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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Angelica Ceja called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Present were Mayor Angelica Ceja, Councilors Scott Lee, Della Seney, Doug Cox, Katie Wallace, and Walter Wick. Council absent: Nico Casarez. Staff present: City Administrator (CA) Ron Harding, Damian Flowers Chief of Police and Community Outreach Coordinator Hayley Brewster. The meeting was video recorded to be released later.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Councilor Seney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Wick seconded. Council present voted unanimously to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

VISITORS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Seney moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilor Wick seconded. Council present voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda. Consent Agenda approved.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: New Patrol Vehicle

Chief Flowers started his presentation by reflecting on the staff report brought to council the previous year to purchase Ford patrol vehicles. Ford has cancelled the city's order for the vehicles after pushing the production date back several times. He stated the order is supposed to be entered into the 2024 year build for vehicles, but there is still no guarantee the city would receive 2024 models. Chief Flowers explained that Dodge and GM are other options he has investigated. GM has one PV (Pursuit Vehicle) they can make. GM won't be able to accept orders until May of 2024 for their Tahoe PV. Chief Flowers received positive feedback from several other police departments that use Dodge Durango's as PVs without mechanical issues arising.

Chief Flowers informed council that Keizer Police Department donated two patrol vehicles to Aumsville. There will be costs to get them ready for the cities PD to use but will help with the current need. Chief Flowers recommended council to Authorize the City to purchase Dodge

Durango patrol vehicles instead of the previously approved Ford Interceptor patrol vehicles using state contract prices. Councilor Cox asked Chief Flowers if there is a car he preferred for the department. Chief explained that the PD would be okay with waiting until May for the Ford vehicles, but there is still a chance for orders to be pushed back again because of the other departments who were impacted by the 2023 order cancellations. The Durangos would be ready between 90 and 120 days, with a higher cost.

Councilor Wick mentioned he spoke to the fleet manager with Marion County Public Works about the Sheriff's Office Durangos that the county uses and noted some issues with the transmission in the earlier models. Councilor Wick said the fleet manager told him the transmission issues had been fixed.

Councilor Lee said that he had a mechanical background that made him question the transmission issues with the earlier Dodge models as well but was unsure if the newer models had fixed them. Councilor Lee stated he trusted Chief's decision-making in what would be best for the department and the city. Councilor Cox asked if council would like to amend the motion so that the police department may have the ability to pick which ever vehicle will accommodate the departments needs best.

Councilor Cox moved to approve the city to purchase two patrol vehicles of their choice instead of the previous Ford Interceptors previously approved. Councilor Seney seconded. Council present voted unanimously. Motion passed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

CA Harding started with the Public Works Report, stating the city has been working hard to reduce the lost water in the city. The city had previously been averaging 17% lost water and has been able to reduce that to around 10%. CA Harding reminded council that the city will be trying to upgrade the meter reading program in the future to help find more opportunities to reduce lost water. Mayor Ceja asked if the city knows how much of the lost water could be from the concrete pipes in the city. CA Harding predicts that as the city continues to replace the concrete pipes, the city will continue to see a reduction in lost water over time.

CA Harding reported on Corn Festival and stated that the city was down on sponsorship donations, but that the city was able to bring in more money this year to distribute to local service groups than in previous years. He said at the next meeting the city will be able to provide more of a financial breakdown. CA Harding said that changing the parking from a flat fee to donation-based brought in more revenue than previous years. CA Harding expressed that he is happy with the progress the event has made and how staff has dialed-in the procedures to make it run smoothly. He stated that city staff will be organizing a meeting to recap Corn Festival and take in feedback to make next year run even more efficiently.

CA Harding said that the Public Works building is moving forward with prepping land while waiting for permits to come through.

CA Harding said the water drilling is done in Porter-Boone Park and is moving into well development, which will maximize the flow.

CA Harding informed council that the audit was underway at City Hall. And the city would receive the audit report sometime after the first of the year.

CA Harding stated it is time to clean out Highberger Ditch again. The city is avoiding issues with storm water entering the neighborhood. The ditch is a deed restriction for the homes along the ditch. The homeowners are required by DEQ to maintain the ditch.

He let council know that there is a Planning Commission meeting on October 5th to address the Development Code.

CA Harding informed council that CIS, the city's insurance company is offering insurance coverage to domestic partnerships coming up in the next open enrollment. He stated he wasn't sure on the financial impact it would have on the city, should employees utilize this benefit, but that he was open to council's feedback. CA Harding recommended opting out the coming year so they could better evaluate the financial impact it could have. Mayor Ceja said that by not offering the insurance for domestic partnerships would not be inclusive. Councilor Wallace asked when the next open enrollment would be to add this coverage other than now, and CA Harding explained it wouldn't be until Fall 2024. Mayor Ceja asked if the city would cover all or a partial amount of the domestic partners insurance. CA Harding said that there was not enough information provided at this time to know. Mayor Ceja followed up asking whether the city would still be charged if no one signed up for this insurance. CA Harding said that the city only pays for it if someone enrolls in it. Councilor Wick stated that adding this option would be beneficial in the recruitment process as well as retention of employees. CA Harding stated that the consensus was to allow it as an option for open enrollment this year.

CA Harding gave an update on the wastewater funding. The city has secured 9.3 million in funding, as well as a hypothetical 6 million from USDA, that would come with a 9-million-dollar loan, in addition to a 2-million-dollar grant on a 4-million-dollar loan from DEQ. Mayor Ceja asked if the city knows yet what the projected water bill will be with the funding the city currently has. CA Harding stated that the city will hire a company that specializes in figuring out how the city will pay back the loans. They will do a study and will be able to figure out the financial impact on the residents. CA Harding suggested a work session to talk more about hypotheticals on what the water rate could be. CA Harding is pleased with the grants the city has been able to obtain.

CA Harding asked the council if they would like to approve new liquor licenses within the city or leave it to city staff to approve or deny in the future. By consensus, CA Harding is able to approve the licenses in the future.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: Mayor Ceja met with other local mayors who have all decided to work together on the If I Were Mayor contest to collaborate with local cities.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: No comment on provided correspondence.

Mayor Ceja adjourned the meeting without prejudice at 7:59PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angelica Ceja", written over a horizontal line.

Angelica Ceja, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Harding", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Harding, City Administrator