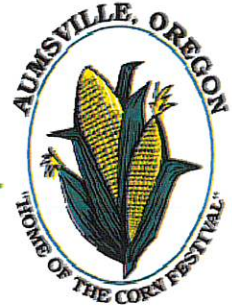




City of Aumsville



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AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION Minutes – FEBRUARY 26, 2020

City Council President Della Seney called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present was Councilors Nico Casarez (arrived at 7:08 PM), Angelica Ceja, Larry Purdy, and Della Seney. Council absent was: Mayor Derek Clevenger and Councilors Gus Bedwell and Jim Case. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding) and Office Assistant Rynne Crowther were also present.

DISCUSSION

Kratom:

Council had requested CA Harding talk to the property owners that sell kratom. CA Harding asked that the kratom retailers in Aumsville have a discussion with him regarding kratom and how it is sold. They make a good profit from the product, but said that if Council decides to ban it, they would comply. CA Harding asked what they would be willing to do if it was not banned to help make sure it stayed out of the hands of minors. They said they would treat it like alcohol and cigarettes and keep it behind the counter. They said that they do not sell it to minors. They also were willing to remove any outside advertisement. The other thing that can be done now is bring awareness to the community.

Marion County agreed to work with Aumsville to bring awareness to issues such as smoking, vaping, and drugs like kratom. It was discussed that enforcing anything would be difficult without an ordinance and that working with the businesses versus enacting a ban would be worth trying.

Council discussed the state bill that is addressing kratom. Council asked CA Harding to research that bill and see if there are similar safeguards or perhaps additional safeguards that could be in place to help address the issue. CA Harding will report back to Council.

Community Garden:

There has been an increase of problems with the community garden, such as people bringing in materials that are not allowed. Gardeners are not following the rules. Water was

left on at night. Another issue is that people came and stole from others' gardens. There is suggestion that the community garden be discontinued. There have been meetings with the gardeners about the rules, but the rules were continually violated. Few use the garden, as the space is small, and it really is not a benefit to the greater community. Staff is recommending closing the garden this season, cleaning up the area, and reexamining the program at a later date. Staff would like to distribute seeds to the community at large to have smaller gardens in their back yards.

Council agreed that closing the garden this year was ok and liked the idea of giving seeds away to the community.

Strategic Planning and Goals:

CA Harding played a promotional video of Saturday Market. In 2019 the vendor average for the Saturday Market was 60 vendors, and the Saturday market generated \$3000.00 last year. City staff would like to invest the profits back into the Saturday market so the money could be used to bring in an activity, such as a band, to grow the Saturday Market and participation, both vendor and shoppers. It was discussed that it is fairer to the vendors to put the money back into the event itself. There could also be upgrades to the park itself, which benefits everyone. Advertising options for the event was discussed. Council indicated that the city could budget to use the profits from the Saturday Market to enhance the market and draw in more customers and vendors.

The city has been working with Marion County for grant opportunities. Previously, one particular grant has been used for building the band stand and another for updating the code. This year Marion County agreed to provide a \$45,000 grant paid over three years, or \$15,000 per year. Council can use this grant for economic development activities. The city council has previously approved a tiny village concept to be used to draw new vendors to Saturday Market and activity days in the park. There could also be an opportunity to place incubator businesses in them and, if other programs were not successful, the city could always use them for events or room rentals. The tiny village is a group of sheds with storefront faces intended for temporary use for the sale of merchandise. The grant seems like a great opportunity for that idea. The potential budget was discussed. The village could be a part of the Saturday Market, but also something of its own. The idea has been supported and is one of Council's goals. Council gave approval to move forward with a city match and develop a project budget. This can be finalized during this year's budget presentation.

Downtown Corridor (Main Street):

Marion County is putting in landscaping around their property, which includes block out material around the fence and large street trees as a buffer. The new vet clinic is also upgrading and required to meet those landscaping requirements as well. The landscaping in front of the chiropractic office is being worked on. The Quick Stop Market is also improving and landscaping. Altogether, those are a huge improvement in appearance of Main St. Other areas of potential landscaping with a large visual impact were discussed.

Staff asked Council about developing a project to fill in street trees and landscaping areas along Main Street that could have a greater impact on downtown. Council was supportive of developing a plan and including it in this year's budget.

Undergrounding the power lines is something being explored. Part of the project could be rolled in with the decorative streetlights. There would be approximately one dozen streetlights. Recent developments have been built with a conduit left for that purpose in the future. It was discussed that change brings about more change for timely improvement.

Development:

The city's cost to put in infrastructure to new development is often more than what the developer pays for that service. The permit fee is for processing the permits, not for all of the inspection and coordination. Most cities have a development review and inspection fee. Without that, the city is subsidizing the development and losing money. The issue is something that needs to be looked at before other available properties in town are developed. It was an idea that was voiced in the Visioning meetings, that growth should pay for growth. It was discussed that the developer would have to pay that in any other city, and it would not deter them from building in Aumsville. CA Harding committed to sending Council examples of how other nearby cities have implemented this and having the city attorney review.

Logo:

A new logo was briefly discussed in previous council meetings. The city put together some logo ideas as part of the website project. The intent of putting them together was to spark the conversation on what direction to go for the logo. CA Harding showed Council some ideas for the new logo and asked for feedback. Council provided some input and CA Harding will come back with some edits based on feedback.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

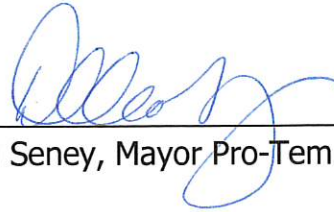
The list of volunteers invited was well over 100, which is substantial. The recognition is the dinner, but it was thought about to single out some that put in longer hours, i.e., group, lifetime award, etc. The reason it was discussed was to check that the Council consents with the city choosing those awards, or if Council would like to do that. The choosing is to be based on criteria in the category, not by any affiliation. It was discussed that the idea is similar to a "First Citizen's Banquet" and that the volunteer hours are trackable, which is quantifiable criteria. Choosing some that meet the criteria for those awards gives meaning to the volunteering efforts. It was discussed that the Council look at the choices that the city staff recommended from the list of volunteers and choose the awards. It was also discussed that a similar process can be used for choosing the grand marshal for the Corn Festival parade. CA Harding gave Council a preview of the new city website in its current form. Council likes the features.

Other Business May Come Before the Council At this Time:

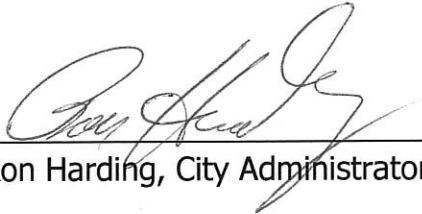
Good of the order and scheduling was discussed for future meetings. Republic Services is

interested in coming to Council soon to discuss a rate increase and Council goals.

The meeting adjourned without prejudice at 8:35 PM



Della Seney, Mayor Pro-Tem



Ron Harding, City Administrator