about anything.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale said she thought that would be good use of the money to update the website and hire someone for the front office.

City Administrator Mark Reagles said that those two things needed to be moved forward with. They had just about narrowed down the sound system because they only received one other proposal which was significantly higher than the first one. He had just finished the RFP for the heating and air system which would be going out the door within the week. He felt that they needed to spend some time at the next workshop to talk about the changes to COVID, the requirements for the money with the new rules they could declare it all lost revenue and put it in the general fund for basically anything they would spend general fund money on. The accountability they originally came up with they had to be spend on COVID related items but now it was to be declared as lost revenue and put into the general fund. He felt they needed to continue down the path of helping businesses and insuring that the City was preparing themselves for the COVID world.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale agreed that COVID could go away but another strain could come up and the more prepared they would be for the next time and the less disruptive it could be.

City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that he expected that more businesses would be contacting the City for assistance to make it through the outcome of the pandemic.

City Councilor Barb Gregory asked if it would be appropriate to send Mr. Joyce a response to his website question.

City Administrator Mark Reagles said he surely could but ultimately he did not think the website was his question. He was prepared to tell him about our process and tell him that the site was not functional anymore but he went right into his other issue.

City Councilor Pam VanArsdale felt that Mr. Young should have been directing his comments to the City Council and not staff but she didn't know how to stop people from doing that.

Clerk Typist Paige Chick commented that Mr. Young had come into the office and he was asked what his concerns were so he could direct to the right person but he would not discuss his issue with them.

City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that he just seemed to be angry and not somebody looking for resolution so that was why he said he could read the transcripts and find out.

City Recorder Carol Weir suggested putting a disclosure on the website that some items were not available and the City was in the process of building a new website so please be patient.

Public Works Director Mike Bollweg commented that they were very faithful in posting all the agendas and notices at the post office.

City Councilor Jack Bird commented that staffing was a part of the infrastructure and without it the City didn't run. For them not to invest equally as much time, effort and money in the proper staffing they would be remised in their duties. He also saw upcoming changes in administration, the areas, they take-away experiences which lead to efficiency, lack of experience took time to overcome which put more burdens on staff. He felt it was something that they needed to put to the forefront of their thoughts rather than the back because it would be easier to address it now than try to fix the problem later.

City Administrator Mark Reagles said that he would sit down with staff and discuss the issue. The City was being handed a lot of money and with it a lot of options that may not last a long time but it would give them a chance to see what needed and where they were at, get caught up and build something new. He said someone new would be taking his position and allow them the time of not having to take on a lot

of day by day tasks and allow staff the time they need to get their work done or actually have a conversation without being interrupted every other minute. He suggested having the discussion with the personnel committee at their next meeting and expressed his appreciation for them all being in support and their insight of seeing what a madhouse it could be at times.

City Councilor Barb Gregory expressed her appreciation of staff for the extra time it took for her to keep in touch while she was away.

City Administrator Mark Reagles updated the City Council that former City Councilor Bob Pascalar was enjoying life, smoking a cigar in the backyard.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon motion duly made (VANARSDALE), seconded (BIRD) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carol J. Weir for

Carol J. Weir, MMC
City Recorder