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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Minutes – September 14, 2020

Mayor Clevenger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom Conferencing. Council present was: Mayor Derek Clevenger, Ryan Bambrick, Nico Casarez, Angelica Ceja, Doug Ecclestone, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent: None. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), Police Chief Richard Schmitz, and City Clerk Colleen Rogers (CC Rogers) were also present via Zoom. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Councilor Casarez moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ceja seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Mayor Clevenger, Councilors Bambrick, Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

VISITORS: There were 11 online attendees. Login information was provided for members of the community to listen to the discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dayadevi Heart thanked everyone who has helped with the wildfire relief efforts. As a whole, we showed a unified front. Council thanked her for her comments.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council reviewed the August 24, 2020 Council meeting minutes. Councilor Seney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Mayor Clevenger, Councilors Bambrick, Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Market Village: CA Harding gave an update on the tiny market village concept that Council discussed at a work session on February 26, 2020. The idea is to enhance our Saturday market and other activities in the park. He presented drawings of the exterior and floor plan for the building. He said that the market village will be in Porter-Boone Park at the west end of the soccer field. There will be five shops, each being 12'x16' and having its own store front. The building will initially have unfinished walls but with electricity. It will be designed to accommodate future updates as funding allows. There was discussion about the location and cost of the project. Mayor Clevenger suggested reaching out to Cascade and Chemeketa shop classes for help with the project. CA Harding explained how the city has received a Community Prosperity grant from Marion County for \$30,000 and Council dedicated \$20,000 in this fiscal year's budget to the project. This \$50,000 should be enough to complete the project. The only unknown was the cost to get power located to the site. He also reported that staff continues to research and apply for additional grant dollars for economic development projects like this. Council consensus was to move forward with this project. CA Harding stated that staff has been

working on the plans and will start the permitting process with Marion County as soon as possible.

Main Street Landscaping: CA Harding cited that Council budgeted \$20,000 for street trees and landscaping for Main Street and directed staff to develop a plan. He presented a proposal for the landscape plan at 1st and Main St. The proposal shows 16 street trees and 32 shrubs to be planted beginning early October with the installation of root barrier and water services for irrigation. Digging, planting, and bark dust will follow. The project would take approximately two weeks. Staff has communicated with the property owners and they are on board with the project. After some discussion about the type of trees and clear vision at the intersection, Council consensus was to move forward on the project. CA Harding added that there are an additional 9 street trees the city purchased for the Stop-n-Save market landscaping. This was part of the original project, but owners have had some development activity and we didn't include it in our plan as we were waiting to see if that project would take care of the trees. In the end, staff decided to purchase the trees for a consistent look along Main St.

New City Logo: CA Harding presented four drafts of sample logos for the city and asked Council for feedback on which one they would prefer. After a brief discussion a casual vote was taken. Council concurred to move forward with drawing #1. CA Harding will work with the designer on fine tuning and moving forward to finalize the new logo. Council authorized CA Harding to begin branding our products with the new logo once that's complete.

NEW BUSINESS: Council reviewed the updates to the Employee Handbook. CA Harding gave an overview of the changes that were made. Some of the changes are due to new laws passed by legislation in 2019. Staff worked with our risk carrier City County Insurance (CIS) to ensure our handbook is conforming to these new laws. In addition to the laws outlined by CIS, there were changes to the bereavement leave and sick leave sections. There was a brief discussion of clarification. Councilor Casarez moved to approve the updated Employee Handbook as presented. Councilor Purdy seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Mayor Clevenger, Councilors Bambrick, Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

COVID-19: CA Harding updated Council on the COVID-19 epidemic. The Aumsville zip code area is holding at 37 positive cases since the beginning of the outbreak.

Wildfire Update: Chief Schmitz has been the lead for the city on the wildfire efforts. He has assigned one officer to assist the Marion County Sheriff's Department with security and other tasks needed in the Santiam Canyon. This is through our mutual aid agreement with the county.

CA Harding commented that the city fared well through the emergency event. The most difficult issue was miscommunication or wrong communication of information being posted on social media by other entities. He and Chief Schmitz worked diligently to sort it all out and get the correct information out to the community as accurately and quickly as possible.

CA Harding stated that communication is always the weak point in any emergency event, and it is important that we look at where these weaknesses are before we have another emergency. He and Chief Schmitz will be meeting with the Marion County Emergency Management to discuss the recent issues. Mayor Clevenger stated that he has had conversations with our county representatives regarding these communication issues as well.

Business COVID Relief Fund Update: The funds have been distributed among the businesses that have applied and is almost depleted.

Community Center Kitchen Upgrade: Council discussed this project in our strategic planning meeting last year. We received a \$2,000 grant from PacifiCorp to put toward our kitchen upgrade in the community center. Staff are looking into additional grants for this project and are hoping to begin the project next year.

CA Harding reported that Public Works is looking into replacing the city's hillside mower that is old and recently died. They have found that hillside mowers are very expensive and have researched different types of mowers that are less expensive, but safely mow steep grades. CA Harding stated that he wanted to give Council a heads up that this will be coming before them at the next meeting. He invited Council to reach out to him if they have any questions about the mower.

Youth Council: CA Harding and Mayor Clevenger spoke last week and discussed revisiting our Aumsville Youth Council (AYC). The AYC was created about nine years ago and lasted three years. CA Harding has reached out to Cascade High School and has a Zoom meeting set up with the school counselor and principal for later this week. He hopes the city can form a partnership with the school to create a successful, sustainable program. With their involvement we could make it a learning experience for the students in Civics and Public Service by providing some curriculum for the program. The AYC would be a good resource for Council and the community.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: Mayor Clevenger gave an overview of the donation drop off efforts at the Wesleyan Church over the last weekend in support of the wildfire victims. He reported that it was a great success and thanked the church congregation and all those that stepped up to volunteer and donate to the cause.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mayor Clevenger brought up some questions and concerns from citizens who have reached out to him. One of those was regarding how police handle calls involving autism. He asked Chief Schmitz if our department has a training program for this or have any of our officers been trained in this matter. Chief Schmitz stated that Officer Bird and Officer Buchholz have both taken specific training for working with autism. The department has gone through Critical Incident Training (CIT) which also touches on aspects of autism. He encourages parents to bring children by the police station so that they can meet the officers and build a relationship *before* something happens.

Another issue that the mayor wanted to bring to Council was the cost to citizens for applying for a variance to our development code. CA Harding explained that \$600 fee is for cost recovery for the expense of hiring a planner to review. He referred to the recent code changes that Council approved and stated that many of the variance issues from the past were due to our old development codes and have been dealt with in the recent code updates. CA Harding expressed concern that lowering the variance fees would amount to residents subsidizing the cost of development projects. He also stated that most of the inquiries simply would not meet the criteria of a variance. CA Harding will research the matter and report back to them.

The last issue is the poor visibility at the intersection of 5th and Church Streets and if a 4-way stop could be a possible resolution. CA Harding stated that they did have the city engineer review the intersection. The engineer felt that putting a 4-way stop there would actually be more hazardous. CA Harding asked Chief Schmitz if there had been any accidents at this intersection. Chief Schmitz replied that there was only one and it was a result of road rage, not due to clear vision issues. CA Harding said that he would revisit it with the city engineer to see if there is some countermeasure that he would recommend.

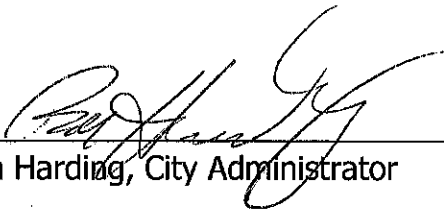
CORRESPONDENCE:

Councilor Seney received a letter from a citizen that asked she read it at the meeting. The writer addresses their concerns regarding Mayor Clevenger's conduct at meetings and on social media. Councilor Seney read the letter then reminded citizens that Council serves at their request by election and if they don't care for what any of them are doing, they have the right to recall or simply not to vote for them.

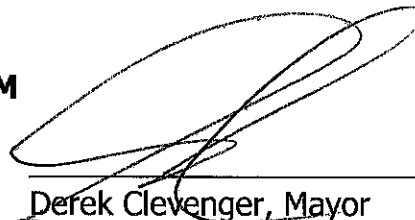
Mayor Clevenger read a letter that Council received from the Aumsville Exchange Club. They thanked Council for the opportunity to volunteer during the Corn Festival this year. Their fundraising brought in \$3,174.85 that will go to support our community through city programs and Exchange programs aimed at preventing child abuse. Mayor Clevenger stated that the Exchange Club has done a fantastic job volunteering and supporting all our community activities.

Dayadevi Heart asked CA Harding to also look at the intersection at 5th & Main Streets. She stated that there are vehicles parking on the street near the intersection making it difficult to see around.

ADJOURNED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AT 8:41 PM



Ron Harding, City Administrator



Derek Clevenger, Mayor