

**MILL CITY  
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Tuesday, November 22, 2022**

**Mayor Kirsch** opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the flag salute. Councilors present were Janet Zeyen-Hall, Dawn Plotts, Tony Trout, and Steve Winn. Brett Katlong was excused. Staff members in attendance were City Recorder Stacie Cook and City Clerk Tree Fredrickson.

**Citizens in Attendance** were Dennis Chamberlin, Lynda Harrington, Dorothy Keasey, Dan Lemke, Ruth Lemke, Roel Lundquist, Jorge Martinez, Frances McGuire, Jason Saari, Angel Starr, and Misty Strasser.

**DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Mayor Kirsch stated that anyone who felt they may have a potential conflict with anything on tonight's agenda may say so at this time or at any time during tonight's meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Councilor Trout** moved and was seconded by **Councilor Plotts**, to approve items a; Approval of Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of November 8, 2022, and b; Approval of Accounts Payable. Mrs. Fredrickson polled the Council. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

**CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** Lynda Harrington, NE Santiam Pointe Lp, asked when the lights on the bridge began working. Mayor Kirsch said that the lights were fixed today.

Councilor Plotts said that Christmas decorations will be placed by Public Works next week.

Francis McGuire, NE Santiam Pointe Lp, said she is concerned about the intensity of the lights on SW Broadway Street, adding that she believes there are too many lights and the brightness causes visibility issues. The lights do not illuminate the sidewalk as they should, rather they shine outwards. Mayor Kirsch said that reducing the number of lamp posts is not likely. Looking at a different color of bulb and/or a less intense (lumens) bulb will be researched further.

City Recorder Stacie Cook said that she has requested the bulbs be changed, however, Linn County has indicated that the TIGER grant needs to be closed out before addressing the bulb issue.

Councilor Winn suggested that bulbs be removed from all the small lamp posts, leaving only the tall street corner lamp posts lit. This could work until a permanent solution is found.

Councilor Plotts asked who is responsible for maintaining the new plantings along SW Broadway Street. Mrs. Cook said that Linn County is responsible for maintaining the bioswales and plantings.

Jorge Martinez, Gates, said he has received complaints from his tenant and neighbors on SW Broadway St, as they believe there is a lack of parking spaces due to the bioswales and bump-outs.

Dan Lemke, SW Kingwood Ave, asked if there are plans for placing reflectors on the bioswales to warn drivers that they are there, noting that a couple of vehicles have already driven up and over them.

Denny Chamberlin, NW River Rd, said he hopes the City considers a lighting code to help with any issues that may arise in the future.

Roel Lundquist, SW Linn Blvd, said that the city already has a lighting code prohibiting bright flashing/moving neon reader board lights, which can be very distracting to drivers.

Misty Strasser, NW River Rd, said the lack of street lights in front of the high school combined with the intense lighting off of SW Broadway St. makes it very difficult to see anyone crossing the street.

Mrs. Strasser said that she is concerned with whether the River Rd. pump station can handle what is presently required, let alone adding the 54-unit housing development planned for NW Beech St. The generator continuously kicks on and off, creating a lot of weird and very loud noises.

Mrs. Strasser said that the numbers she has led her to believe that the pump station is working less efficiently as the years pass.

Councilor Trout declared a conflict of interest, stating that he will not participate in this discussion.

Mrs. Cook stated that there is currently an open land use application for the NW Beech St. development and Council must remain neutral; therefore, the discussion needs to remain on the pump station and not mention the proposed development.

Mayor Kirsch said that all pump stations and pipelines throughout the city are currently being evaluated by engineers. Findings may support an additional pump station is necessary for the proposed development.

Mayor Kirsch said he suspects that 'dirty power' from the River Road power line could be one reason for the generator excessively running, noting that just a small bump in power will cause the generator to kick on. He has requested that Pacific Power place an analyzer on each leg of the power line to identify when/where the power is lacking.

Mr. Lundquist said that a maintenance log should be created with daily readings from this pump station generator and should remain in place for a few months to monitor any changes.

Ruth Lemke, SW Kingwood Ave, said that she is concerned with the lack of sidewalks along SW Kingwood Ave. This is a safety concern for those walking and asked if a sidewalk could be considered. Additional signage and police patrols were also requested. Mayor Kirsch said that sidewalks are expensive to install; the City relies on grants for projects such as this.

Mrs. Harrington asked if the \$400,000 SOB funds raised locally will remain with the City once the TIGER grant is closed. Mrs. Cook said that any remaining funds will remain in the Railroad Bridge Maintenance Fund for future maintenance needs.

**ELECTION RESULTS - UNOFFICIAL:** The unofficial results of the November 8, 2022 election show the election of:

Tim Kirsch, Mayor  
Janet Zeyen-Hall, Councilor  
Jason Saari, Councilor  
Steve Winn, Councilor

The results also indicate that the City's permanent ban on Psilocybin businesses has passed.

**CDBG/HOME FUNDS APPLICATION:** The City has received an invitation to apply for grant funding through Marion County's CDBG/HOME funds. Because these dollars need to be focused on low income residents, City Planner David Kinney and Mrs. Cook believe that the most logical projects would be the water main, sewer main and/or sewer pump station that is necessary to

complete the proposed Greenlight and Santiam Meadows (Marion County) developments. Applications are due by December 8, 2022.

Mrs. Cook said that she contacted Marion County with questions about Mill City potentially applying for funds but no answer has been received. Mrs. Cook will continue to research this further before the deadline.

Council consensus to pursue this funding opportunity.

**MARION COUNTY TINY HOME LEASE:** The Council was provided with a copy of an email from Marion County Commissioner Danielle Bethell requesting direction from Council on matters related to the request for lease of the FEMA trailer site.

Mrs. Cook said that staff has not moved forward on this matter as she has been awaiting the proposed site plan to provide for Council review so that a formal decision to lease the land to Marion County could be made. The proposed site plan was to be provided at the October 11, 2022 meeting.

A draft lease agreement was provided to the City for review. City's Attorney Jim McGehee and Mrs. Cook reviewed a portion of the lease today. The determination was that there are many issues that will need to be addressed before a recommendation to approve can be given.

Council consensus to reject Marion County's lease agreement as proposed. Mrs. Cook and Mr. McGehee will work on modifying the document for future consideration.

Councilor Plotts recommended extending FEMA's lease through January 2023, giving the City more time to work out the details of the lease.

Mayor Kirsch said that he will reach out to Marion County Commissioners to advise of the need for modification to the agreement.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS CITY RECORDER ITEMS:**

Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act: The Council was provided with a pamphlet prepared by DEQ outlining upcoming changes to the recycling program in Oregon. The state will be implementing plastic pollution and modernization rules which will affect every city in the state. Funding will be available to local governments to expand the recycling opportunities in their cities. These dollars will be targeted toward reducing contamination in the comingled recycling, educational resources, as well as improvement and expansion of existing recycling services.

Mrs. Cook said that yard debris recycling has been brought to the Council for consideration in the past but was rejected. This may be something the City can consider.

SRTS Grant Update: Mrs. Cook said that the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee met on November 17, 2022. Mill City's application was ranked number 14 and was recommended for award.

If awarded, the project will finish out the core area around the school; adding a sidewalk on the west side of SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. from SW Evergreen St. to SW Broadway St, replace the sidewalk along SW Evergreen St. to either SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. or SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, place a crossing signal at the intersection of S. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and SW Evergreen St, and finish all sidewalks around the block between SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

SCA Grant Update: Mrs. Cook said that the City was not successful in its attempt to secure funds for SW Ivy St. overlay work.

Sewer Project Update: Mrs. Cook said that she and Mr. Kinney met with two property owners to discuss property acquisition for a drain field and treatment plant. Both were receptive to the idea.

Inflow and infiltration (I & I) scoping work was started on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Two issues have been identified, which may help with the capacity issue.

Mayor Kirsch said that the next NSSA meeting will be held Monday, December 5, 2022.

Mayor Kirsch said that the Marion County Board of Commissioners are holding a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 from 6-7 p.m. at the Gates Community Church of Christ.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:17 PM Mayor Kirsch adjourned into Executive Session under ORS192.660(2)(e) - To Conduct Deliberations With Persons You Have Designated to Negotiate Real Property Transactions.

At 8:41 PM Mayor Kirsch adjourned executive session and reconvened into regular session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

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Stacie Cook, MMC  
City Recorder

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Tim Kirsch  
Mayor