

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

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

**Citizens in Attendance** were Roel Lundquist, John McCormick, Jerry Mumey and Gary Olson.

**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 Zeyen-Hall**, to approve items a; Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of February 8, 2022, b; Approval of Accounts Payable, c; Ratification of Mayor Kirsch's Appointment of Carl Henriksen and Gary Olson to Three Year Terms on the Budget Committee, Expiring June 30, 2024, of the consent agenda. Mrs. Fredrickson polled the Council. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

**CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** John McCormick, SE Fairview Street, requested that Council extend the FEMA and RV Park lease agreements as he does not think the county or the state has done enough for the wildfire survivors as many are still without permanent housing. Mayor Kirsch said that both leases are being considered this evening.

Jerry Mumey, SW Evergreen Street, asked for placement of a street light near the post office entrance as this is a dimly lit area. Mayor Kirsch said that staff will look into the possibility.

Gary Olson, SW Spring Street, said that it has been three months since completing the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan and asked if the Council plans to move forward with the goals within the plan. Mr. Olson said that setting some attainable goals should be the next step, suggesting that the MOU's could be completed as an easy first item.

Mayor Kirsch asked that this item be placed on the March 22, 2022 agenda for Council discussion and a potential action plan and thanked Mr. Olson for all his hard work in putting this plan together.

**MILL CITY FALLS PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT ALL BIDS:** Two bids were received for the Mill City Falls Park Improvement Project, one of which was found to be unresponsive due to not meeting the bidding requirements. Both of the bids came in nearly double the engineer's estimate, with one being \$720,541.89 and the other \$796,505.30. Due to the high costs, staff recommends that all bids be rejected.

Staff will be reviewing the bid costs as well as reach out to see whether bid timing or project completion dates may have kept others from bidding.

Roel Lundquist, SW Linn Boulevard, asked if the parking lot landscaping on Wall St. was included in this phase. Mrs. Cook said that it was included in the overall project, however, this may be something that the Parks, Grounds & Facilities Maintenance person can work on, along with volunteers.

**Councilor Trout** moved and was seconded by **Councilor Winn** to Reject All Bids for the Mill City Falls Park Improvement – Phase 1 Project. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

**MISC. CITY RECORDER ITEMS:**

Resolution No. 87X – OPRD Grant Application: Resolution No 87X authorizes the submittal of a grant application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Local Government Grant Program. An application will be submitted for elements of the Mill City Falls Park – Phase 2, including landscaping, wall/railing, pathway and site furniture. The application is due by April 1, 2022 and requires submittal of this resolution along with other documentation.

Mrs. Cook said that cost estimates have not been determined. She plans to apply for around \$450,000 with a City match of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

**Councilor Katlong** moved and was seconded by **Councilor Trout** to Approve Resolution No. 874 – Authorizing Application to Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department for Grant Funding Under the Local Government Grant Program for Mill City Falls Park. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

Request for Reduction of Water Charges – 740 SW Evergreen St., Mumey, Jerry: A request for a reduction of water charges was received from Jerry Mumey, 740 SW Evergreen Street. Mr. Mumey advised that his son accidentally left a hose partially on, causing a large water bill with 40 units of water used.

Mr. Mumey said that he was unaware that he had used so much water and feels that notification by Public Works at the time the high read was found would have been appropriate.

Councilor Katlong asked if providing notice when a high read is found would be too cumbersome for staff. Mrs. Cook said that if a meter is found to be ‘spinning’ due to a leak, Public Works will try to contact the resident at the time. If they are unable to do so, Utility Billing Clerk Kimberley Johnson will attempt to call the resident or send a door hanger if there is no answer. Because the meter was not showing a potential leak this was not the process used. However, Mrs. Johnson did have the read double-checked when she saw the high consumption.

Councilor Trout said that he was against approving a recent request for a reduction of charges because the property owner indicated that he noticed water running across his yard and chose to disregard it. Mr. Mumey’s situation is different as he was unaware of the large amount of water use until he received his water bill.

Councilor Katlong thanked Mr. Mumey for attending the Council meeting in person with his request and taking full responsibility for the use.

Mayor Kirsch suggested that Mr. Mumey’s total usage be lowered to 10 units with a caveat that his son pay for four of the units. Mayor Kirsch added that it means a lot when a citizen attends a meeting, which shows genuine concern.

**Councilor Trout** moved and was seconded by **Council Katlong**, to Approve Request for Reduction of Water Charges in the Amount of Thirty Units, with the Requirement that Mr. Mumey’s Son Pay for Four of the Units, for Mumey, Jerry; 740 SW Evergreen Street. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

FEMA Trailer Site – Request for Extension: At the last Council meeting Mrs. Cook was asked to get clarification as to why another extension is necessary for the FEMA trailer site. The FEMA Lease Contract Officer advised that the remaining occupants have been unable to find permanent housing. This may be due to a lack of resources/supplies to repair a damaged home, availability of alternate housing, etc.

Mayor Kirsch said that he wants to work with FEMA and the residents at the trailer site as they do not have a lot of options at this point. Mayor Kirsch indicated that he is in favor of the six month extension, noting that this site has not been a problem to the City and residents have been courteous and clean.

Councilor Zeyen-Hall questioned whether this will come to an end if FEMA is allowed to continue requesting additional extensions. With needed repairs to the sewer plant, the site cannot be tied up forever. Councilor Zeyen-Hall said that she is not for an open-ended lease agreement.

Councilor Katlong suggested that residents living in the temporary housing may need to expand their search if unable to locate housing in the Canyon.

Councilor Trout said that citizens are constantly approaching him with negative comments about the RV site but not about the FEMA site. Councilor Trout said that he is not opposed to one last extension but feels that the City has then fulfilled it's obligation to the community.

**Councilor Trout** moved and was seconded by **Councilor Katlong**, to Approve the Extension of the FEMA Trailer Site Lease Until September 30, 2022. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

*RV Site – Request for Extension:* Mrs. Cook said that during a recent meeting with Marion County she requested an update on progress with finding alternate housing for those residing at the City's RV site. Commissioner Danielle Bethell informed that they are working diligently to find a solution for this issue. Unfortunately, there is a high possibility that housing may not be available until late summer.

Mayor Kirsch said that a strong request was made from a Marion County Commissioner to extend the lease.

Councilors Trout and Katlong both voiced concerns with extending this lease, noting that residents have been uncooperative in following their lease agreement.

Councilor Trout said that the City only had good intentions in helping after the wildfires and now the City is being made out as the 'bad guy' because of the decision to not extend the lease, noting that this was to give people a step up in their recovery but it's now time for them to move on.

**Councilor Trout** moved and was seconded by **Councilor Katlong**, to Retain the March 31, 2022 Lease Expiration. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

Mrs. Cook will notify Marion County of this decision and send reminder notices to site residents.

*Sewer System "Interim Upgrade" Update:* DEQ has responded to the City's proposal to expand wastewater treatment capacity. In short, DEQ has rejected the proposal and provided a recommended alternative; to upgrade to the treatment system to improve the quality of treated wastewater to lower pollutant load and provide additional drain field areas, including replacement areas. These alternatives have been reviewed by the City's engineering firm.

Councilor Trout declared a potential conflict of interest, as he has had the developers as clients, however, he indicated his desire to stay in the conversation.

DEQ's recommendations drastically change the cost projection and land needs for the City. Based on quick engineering calculations, it is now anticipated that the City will require 32 acres of land to accommodate the drain field as well as an area for a lateral treatment plant. The initial cost estimates to complete the work as well as do the immediate maintenance repairs and I & I work is \$7.5 Million +/-.

Marion County is aware of DEQ's response and the potential cost of the project. Marion County Administrator Jan Fritz has submitted costs for Mill City's sewer upgrades as part of the County's request for dollars in the State Priorities Listing.

Mrs. Cook and Mr. Kinney have met with one property owner and will meet with another later in the week to discuss the potential for land acquisition. Mrs. Cook said that if the City is unable to resolve the sewer issues, all new construction which requires sewer mains will cease and, at worst, there will come a point when the City will need to issue a moratorium on all building.

Mrs. Cook said that the railing at Hammond Park is fixed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

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Stacie Cook, MMC  
City Recorder

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Tim Kirsch  
Mayor