

TOWN HALL MEETING
CITY OF AMITY, OR

Minutes

A Town Hall Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 18, 2023, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Councilor Sandy McArthur, Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor April Dyche, Councilor Caleb Shields and Mayor Rachel King.

Councilors Present via Zoom

None

Councilors Absent

Councilor Denis Saucier

Staff Present

City Administrator Mike Thomas and City Treasurer/Recorder Natasha Johnson

1. STATE OF THE CITY:

Mayor King went over the goals the city set last year and what goals were accomplished; stating the city achieved over 80% of its goals for the past year. She also went over key things that have been done in the city throughout this last year. She then opened the floor up to Council to make comments or ask any questions.

2. COMMENTS BY MAYOR KING & COUNCIL:

Councilor Bojorquez thanked City Staff for all their hard work, especially being short staffed throughout most of 2022. She appreciates the Council and all their hard work. She also appreciates the community's input and feedback, which helps inform Council's decisions.

Councilor Dyche informed the community that our 2022 City Audit went well, and that the city stayed within budget this year. She stated that our crime rates have been down this year and then went over all that was accomplished within finance and public safety. Mayor King added that the City took a gamble and changed auditors and our auditing process last year, and that the gamble paid off with a clean audit at reduced cost to the City.

Councilor McArthur also praised the City Staff for all their hard work.

Councilor Shields stated that he is excited to serve and looking forward to good progress with

council in 2023.

3. DISCUSSION OF CITY SURVEY:

Mayor King went over the survey and that is what the city bases their goals and priorities on. And she made a request for the community to complete the survey by January 20th.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Citizen Engel asked Council to explain how the City Council used the survey to make decisions and whether it was statistics based. Mayor King explained the rating system in the survey and that the Council sets their goals based off the survey results. Ms. Engel asked if the goal setting was open to the public. Mayor King replied it was open and that City Staff can provide a copy of the survey results.

Citizen Jackson expressed her dissatisfaction with Ziplly fiber internet coming to town. She wanted to know if the City would consider not renewing the franchise agreement. She stated that Ziplly has been less cooperative and professional compared to Online NW with their service and installation practices. She went over some other issues they have caused and thanked the City for all their work to make sure Ziplly did the work properly. Mayor King thanked her for her concern, adding she is neither the first nor only person to express concerns about Ziplly. Mayor King asked Administrator Thomas to review their contract. Councilor McArthur explained her interaction with Ziplly has been great.

Citizen Engel gave background on how she became involved with city politics and why she was attending the city meetings. She brought up the Measure 110 results and indicated that the City could ban still ban it. She wants Council to consider what Amity citizens would have voted. Councilor Dyche encouraged her to continue what she is doing but informed her that the composition of the Council may be different in 2024. Mayor King then apologized to Citizen Engel for a miscommunication regarding ballot measures. She thanked Administrator Thomas for getting back to Ms. Engel. regarding her questions.

5. CLOSING COMMENTS:

City Administrator stated that the Planning Action filed by Amity Truck and Tractor expired and he reached out the owner to let them know. He also will have City Recorder cut check for City's portion of a tree removal.

City Recorder went over dates for Shred Day and Council all agreed to coordinate with cleanup day and have it April 15, 2023. She went over Citizen leak adjustment and Council asked for it to be on the agenda for February meeting and to have the citizen attend the meeting to advocate for the assistance.

City Councilors: Councilor Dyche asked about streetlights being out and that and she saw

powerlines being strung. Mayor King explained she has been in contact with PGE. Administrator Thomas explained what the power lines workers were making improvements and doing routine maintenance. He then added that ODOT is fixing all the ADA corners along Trade and Nursery.

Mayor King: Updated Council that the city was awarded a \$250k small city grant to complete the sidewalks from Merlot to the Elementary school.

Citizen Jackson then asked about potholes on Nursery and Trade. Mayor King updated that the city is on the list per ODOT to complete road repairs. Administrator Thomas added that ODOT does emergency pothole repairs, when necessary, but in the next year on the list to do patchwork. He explained there is a website where one can report potholes. Mayor King asked if he could post the info on Facebook and website. Citizen Silverman asked if would be better to submit photo with complaint. Administrator Thomas explained would help and the city has also submitted photos. Mayor King explained the city is responsible for painting the crosswalks, but ODOT is responsible for potholes.

Citizen Rainey thanked the city for working with DIG and she wants to help Amity see sunshine in whatever it takes.

Mayor King asked Council and Citizens if anything else to add. There was nothing else to add from the Council or Citizens. Mayor King let the citizens know she appreciates them all showing up.

Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Approved by City Council February 1, 2023

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder