



# City of Aumsville



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## **AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL Minutes – January 13, 2020**

Mayor Clevenger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present was: Mayor Derek Clevenger, Councilors Gus Bedwell, Nico Casarez, Jim Case, Angelica Ceja, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent: None. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), Police Chief Schmitz (PC Schmitz), Public Works Director Steve Oslie (PWD Oslie), and City Clerk Colleen Rogers (CC Rogers) were also present.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Clevenger asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Casarez motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Seney seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

### **PRESENTATION:**

**No Shave November:** PC Schmitz introduced Melissa Baurer, Service Integration and Community Liaison Coordinator for Santiam Hospital, presenting her with a check for \$980 raised by his department during the "No Shave November" fundraiser. She thanked PC Schmitz and the department for the generous donation. She explained that the donation will go to support their Service Integration Team (SIT). SIT supports a variety of needs in the community, such as bringing awareness of the Can Cancer Program and offering assistance to families going through medical treatments by providing gas for transportation to and from treatments, also buying food and paying utilities. She told PC Schmitz how much they appreciate the efforts of his team and thanked him for the annual support.

**2020 Budget Committee Appointments:** Council reviewed the Aumsville Budget Committee applications. After discussion the following applicants were appointed:

Councilor Bedwell motioned to **re-appoint Karla Willmschen** to the 2020 Budget Committee for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2022. Councilor Ceja seconded the motion. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, and Seney. Abstained: Purdy. No: None.)

Councilor Purdy motioned to **appoint Tammy Bennett** to the 2020 Budget Committee for

a 3-year term ending December 31, 2022. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 6-1: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Purdy, and Seney. No: Ceja.)

Councilor Casarez motioned to appoint **Douglas Cox** to the 2020 Budget Committee for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2022. Councilor Ceja seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

CA Harding stated that those applicants who were not appointed are welcome to attend the budget meetings to give input and/or learn more about the city budget. He encouraged them to reapply as openings occur.

### **Planning Commission Appointments**

Councilor Seney motioned to re-appoint **Carrie Murphy, Walter Wick, and Tom Youmans** to the Aumsville Planning Commission. Councilor Purdy seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

CA Harding wanted to let anyone who is thinking about applying for the Planning Commission, but may not want to take on the commitment, know there is an advisory position. This is a non-voting position, but they would receive a meeting packet just like the other members and would be able to give input at the meetings. It is also a good way to get some experience, then when an opening comes up you can apply. We have had a couple of people go through this process and it seems to work quite well. He said that if anyone is interested in this to contact him at City Hall.

### **Annual Staff Awards**

- Longevity Awards were presented to:
  - Finance Officer Josh Hoyer, 5-year
  - Public Works Assistant Director Matt Etzel, 5-year
  - Aumsville Police Officer Brian Buchholz, 5-year. PC Schmitz presented the 5-year service award
- Employee of the Year
  - **Office Assistant Elaina Turpin** received the City Staff Employee of the Year Award. CA Harding presented the plaque and commented that Elaina is always the first to volunteer and step up to take on additional duties. As an example, he cited that she has taken the lead on our new website design project.
- Police Department Employees of the Year
  - **Police Clerk Brenda Campbell** received the Police Department Employee of the Year Award. PC Schmitz commented that Brenda has been keeping him and the department on track for the past four years and is the annual Santa visit coordinator, assists with the National Night Out event, and the annual Toy Drive.
  - **Reserve Officer Carl Gabba** was awarded the Reserve Officer of the Year Award. PC Schmitz commented that Carl started with the department in 1998 and has 13 years of accumulative service. He was away periodically while serving our country in the National Guard.

PC Schmitz stated that he appreciates that he has a professional staff, but it makes it hard to pick one.

**VISITORS:**

There were 19 visitors in the audience, and one asked to speak during the public comment period. Jean Dyer, Aumsville resident, addressed the council. She stated that she appreciates receiving her newsletter by mail. She went on to say that she wanted to address the Mayor's recent newsletter article and the three topics he wrote about; the Public Safety Fee, water bills, and marijuana. She feels that the Safety Fee is necessary, and asked Council, if it goes to the citizens for a vote and fails, how does the city plan to provide adequate safety coverage for our growing community. She feels that the city is well within its responsibilities to pass measures that are necessary for the safety and well-being of its citizens. She strongly suggested that we allow the Council to do their job. She talked about water rates, stating that she has spoken to CA Harding and understands that he is exploring options that might make water and sewer bills more manageable for lower usage customers. Ms. Dyer commented that the Mayor's article mentioned state revenues that the city is missing out on by banning retail marijuana sales. She stated that she would like to know how much revenue the cities of Stayton and Turner have generated from marijuana sales. She commented that the city is not refusing to accept money from the profit sharing of these sales, rather the people of Aumsville voted not to. She urged Council to look for other ways to generate revenue, and she gave several examples that would attract people to Aumsville. She asks that careful consideration of opportunities and long-term planning take precedent over short-term fixes. She hopes that the city will continue to make decisions that benefit all Aumsville residents.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Council reviewed the November 25, 2019 Council meeting minutes. Councilor Purdy moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Aumsville Rural Fire Protection District (ARFPD) Application for a Zone Change of 145 N 4<sup>th</sup> St. from Commercial (CL) to Public (P)

Mayor Clevenger read the Opening Statement and opened the public hearing at 7:33 PM

Staff Report – Lisa Brosnan, City Planner on contract through Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MVCOG), reviewed the application and Aumsville Planning Commission (APC) process. She talked about the basis for the APC recommendation. She stated that the public hearing is for a zone change and comprehensive map amendment. Notice was sent to neighboring properties on November 15, 2019 and posted at the site on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. City Planner Brosnan stated that the APC held a public hearing on December 5, 2019 and found that the applicant has met all required criterion and recommends that Council approve the application for zone change and comprehensive plan map amendment. The application and staff report are available for review at City Hall.

Applicant Testimony: There was no one available for testimony.

There being no other testimony, Mayor Clevenger asked if there were any questions from Council. A question was asked to confirm the location of the property.

Mayor Clevenger closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 PM.

Council Deliberation: Councilor Casarez stated that he is involved with the fire district and wanted to know if the other council members had issue with him voting on this. There were no objections.

Councilor Casarez made a motion to approve the requested Zone Change and Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment (2019-07) as recommended by the Aumsville Planning Commission. Councilor Seney seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

Council convened at 7:47 PM and reconvened at 8:00 PM.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed for approval:

- Councilor Purdy moved to approve Resolution No. 01-20 authorizing the City Administrator to submit USDA Rural Development grant applications for the purpose of conducting a Mixing Zone Study and Wastewater Facility Plan as presented. Councilor Case seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.) CA Harding explained that some grantors require a resolution be passed as part of the application process. Councilor Purdy asked if this was a matching fund grant. CA Harding stated that it is not, the USDA and Business Oregon grants are both fully funded grants. The city does not have to contribute any funds to receive grant dollars.
- Councilor Bedwell moved to approve Resolution No. 02-20 authorizing the City Administrator to submit Business Oregon grant applications for the purpose of conducting a Mixing Zone Study and a Wastewater Facility Plan as presented. Councilor Seney seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)
- Mutual Agreement Order (MAO) with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): CA Harding gave a review of the MAO and explained that DEQ requires cities to meet certain criteria for their discharge wastewater. The City of Aumsville has been in negotiation with DEQ over the last 8 months. Recently they have come to the city with a more aggressive timeline that will be expensive to fulfill. We have to weigh the options: pay their fines or build a multimillion dollar facility that would meet their criteria. PWD Oslie stated that we have negotiated with DEQ to give us two years to develop a plan, which is more than the amount of time they originally wanted to provide.

The city is in the process of applying for a new Wastewater Discharge Permit. The

new permit will require stricter discharge standards. The ammonia levels are the only criteria that we are not able to meet with the current system. The sludge in the lagoon settling ponds is causing most of the ammonia, but it is very expensive to remove. PWD Osie is not in favor of spending two million dollars to remove the sludge for a 2-year fix. CA Harding assured Council that this is not a growth-related issue, it is a process driven issue. He stated that these are the rules imposed locally by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEQ. The city's lagoon treatment system has never been able to meet even the basic standards. The position DEQ had previously taken was as long as the city continues to improve its system, then DEQ wouldn't elevate these deficiencies to an enforcement level. Recently, however, they have changed their opinion and are now requiring everyone to meet the standards or face enforcement penalties. The daily fines are significant, and the treatment options are expensive, and the city would be obligated to construct it regardless of cost. Because of this change, there are many Oregon cities in the same position. City staff are not supportive of such an aggressive timeline to fix these issues, but feel like the city has no alternative.

Councilor Purdy moved to approve the DEQ Mutual Agreement Order as presented and authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement. Councilor Casarez seconded. Motion APPROVED 7-0: (Yes: Clevenger, Bedwell, Casarez, Case, Ceja, Purdy, and Seney. No: None.)

#### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Council also received for review with no discussion:

- System Development Charges (SDC) Annual Report 2019
- November 25, 2019 through December 31, 2019 Check Registers
- Chief Schmitz' Monthly Police Report – Noted the graffiti artist was caught and arrested.
- Public Works Director Osie's Public Works Report

#### **CA Discussion Items:**

**Survey:** CA Harding cited the results of the recent Customer Service Survey. We have received less than 100 surveys back. He stated that they have been mostly positive. The majority of residents like the newsletter being mailed over driveway delivery. Feedback from residents indicates that staff provides a high level of customer service across all departments.

**Council Work Session:** Council is scheduled for a work session on January 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be looking at different water rate structures, and the Public Works facility plan.

**Marion County Grant:** The city has received notice that we have been awarded an economic development grant for \$45,000 from Marion County. The grant is spread out over three years; \$15,000 per year.

**Code Updates:** CA Harding has been working weekly with our consultants and hopes to have the first draft of the Development Ordinance to the planning commission in February and to Council in March. Other ordinances will follow soon after.

**Vision Plan:** The Vision Focus Group will be meeting in February. The plan is still in draft form. CA Harding is working with consultants on the presentation and will be taking it to the focus group for review and comments.

**Website Update:** We have completed the design phase and are ready to move on to the programming stage. Our hope is to launch the new site in a few months.

**Video Recording Equipment:** We have received several bids for a media system that have exceeded our current approved budget. Staff will proceed with a good quality video recorder and be prepared to launch before the new website is up. Councilor Bedwell recommended that Council review a few videos before we post online. He is concerned about quality and would like to make sure it is accomplishing the goals of the council.

### **MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS AND INITIATIVES: None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Council discussed their availability for upcoming Council meetings. Mayor Clevenger announced that his work will keep him from attending several meetings over the next eight months.

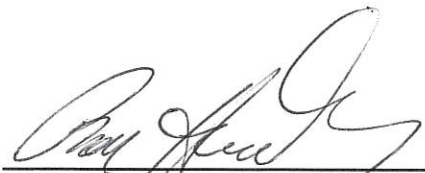
Council discussed the city's recommendation for representation on the Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation (MWVACT). Council consensus was to continue to support Councilor Seney as representative.

Councilor Purdy stated that we have received various correspondence regarding the Mayor's conduct on social media and wanted the audience to know that, even though we may not address it at a meeting, it doesn't mean that it falls on deaf ears.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Council received the 2019 Annual Financial Report from city auditors Grove, Mueller, and Swank, P.C. CA Harding stated that, from a financial standpoint, it is a clean audit and the city looks good. There was no discussion.


### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

The meeting adjourned without prejudice at 8:53 PM.



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Ron Harding, City Administrator



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Derek Clevenger, Mayor Pro Tem  
Della Seney