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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Minutes – October 12, 2020

Mayor Clevenger called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM via Zoom Conferencing. Council present was: Mayor Derek Clevenger, Ryan Bambrick (arrived 7:08), Nico Casarez, Angelica Ceja, Doug Ecclestone, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent: None. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), City Clerk Colleen Rogers (CC Rogers) were also present via Zoom. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Staff requested to add an amendment to the agenda under Item 6) New Business: Contract Agreement with Arete Advisors, LLC. Councilor Casarez moved to approve the amended agenda per staff recommendation. Councilor Ceja seconded. Motion APPROVED 6-0: (Yes: Councilors Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, Seney, and Mayor Clevenger. No: None.)

VISITORS: There were 13 online attendees. Login information was provided for members of the community to listen to the discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Steve Sugg, owner of Snake River Solutions, aka Visor, explained that he was having difficulty getting a franchise application from city hall and asked Council for help. CA Harding offered Council insight and stated that he has been emailing with Mr. Sugg about other concerns with his current franchise agreement. In one of his replies to CA Harding, Mr. Sugg asked to convert his current fiber application to a cable franchise. He replied, letting Mr. Sugg know that there are state and federal laws that govern franchises and the City can't convert two different types of applications. CA Harding then sent the request to our franchise attorney for guidance on the request. This was a couple of weeks ago and he has not heard anything back from the attorney. He was waiting to hear back from the attorney before responding to Mr. Sugg. He apologized that he didn't know it was a time sensitive matter. He will follow up with the attorney and let Mr. Sugg know what the next step will be.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council reviewed the September 28, 2020 Council meeting minutes. Councilor Casarez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Ecclestone seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Councilors Bambrick, Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, Seney, and Mayor Clevenger. No: None.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Draft Vision Plan: CA Harding gave a brief overview of the document, stating that it is the product of several years of public meetings and community input. The goals and objectives were taken directly from the information from those meetings. CC Rogers displayed the document in a flip page format to show Council how it will look on our website. CA Harding

walked Council through the booklet explaining each section. CA Harding explained to Council that the action plans in the vision plan are only those that the process shows universal agreement for. CA Harding said he included all of the brainstorm developed issues on the last two pages for transparency and his plan will be to get the plan on the website and develop feedback from the community using the flip software and a survey form. Mayor Clevenger and Councilor Purdy voiced their appreciation to CA Harding, staff, and community members that participated in this process for all the hard work creating this document.

Ordinance/Code Updates: CA Harding gave a brief history of the updating process and where we are in the process now. Going forward, staff will work with the attorney on the changes that are needed to ensure the updates comply with current case law. The drafts will be brought to Council for review, then once completed bring them to Council for the first reading, then two weeks later bring it back for the second reading and adoption. This will give more time for the public to review changes online and give feedback. Council received and reviewed Code Chapter 1, 2, and 3 updates. CA Harding explained that there are several old ordinances that staff suggests repealing as they are no longer relevant to City operations. He continued through the chapters, citing the proposed updates.

He stated that there are several significant changes needing to be discussed regarding the water rates regulation ordinance. He commented that the focus of these changes is equalization of the utility for all customers but also there are a number of changes that create a benefit to our customers. Some of the changes proposed:

- no longer require account deposits
- eliminate the lien process on delinquent bills
- have the owner of the property sign a contract to be responsible for the water bills
- changes to the discount program

CA Harding asked Council, if they choose to move forward with these proposed changes, how would staff implement the changes? Would staff apply the changes to existing accounts or only to new accounts? He also asked how Council would like to address the senior rate program. After a lengthy discussion, Council consensus was to leave the discount program status quo and come back to the discussion after the water rate analysis is completed. Council consensus was to eliminate the lien process and remove deposits and have owners sign contract to be responsible. CA Harding stated that he will get the discussed changes made to these first three chapters and bring it back to Council for the first readings and review. Staff will work on the best plan for implementation of these changes should Council approve the final ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS: Contract service agreement with Arete Advisors, LLC., anti-virus spyware software provider. CA Harding explained that with all the ransom ware attacks happening in other cities, our IT provider suggested that we hire a cyber security monitoring service. He talked about the contract and some of the changes that he negotiated with them. These changes are shown in the markup version of the contract and it was discussed.

Councilor Purdy moved to authorize CA Harding to move forward with the Arete Advisors, LLC as presented with edits. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Councilors Bambrick, Casarez, Ceja, Ecclestone, Purdy, Seney, and Mayor Clevenger. No: None.)

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: COVID-19: CA Harding updated Council on the COVID-19 epidemic. The Aumsville zip code area had a rise and we are now at 48 positive cases since the beginning of the outbreak.

CA Harding reported that the Event Planning Committee has begun work on the 2020 Christmas events. They have some fun ideas to create COVID friendly events. We will not be able to have our traditional Christmas in the Park event but will still do the Tree Lighting in some format. The committee is still working out the details. The Santa visit will still happen. Santa will stay in the firetruck and bags will be distributed. New ideas include Mill Creek Carriage touring through town with carolers singing favorite Christmas songs. The horse drawn carriage will be decked out with lights and decorations. We are also looking at doing a residential and commercial decorating contest. We will post plans on Facebook and in the newsletter as we get them confirmed.

CA Harding reported that he had someone contact him with a question about Manufactured Home Parks (MHP) having different rules than the rest of the city. He stated that the MHPs do have some different rules regarding streets and infrastructure. These are privately owned by the park, so we can't enforce traffic or parking issues. Most other city ordinances do apply to park residents. It is always best to contact the city with any questions regarding ordinances.

We had an issue with our October newsletter getting mailed out late. There was a mix-up with the printing company, and it was delayed. Staff has put some procedures in place that will prevent this from happening again in the future.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: Councilor Casarez asked if the City has looked at having a permanent ballot drop box installed outside of city hall. CA Harding stated that the Marion County Election office did come find a good location to place a permanent box. Unfortunately, there were funding issues, and they couldn't get it installed before this election.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mayor Clevenger announced that the Santiam Canyon Wildfire fundraiser has been moved to the 17th because of weather issues.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AT 8:51 PM



Ron Harding, City Administrator



Della Seney, Mayor Pro-tem