

# CITY OF ROGUE RIVER

# City Council Minutes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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** City Councilor Sherrie Moss 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 Sharie Davis  
City Councilor Pam VanArsdale (via phone)  
City Councilor Rick Kempa  
City Councilor Barb Hilty  
City Councilor Sherrie Moss  
City Councilor Barb Gregory

**STAFF PRESENT:**  
Ryan Nolan, City Administrator  
Carol Weir, City Recorder  
Stephanie Madtson, Deputy Recorder

**MEDIA PRESENT:**  
Brian Mortensen, Rogue River Press

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOVED (GREGORY), SECONDED (HILTY) AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2022, APRIL 28, 2022 AND MAY 19, 2022.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Community Relations; Rogue River Chamber of Commerce:** City Councilor Rick Kempa reported that the main discussion was about the Christmas event on December 3, 2022 with Christmas Caroling, and, they announced that Kathy Quinones resigned as Secretary effective December 31, 2022 or until they had a replacement.

**Community Relations; Rogue River Community Center:** City Councilor Barb

Hilty reported that 100-people had signed up for the free Thanksgiving Dinner being held on the following day of the meeting and sponsored by an anonymous donation and due to workshop scheduling she was not able to attend the meeting.

**Emergency Communication of Southern Oregon (EC SO):** Mayor Wayne Stuart reported that there was no meeting.

**Finance Committee:** City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that they met twice during the month of September 2022 to review, approve and signed 78-checks totaling \$162, 520.21 and twice during the month of October 2022 to review, approve and signed 78-checks totaling \$192,752.39

**Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO):** City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that she attended their meeting by zoom to discuss amendments to their 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program where ODOT added a project to put in charging stations from Eugene down to the California border every fifty miles installing around a dozen. The project would eventually be done throughout the state the charging stations would be installed on private property with an approximate cost of \$30 to reimburse the property owner for the electricity.

**Personnel Committee:** City Councilor Pam VanArsdale reported that did not meet.

**Planning Commission Liaison:** Planning Commission Liaison Barb Gregory reported that they were discussing the newly legislative parking requirements that were effective January 1, 2023 which did not allow enough for the City to comply but City Administrator Ryan Nolan had written letters requesting the City to opt out due to our size.

City Administrator Ryan Nolan commented that there had been an executive directive from the Governor implementing changes based on climate concerns from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) who had been tasked with providing a set of rules that would be governed climate issues related to parking and because the City was a member of the MRMPO Rogue River had been considered a part of an urban area and being held to the new standards. At that point the City had been approved for an extension from the requirement to remove parking requirements within a half mile of a transit route that comes through Rogue River and awaiting response from DLCD hopeful to be successful that the city could be exempt from some of the parking standards. The planning department was working to develop some standards that would meet the new law.

**Police Commission:** Mayor Stuart reported that did not meet.

City Administrator Ryan Nolan commented that they had a candidate that did not make it through the background check so they would be going back to the pool of

candidates and hopefully out of two candidates one of them would be successful.

**Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT):** City Administrator Ryan Nolan reported that there had been discussion about the process of appointing representative from Jackson and Josephine County's.

**Rogue Valley Council of Governments:** Mayor Wayne Stuart reported that there was no meeting.

**Council Advisory Committee:** Chair Francis Gilbert reported that he had heard that there was funding available for the Alert Wildfire System and contacted Ann Marie Alfrey at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments who shared information from a representative of the Oregon Hazards Laboratory commented that when the Oregon Emergency Management left the military department no one thought ahead about FEMA so it left behind in the military department the grants that were to be submitted to FEMA. As a result everyone in the state was awaiting the Hazardous Mitigation Grants Program Funds. The paperwork had been found and sent to FEMA and waiting to hear their response but could not be until next fire season.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Jackson County Commissioner Dave Dotterer who lives in Ashland was the liaison to Ashland, Talent, Phoenix and Central Point. His goal was to establish a working relationship with the city. He said he did see that the Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. and Rogue Work Source were working well with the area Chambers of Commerce so he had set up some meetings and had never seen the Rogue River Chamber attend any of those meetings. He felt that people needed to start thinking about economic development and the businesses of the Rogue Valley. He said that Josephine and Jackson County had hired a full time Fire Emergency Management Planner in the Jackson County Emergency Management office sharing the costs. Regarding the Psilocybin election that failed in Jackson County he assured that they would be working hard to protect the communities such as Rogue River who passed to ban businesses and services in it. As for the failure of the Jackson County Jail election it would have to go back to the voters because a solution had to be figured out and there needed to be other supportive solutions for the people that were incarcerated. He expressed his disappointment with the State pushing for Urban Renewal Areas.

City Councilor Barb Hilty commented to Mr. Dotterer that he did not say anything about homelessness.

Mr. Dotterer responded that he was convinced that if the jail and social services were better aligned could have a dramatic impact on the homeless problems. He also commented that the jurisdictions needed to collectively get together and create a consortium since the Greenway had become more than a bike path.

City Councilor Sharie Davis asked Mr. Dotterrer if when someone was released from jail for substance abuse if it was mandatory for them to participate in a social service program or the inmate's choice.

Mr. Dotterrer said that you can't force anybody to go into one of those programs.

Mayor Wayne Stuart commented that during a recent visit with Sheriff Sickler he wanted to have separate jails to house juveniles and mental health inmates along with the hospital and asked if the county would be going back to the voters again.

Mr. Dotterrer said yes but he wanted to refer to it as a social services public safety facility. He also commented about an emergency mental health response facility that would respond to an incident instead of the police officers even though many times they do need to be involved.

Mr. John Joyce of Rogue Lane asked Mayor Stuart if had heard the saying "Out from Under the Moon into the Sunlight". He said to him it was like sunbeams. He handed out a written comment titled ICED and attached was an article from the Rogue River Press title LUBA Remands Decision to City, a print out of Shell reports second-highest quarterly profit ever and a page of the City's Goals and Policies referring to Environment circling that the City would make every effort to protect and conserve all components of the environment. He then thanked everyone for their time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**AGENDA ITEM 1** **Public Hearing:** Continue the Public Hearing to hear a request from Kim & Tim Smith at 5817 Foothill Blvd, Grants Pass, to hook up the utility services within the Urban Growth Boundary and sign a Consent to Annex and Deferred Compliance Agreement.

Mayor Wayne Stuart reopened the Public Hearing at 6:22 p.m. and read a prepared statement that is a permanent part of the record.

When the Mayor called for abstentions and both City Councilor Barb Hilty and City Councilor Barb Gregory commented that they had met with some of the board members of the Home Owners Association (HOA).

Mayor Wayne Stuart then asked the audience if anyone wished to challenge any members of the City Councilors' qualifications to participate in the hearing. No comments were heard.

Applicant Kim Smith said there that for the last three months she was under the impression that after providing the board with an easement they were not willing to have a third party agreement and denied her request even though none of the

board members had contacted her directly she heard if from a resident. She said she was back to square one so to speak. She commented that she was willing to pay for their lawyer if they didn't believe in her lawyer's decision. She would be going back to her contractor for another option of going through the City right of way which would be a much larger cost to them.

City Administrator Ryan Nolan commented that their original request was to get an easement from the Foothill Estates HOA, get it recorded then they would submit a plan for the Public Works Director to approve the connection plan but the applicant was not able to obtain the easement. He suggested that the request be tabled to give the applicant time to get a new agreement with the HOA or a new plan to route the connection in the public right of way.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (MOSS) AND CARRIED TO TABLE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR A REQUEST FROM KIM & TIM SMITH AT 5817 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, GRANTS PASS, TO HOOK UP THE UTILITY SERVICES WITHIN THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY AND SIGN A CONSENT TO ANNEX AND DEFERRED COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AGENDA ITEM 2** **Council Bill No. 22-2449:** An Ordinance amending Rogue River Municipal Code 17.10.010, 17.130.010 and 17.130.020 for the City of Rogue River, Oregon.

MOVED (MOSS), SECONDED (GREGORY) AND CARRIED TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 22-2449.

**AGENDA ITEM 3** **Council Bill No. 22-2450:** An Ordinance adopting a Purchasing Policy and repealing Ordinance No. 05-323-O, also known as Rogue River Municipal Code 31.10 for the City of Rogue River, Oregon.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (KEMPA) AND CARRIED TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL NO. 22-2450.

**AGENDA ITEM 4** **Liquor License:** A new Oregon Liquor Control Commission Liquor License Application for Kawa Sushi and Asian Bistro at 121 Depot Street, Rogue River, Oregon.

MOVED (HILTY), SECONDED (KEMPA) AND CARRIED TO APPROVE A NEW OREGON LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR KAWA SUSHI AND ASIAN BISTRO AT 121 DEPOT STREET, ROGUE RIVER, OREGON.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

City Councilor Barb Hilty wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.  
City Recorder Carol Weir commented that due to the Small Cities Meeting that the workshop on December 1, 2022 would be canceled and due to the Christmas holidays the City Council meeting would be changed to December 29, 2022 and if needed a workshop could also be scheduled.

City Councilor Barb Gregory commented that she would be out of town from December 18, 2022 to February 20, 2023 and would be available to attend the meetings by phone.

Mayor Wayne Stuart wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon motion duly made (KEMPA), seconded (MOSS) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

*Ayam Nolen for*  
Carol J. Weir, MMC  
City Recorder