

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER

City Council Minutes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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 6:02 p.m.

INVOCATION Pastor Dale Schaffner with the Rogue River Assembly of God 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

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 did attend the Chamber meeting where they decided to change their meetings back to the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Community Relations; Rogue River Community Center: City Councilor Barb Hilty reported she was not able to attend the meeting but commented that they had not started the demolition of the food pantry.

Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (ECISO): Mayor Wayne Stuart reported there was no meeting.

Finance Committee: City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that they had met twice during the month of January 2022 to review and approve the bills as submitted and signed a total of 74-checks in the amount of \$191,796.07.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO): City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported they met by zoom where they held their annual election of officers where Valerie Lovelace would continue be the Chair and City Councilor VanArsdale would continue as Vice-Chair. The good news was that the dues were not changing, they decided to wait to see how much money that was coming in and the projected Census because the dues were based on per capita. She added that they would be working on the projects for the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program at their next meeting.

Personnel Committee: City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that they met to discuss personnel issues.

Planning Commission Liaison: City Administrator Mark Reagles commented that they discussed accessory dwelling units (ADU).

City Councilor Barb Gregory reported that they were happy with their Strategic Plan Survey and would be presenting it to the City Council at their next workshop and she thanked them for their work.

City Administrator Mark Reagles confirmed that it would be presented to the City Council at their next workshop to consider any changes or additions.

Police Commission: City Councilor Jack Bird deferred to Chief Jim Williams to deliver his report.

Chief Jim Williams commented that the officers had been busy with each of the officers picking up some criminal cases and he was hoping that his case load was not following them. He said he'd be having more conversations with the City Council as the cases unfold but they were really intense but good cases for the officers work and with good outcomes. He gave Officer Miller a shout out for an assist case where he assisted the drug unit RAID from Grants Pass, one of the people was from Rogue River and they got ¼ pound of heroin, 1½ pounds of methamphetamine, and ounce of suspected Fentanyl, a gun and it looked like the case would be prosecuted state and federally. They had five individuals to apply for the lateral officer position, they were still accepting applications hoping that when he got to the sixth they would begin the testing process but so far none of the applicants were lateral candidates but some of the entry level candidates were looking good. Overall the department was doing well, and they were glad that Officer Gomez was back from vacation.

City Councilor Barb Hilty asked if there was any news about the new equipment for

the patrol vehicles.

Chief Jim Williams replied that the computers should be arriving in March. He also mentioned that there were no 2022 vehicles available because of all the chips and all the problems they were having. They were in line to get a vehicle but it wouldn't be until November 2022.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT): City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that there was no meeting.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Wayne Stuart reported him and City Administrator Mark Reagles met by zoom for a presentation on Shake Alert, explaining that they were looking at putting sensors throughout Oregon so they would know where and how much the ground was shaking but it would be a while before it got implemented. The other presentation was about other committees where they were talking about racial issues, wildfires and affordable housing and the homeless. They also heard an update about the wildfire cameras that was pending with no action in the future.

City Councilor Barb Gregory asked how much concern should the City have over the lost of the marijuana tax money.

City Administrator Mark Reagles replied that anytime they lost revenue they needed to be concerned. The legislature was looking at the opportunity for the City to increase their local tax from 3% to 10% which would require a vote of the citizens which would make up for Measure.

City Councilor Barb Gregory asked if there was anything the City Council need to do.

City Administrator Mark Reagles suggested that each of them call their legislators and ask them to endorse the bill allowing the Cities to increase their local marijuana tax.

Mayor Wayne Stuart commented that Senator Greg Walden was also attending the RVCOG meeting and he would be joining them again next month with his own presentation of what he was doing in Salem.

Council Advisory Committee: Chair Francis Gilbert reported that they continue working on the wildfire project hearing from the Director of the RVCOG that there was several million dollars that may be freed up including for cameras and asked that they get as many letters to the Ways and Means Committee as possible to support the distribution of money. He said him and the entire valley owe a huge thanks you to Chief Williams, the City Council, the Mayor and the staff for the excellent letters were written to the Ways and Means Committee and legislative

representatives. It was the only way they were going to get a chunk of the \$3 million for cameras. He said the Wildfire Alert program was the only way to get to the citizens of the risks and when a fire actually existed.

Mayor Wayne Stuart commented that he did sign a letter supporting the \$4.5 million State investment to support the installation of a system that would provide automated early fire detection, alerting and situational awareness during emergencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

- AGENDA ITEM 1** **Council Bill No. 22-2435; Resolution No. 22-1392-R:** A Resolution transferring appropriation authority from the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Street Fund and the Water Fund contingency to the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Street Fund and the Water Fund Capital Outlay for the year beginning July, 1, 2021.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (KEMPA) AND CARRIED TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 22-2435.

- AGENDA ITEM 2** **Authorization:** Authorize the City Administrator to sign for the purchase of property legally described as T36S R4W 15CC 300, commonly known as 416 Second Street located adjacent to the City's maintenance yard.

MOVED (VANARSDALE), SECONDED (BIRD) AND CARRIED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS T36S R4W 15CC 300, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 416 SECOND STREET LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CITY'S MAINTENANCE YARD.

- AGENDA ITEM 3** **Oath of Service:** Administer the Oath of Service to Corporal Ty Darr.

Chief Jim Williams commented that Officer Darr was hired in January 2019 having three years of law enforcement experience, prior to that he was with the ROLEA Reserve Academy through Rogue Community College but most importantly he was a Chieftain graduating from the Rogue River High School in 2010, playing basketball, baseball and football. While searching online he found that Officer Darr was a tight end and had some baseball stats showing how well he did in baseball. In 2019 Officer Darr had received a Life Saving Award for an incident that took place just outside of Rogue River where a murder had taken place and he had to go in and rescue some people and without question he went in with other deputies and rescued the people. Officer Darr was married with two children. In January Chief Williams held a promotional board with retired Chief Whipple, Cow Creek Police Chief Brett Johnson, formally with the City of Rogue River, and Medford Police Sergeant Jason Antley. Each of the three candidates had an opportunity to present themselves to the board and talk about what was going on in their lives and

then they all faced a series of questions about policy and law and the application of those in the police department because they were looking for a leader who could fill in when the Chief was not there and also lead the department in policy, legally and the application of that. All the members of the Board spoke highly of the candidates, each of the candidates was good but Officer Darr came out on top and he concurred. He commented that due to COVID they were not able to present Officer Darr with his official Corporal's badge so they would be using a Sergeant's badge which was given to City Recorder Carol Weir to administer the Oath of Service.

City Recorder Carol Weir administered the Oath of Service to Corporal Ty Darr and who then presented the badge to his wife Jeni Darr who officially pinned the badge to her husband's uniform.

In the audience was also Corporal Darr's family who along with the City Council gave him a standing ovation and wishes of congratulations.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Administrator Mark Reagles updated the City Council of former City Councilor Bob Pascalar's who was doing okay, he was waiting to become an Angel and then he would be looking down and taking care of us. He added the Mr. Pascalar said to tell everyone hi and expressed his appreciation for his time on the City Council.


City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reminded the City Council of the Small Cities Meeting being held in person on March 11, 2022 at the City of Central Point and encouraged everyone to attend.

The City Council told City Councilor Barb Gregory to concentrate on getting well and getting back home.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon motion duly made (VANARSDALE), seconded (KEMPA) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


Carol J. Weir, MMC
City Recorder