

**MILL CITY
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

Mayor Kirsch opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the flag salute. Councilors present were Janet Zeyen-Hall, Brett Katlong, Dawn Plotts, Tony Trout and Steve Winn. Staff members in attendance were City Recorder, Stacie Cook, Public Works Supervisor Russ Foltz and City Clerk/Reid House Facilitator Tree Fredrickson.

Citizens in attendance were Ann Carey, Danielle Gonzalez, Sgt. Greg Klein, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Roel Lundquist, Jerry Marr, Stephenie Tucker and Ken Woodward.

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 October 22, 2019, b; Approval of Accounts Payable, c; Acceptance of Monthly Revenues & Expenditures Report, October 2019, and d; Authorization to Close City Hall on Friday, November 29, 2019 as an Unpaid Holiday, of the consent agenda. Tree Fredrickson polled the council; the motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

LINN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sgt. Greg Klein, Linn County Sheriff's Office, gave the report for the month of October. Sgt. Klein said that he ran into one of the people who have been riding small motor bikes on the sidewalk and cited him for doing so.

RV's and campers/motor homes are becoming a problem. In one day three were dealt with. There are still a number to take care of but these are being worked on.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Supervisor Russ Foltz gave a report on the following items:

Pump Report – The leak amounts are average for this time of the year.

Public Works Building – The mudding and taping has been completed. Texturing will be soon and electricity hooked up today.

SW Cedar Street Improvement Project Update – The paving is on schedule to be finished this week. The work that has been finished looks good.

NE 5th Avenue Overlay Project Update – This project has been completed except for paperwork.

Councilor Plotts said that she appreciated Public Works Maintenance Worker Jonathan deRenzo clearing leaves from the area by the walking path.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS: Waste Water Task Force/N. Santiam Sewer Authority Formation – Danielle Gonzalez, Marion County

Mrs. Gonzalez said that in 2015 Marion County put together a distressed communities event, specifically focused on the lack of wastewater facilities in upper canyon communities. This lack of facilities keeps the cities from keeping businesses. A consultant was brought on to review the

feasibility of installing a sewer system canyon-wide. Each of the cities has its own unique circumstance which needs to be addressed. Gates is under 500 in population with available industrial land. However, the tax base is one of the lowest in the state which makes it nearly impossible to even manage what infrastructure exists. Detroit has a transient occupancy tax that goes toward maintaining infrastructure and the area where recreators frequent. Detroit also small parcels which cannot handle full septic needs in order to allow for businesses to open. Idanha has a lot of industrial area that could be used and with the changing demographics of employees, they are wanting to live in the small communities.

The Three Basin Rule is very limiting in what can be constructed in these communities because it requires the waterway to be maintained pristinely. This puts a financial burden on the small communities around the North Santiam River. The way that this matter has been approached is to advise other entities that there is a rural equity issue that needs to be addressed. This includes the inability of small, rural communities to grow because of the limitations on the waterway while the metro area is allowed to grow exponentially with the same water system.

The design and engineering design is being done with two options; one using all of the requirements and limitations of the Three Basin Rule and the other a little more innovatively in order to see how a system can be brought to the canyon area. This is because the design using the Three Basin requirements will be much higher. Obtaining the cost differential between this and a more innovative design will allow those working on this project to present an option with a high cost savings.

A draft of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) has been provided to each city's attorney for review. This IGA is a governance model so that grant funding can be sought. At some point in the future, Mill City will have to negotiate with the attorney because of the current sewer system.

A capacity study for Mill City has been included in the RFQ for the overall system review.

Mrs. Gonzalez said that this project is being shared state-wide with presentations made a numerous entity meetings as well as conferences.

The valuation put on the N. Santiam River is \$170 Million per year. This valuation is being used as one way to leverage the importance of the river and the communities surrounding it.

The county is working on the drafting of legal descriptions and mapping. The city of Salem has agreed to assist with an engineer for the Technical Advisory Committee for engineering design. Salem has concerns about water quality and high concerns about water quantity.

Ken Woodward, Detroit, said that the State Parks, Forest Service and marinas are having issues which need to be addressed. These groups can't be included because the funding being looked at is federal and they have federal interests.

Mrs. Gonzalez said that the best way to add value and get infrastructure projects done is to bundle and therefore, broadband is being looked at as a piece to this project.

Councilor Trout asked if the cabins in the forest service land are included in the potential service area. Mrs. Gonzalez said that these cannot be included because the funding being requested is federal and can't be doubled up on federal land.

Councilor Katlong asked where minutes can be reviewed for these meetings. Mrs. Gonzalez said that there is a website; northsantiamsewer.net, and if they are not on it, they can be provided.

Ann Carey, SW 1st Avenue, said that the City has applied for a grant to complete a capacity study and asked how this correlates to the work that the sewer task force is having done. Mrs. Gonzalez said that the hope would be to support each other's studies without duplicating effort

and wasting dollars. The study being done for the sewer task force is anticipated to be completed within the next year.

Roel Lundquist, SW Linn Blvd, asked if this presentation has been given to the other three cities councils. Mr. Woodward said that Detroit is signing the IGA this evening and Idanha will be signing tomorrow. Gates is getting ready to present the IGA for consideration.

Mrs. Carey said that it was the impression that this would matter would go before the people and the last statement was that the Oregon Health Authority and another agency would be making this decision, leaving the people out. Mrs. Gonzalez said that when this was first looked into a service district was considered. An "authority" goes through the council of each city that is part of it.

Councilor Katlong said that he would think it would be important to know how the citizens in Mill City feel about this possibility. Mayor Kirsch said that a town hall meeting has been scheduled for November 19th at the Odd Fellows Lodge and will be broadcast on the radio as well.

Mayor Kirsch said that one reason he is very interested in a sewer district is that he believes that within the next five to ten years the City will have to do major upgrades to the sewer system. The actuators aren't working and this is around \$100,000. The filter is clogged with organics and needs to be replaced. The system is operating on a non-expandable Windows XP program and if something happens to it then we will have to address this and the associated costs. Any upgrades that have been done with the computer has not been included within the control panel because there is not room for it in there. The system is on year 27 of a 25 year system. To participate in the sewer authority, the City's debt would be absolved, the system would be upgraded and a larger system constructed. Mayor Kirsch said that the current line of thinking is that the monthly sewer rate that would be implemented would be new to all of the other cities but would not be above the rate that Mill City charges.

Mrs. Gonzalez said that if Mill City is not on board with this district, the number will not work because there is not enough population within the other cities to support the needed funding.

Ann Carey, SW 1st Avenue said that Mayor Kirsch's statement is a very good one and should be gotten out to the public so that they understand where the City sits in regard to the current sewer system.

OLD BUSINESS

Request for Reduction of Leak Charges – 410 NE Santiam Pointe Ct; Tucker, Dan & Stephenie: Dan and Stephenie Tucker, owners of 410 NE Santiam Pointe Ct, attended the October 8, 2019 City Council meeting to discuss their request for reduction of water charges for the September water/sewer billing. The billing for the month was 140 units of which Council authorized a 100 unit credit.

Another 60+ units were used by the time public works went out to check for a leak and the problem was discovered. The average consumption for the Tucker's is 5 units with the "watering" average being 22 units. The October consumption, after the leak was stopped, was 64 units; \$222.58 in charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Tucker asked for consideration of the additional 'leak' amount during the initial discussion of the Council but were advised that they would need to come back after the billing was completed to request additional relief.

Councilor Trout said that this was one event and it was noted at the last meeting that the reading date may have been missed, leaving additional leak for the next billing.

Councilor Trout moved and was seconded by **Councilor Katlong** to Grant an Additional Reduction in Water Charges for 410 NE Santiam Pointe Loop in the Amount of 59 Units. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Reimbursement – Interceptor Tank Pumping; 537 NW Alder St: A request for reimbursement from Safe Haven, Inc. for costs incurred due to a sewage issue at a property they manage; 537 NW Alder Street, Mill City was provided for consideration. Andrew Surrett, Safe Haven, Inc, states in the request that there was a miscommunication between administration and maintenance personnel about who was to be contacted in the event of sewage issues in Mill City.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019 A & B Septic Service was called out to look into a clogged sewer line, which according to the property manager, was causing severe back-ups in the toilet and bathtub, requiring that action be taken 'on the fly'. The following day A & B Septic Service came back to the property to pump the tank.

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, Public Works Supervisor Russ Foltz received a call to 637 NW Alder Street to look into a sewage issue. Mr. Foltz found that the inlet baffle for this property was plugged, causing the problem, and upon clearing the plug that the tank was empty as this is a shared tank with 537 NW Alder Street.

The Saturday call out was the first and only contact to the City regarding the sewer issues. Because of this, we are unable to confirm whether an emergency pumping of the interceptor tank was necessary. Tanks are inspected at minimum every seven or eight years, but the need to pump can go longer if circumstances within the tank warrant. This tank was last pumped in 2014.

Councilor Katlong moved and was seconded by **Councilor Winn** to Deny Request for Reimbursement of Cost to Pump Interceptor Tank at 537 NW Alder Street. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

Public Works Maintenance Worker I Review: Mr. Foltz said that Jonathan deRenzo is doing a great job and just started on-call responsibilities. The six month probation is complete and recommendation is to hire permanently with a one-step increase in wages.

Councilor Trout moved and was seconded by **Councilor Zeyen-Hall** to Accept Recommendation of Permanent Appointment of Jonathan deRenzo to the Position of Public Works Maintenance Worker I. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

Councilor Trout moved and was seconded by **Councilor Katlong** to Grant One Step Salary Increase from Step 2; \$17.62/Hr to Step 3; \$18.32/Hr Based on a Satisfactory Review. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

DRAFT LCSO Contract/MOU: A preliminary draft of the Linn County Sheriff's Office law enforcement contract and the current draft (2017-2018) of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is attached to the contract were provided to Council for review.

Councilor Plotts asked what the percentage of the contract increase is. Mrs. Cook said that the average is just under 4% for the three year period.

Mayor Kirsch said that he would be interested in knowing what the actual cost per deputy is. Councilor Plotts provided an email that gave a breakdown of cost for putting a deputy on the street which totaled \$91.79 per hour.

Mrs. Cook said that she would like the Council to review and consider possible revisions to the MOU and provide those to her so that they can be incorporated before the final draft of the contract is considered.

STAFF/COMMISSION REPORTS

City Recorder Report:

List of On-Going Old Business Items - The list of on-going old business items was provided for review.

Mayor Kirsch suggested rating the old business items so that they can be prioritized. Mrs. Cook said that a number of the items just need dollars allocated within the budget.

Mayor Kirsch said that each year the Councilors receive a request for three priorities for staff to include dollars in the budget for. This list is a good way to find items for that list of priorities.

Councilor Katlong asked if the old business list can be added to an agenda for a second meeting of a month for discussion.

Dental Van; Tuesday, November 19 – A dental van is scheduled to be in Mill City at City Hall next Tuesday, November 19. Anyone in need of fillings or extractions should contact Whende Thomas.

Audit Report – The audit went well. There was one issue with purchasing of a pump that will be noted as a finding. This was an oversight on staff's part as the City has a contract with the supplier.

City Attorney Report: None.

BUSINESS FROM MAYOR & CITY COUNCILORS

Mayor Kirsch said that last week he filed for candidacy for House District 17, which Sherrie Sprenger currently holds.

Councilor Zeyen-Hall said that she spoke with the representative for MCGRA about the possible locations for a storage building. This will be taken to the board for consideration.

Councilor Katlong said that last Friday he met with Green Fall Landscaping to review The Reid House landscaping needs. The gutters will be cleaned because they are clogged with leaves and he was asked to aerate the lawn.

Councilor Plotts said that she met with the Linn County D.A. about a pilot program he is looking to start in Mill City and Harrisburg. It is referred to as the Broken Window Program. The thought is that if the broken window isn't fixed immediately then more get broken and the area begins to go downhill. In New York, this was used with a start on people jumping turnstiles. After focusing on stopping this, the crimes went down. Mill City has been asked what the focus should be in the community to try to lessen crime.

Councilor Trout said that a focus on failure to appear charges could make an impact. Mrs. Cook noted that driving while suspended and no insurance would also be an area to focus on.

Councilors Trout and **Winn** had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Stacie Cook, MMC
City Recorder

Tim Kirsch
Mayor