

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF AMITY, OR

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the City of Amity City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present:

Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor Acie Dunlap, Councilor Cody Goings, Councilor April Dyche, and Mayor Rachel King

Councilors Present via Zoom

None

Councilors Absent

Councilor McArthur and Denis Saucier

Staff Present

City Administrator Mike Thomas, City Recorder Natasha Johnson, and Head Librarian Anne Jenkins

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor Dyche moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Bojorquez seconded and with no discussion motion passed 4-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- A. Yamhill County Sheriff's Report: Sgt. High went over the different calls that they handled for Amity. He let Council know he is going to move into a different role and Sgt. Lavish will take his place for Amity. Sgt. Lavish introduced himself to the Council. Sgt. High then stated the Deputy Mills will take over for Deputy Rodriguez in Amity.

City Recorder Johnson asked if the High School contacted YCSO about the upcoming homecoming parade. Sgt High stated he will check with Deputy Summers. He asked if the radar sign is up and working again. Administrator Thomas heard it was along our roads but had also heard it wasn't operating. Deputy High will check with Deputy Summers regarding the radar sign.

Mayor King welcomed our new deputies. Mayor King then asked regarding our crime stats, She wanted to know if the deputies had any insight as to why we the stats were a lot lower than last year. Sgt. High replied that he doesn't know why the numbers are so down, will check if there is any reason for the change. He then said it probably means the crime rate is just lower. There were no further comments for Sheriff's Office.

- B. DIG Report: E. Rainey from DIG updated Council on the new hanging baskets for next year and that the new banners are all up. She said they will start discussing our tree lighting event at the next DIG meeting. Mayor King asked her to let Council or City Staff know when the next meeting is. Councilor Dyche then confirmed December 2nd is the tree lighting date. There were no further comments or questions for DIG.

- C. Citizen Comments: E. Hill thanked the city for working with FEMA, stating she had seen an improvement in FEMA service locally. She then brought up that there are no school speed zones signs near the high school. She was referred to attend this meeting to ask Council for assistance in installing these signs. Mayor King thanked her for coming and will have staff work on getting signs up. There were no further Citizen comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Public Hearing for purpose of obtaining \$1,500,000 in funding for improving Amity Public Library: Mayor King opened the public hearing and read the script and the full notice of the public hearing.

Administrator Thomas read the staff report, which included the background of the grant, and our purpose regarding obtaining block grant funding. He explained that the city can't apply for the grant until July 2023, but this gave us time to prepare our application. He then described the remaining steps for the city to take to apply for the grant. He explained the city should offer a match which would be 1% plus \$1 of the total requested grant.

Councilor Dunlap asked if Staff had considered alternate building options, to include purchasing a pole barn. Administrator Thomas explained they had, and it is a very likely possibility.

Mayor King asked for public testimony. The City Administrator read to Council written testimony provided from citizen E. Silverman.

Citizen Comments via Zoom: Citizen A. Oenbring is thrilled for the possibility of building a new library. She encourages Council and to continue planning to move forward with grant.

Citizen E. Hill believes library is an asset to the community and it is in the city's best interest to build a new library and one that is ADA compliant with wider aisles. She is in favor for a new library.

Citizen J. Denton is in favor for the new library. She described how a library is an asset to the community.

Citizen D. Conrad is the president of the Friends of the Library (FOTL) and on behalf of the FOTL she stated that they all in agreement that Amity does need a new library and they are on board to help in any way they can. D. Conrad stated that the FOTL will seek a Ford Family Foundation (FFF) technical assistance grant to hire a consultant who will assist us with the project. She stated that a consultant offered to their service for \$5,000, and that this consultant is highly recommended. She let Council know Friends of the Library will help with fundraising where possible.

City Administrator Thomas interjected that the FOTL were the City's integral partners in the project. He stated that they were here on their own accord, but that they had been in all the meetings with the city to this point.

Library Director A. Jenkins showed the Council a picture of the mold in the building and listed off some of the current issues with the library that this grant would fix.

Citizen E. Rainey then stated that she is in support of getting a new library that is up to date. This concluded the comments in favor of the project.

Mayor King then asked for any testimony opposed to the project. There was no one present or on ZOOM to provide opposition comments. However, Administrator Thomas did provide a summary of the comments posted on social media, which were opposed to the project. This included a recommendation to focus funding upon improving sidewalks and walkability. Another recommendation was to install a community garden. With that, Mayor King closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

Mayor King opened the hearing up for Council discussion. Councilor Bojorquez asked D. Conrad about the specifics of the consulting grant. D. Conrad replied with a description of the technical grant and that the Friends of the Library is ready to apply for the grant if the Council votes to move forward with the project. Councilor Bojorquez asked if there was an allowance or an opportunity to have work donated on the project. Mayor King explained any work before is on the city and after the grant is approved then construction all needs to be approved thru HUD. Administrator Thomas explained that "in kind" transactions were not allowed in many aspects of the grant. Councilor Bojorquez asked if fundraising can start before the grant. Mayor King replied it can start anytime.

Councilor Dunlap asked whether students at the high school, going through vocational and technical training were allowed to assist with the project. Administrator Thomas explained while that was an option, the students would still have to meet all the federal employment requirements and we would need to either hire them on contract or hire an actual contractor who would subcontract the students.

Councilor Goings asked if the match of 1% + \$1 is required or not. He asked if the city does match does it hurt our chances to get the grant. Administrator Thomas explained would give us more points towards our application and help with our grant's competitiveness. If city doesn't offer a match, we could still apply, but would just make the application less competitive. Councilor Goings asked if could do fundraising for the \$15,001. Councilor Dyche commented that we would have to do fundraising as the city doesn't have such funds in the budget. Councilor Goings asked when the city would need to have the \$15,001. Administrator Thomas explained by July 2023 when the city applies, we would need to show we had the cash on hand. Councilor Bojorquez asked if the FOTL would be willing to help us in obtaining the matching funds. D. Conrad said yes, they would be willing to help with the fundraising. Deb explained the FFF grant and what they could fund and provide to the project.

Councilor Goings moved to continue moving forward with our current CDBG application for Amity Public Library Improvements. Councilor Bojorquez seconded and with no further discussion motion passed 4-0.

After the vote, Mayor King stated that she is happy to see the project move forward and provided some comments about why she believes this is a good decision.

- B. Planning Commission Vacancy: Recorder Johnson described our vacancy and presented the application received from D. Kelihelua. D. Kelihelua was not present at the meeting to introduce himself, yet had attended the Planning Commission Meeting on Monday.

Councilor Bojorquez made motion to move to appoint D. Kelihelua to the Amity Planning Commission to a term to expire December 31, 2024. Councilor Goings seconded motion and with no discussion motion passed 4-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Administrator Report: City Administrator Thomas submitted his report and updated Council regarding the planning commission meeting. He has started the process for advertising for Public Works Superintendent position. Councilor Bojorquez asked for update regarding painting the sidewalks. Administrator Thomas explained that our City Attorney recommends we do paint the sidewalks but do so in conjunction with a council meeting to address the concerns. Mayor King explained further.

Mayor King asked if the auditors will be coming to the next meeting to present their audit results. Administrator Thomas explained they are planning on it and commented that the audit seemed to be progressing very smoothly this year. There were no further comments or questions for the City Administrator.

City Recorder/Treasurer Report: Recorder Johnson submitted her report and let council know about the upcoming City/County Dinner. She also reminded council of upcoming harvest party and our need for 4 volunteers to assist. There were no comments or questions for the City Recorder.

Public Works Report: Superintendent Mathis submitted his report and was not present at the meeting as he no longer works for the city. There were no further comments or questions for Public Works.

Library Report: Librarian Jenkins, was present and submitted her report. She told Council they are doing a book hand out for Halloween on the 29th. There were no comments or questions for the library.

City Engineer Billing Report: Billing report submitted. Mayor King asked about a small cost overrun on regarding the SCA grant. Administrator Thomas stated that we had addressed it. She then asked if the sign was installed and if the project was complete. Administrator Thomas explained that we finalized it this week.

She also asked a few questions regarding the ARPA funded water lines and if our Engineer knows how much more cost will be incurred, as they already hit the 40% mark. Administrator Thomas let council know will check with them regarding a cost update.

Councilor Goings asked if Keller will do more project management, in light of Gary's departure. Administrator Thomas explained they still will do the project management and try to stay within the project cost. There were no comments or questions regarding billing.

City Attorney/Planner Billing Report: Billing report submitted and there were no comments or questions regarding billing.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCILORS:

Councilor President April Dyche Comments: Councilor Dyche updated council on the Fire Department getting new decorations for Christmas. Mayor King asked her to let her know if they have a Christmas meeting so she can attend. Administrator Thomas mentioned we would assist with the Amity Fire's toy drive. There were no comments for Councilor Dyche.

Councilor Sandy McArthur Comments: Councilor McArthur was not present at the meeting. There were no comments for Councilor McArthur.

Councilor Goings Comments: Councilor Goings had nothing to report. There were no further comments for Councilor Goings.

Councilor Bojorquez comments: Councilor Bojorquez detailed the history on the Amity Park. She went over the history of the park that she found through multiple sources. She concluded with a recommendation that we rename the park in honor of Mary Watts. There were no comments for Councilor Bojorquez.

Councilor Dunlap Comments: Councilor Dunlap had nothing to report. There were no comments for Councilor Dunlap.

Councilor Saucier Comments: Councilor Saucier was not present at the meeting. There were no comments for Councilor Saucier.

Mayor King Comments: Mayor King updated council regarding the LOC conference she attended. She let council know city is doing the pumpkin carving contest and if council could let her know if they will be helping with the judging and what section they would like. She requested their answers by the town hall meeting. She is going to pass information to Council Saucier regarding possibly starting a public safety committee. She then stated she was contacted by a citizen who is interested in a litter cleanup patrol, and she is interested in taking on the project. She let council know we should soon plan a meeting and invite the community to help. There were no comments for Mayor King.

Councilor Dyche moved to adjourn meeting at 8:30 pm. Councilor Goings seconded and without discussion motion passed 4-0

Approved by City November 2, 2022

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder