

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, September 7, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present:

Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor Acie Dunlap, Councilor Cody Goings, Councilor Sandy McArthur and Mayor Rachel King

Councilors Present via Zoom

Councilor Dyche

Councilors Absent

Councilor Saucer

Staff Present

City Administrator Mike Thomas and City Recorder Natasha Johnson

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilor McArthur moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Bojorquez seconded and with no discussion motion passed 5-0.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**

- A. Yamhill County Sheriff's Report: Sgt High was not present at the meeting. Administrator Thomas updated Council regarding the marijuana bust that Deputy Summers was a part of last week. Mayor King asked Administrator Thomas to pass on her thanks for parking out in front and patrolling more at the schools. There were no further comments for Sheriff's Office.
- B. DIG Report: There was no one from DIG to present a report. There were no comments or questions for DIG.
- C. Citizen Comments: Victoria Ernst introduced herself to Council and she is running for House District 24, which includes City of Amity.

Citizen L. Engel asked Council if the City has or is planning to create a litter patrol. Mayor King stated that we don't have one, but Council is working on doing a volunteer roster to accomplish something like a litter cleanup, Mayor King said Councilor Bojorquez will be working on it. Citizen Engel told Council know she is interested. Councilor Bojorquez asked her to contact her and let her know where she can find her contact info. Councilor Bojorquez also let her know they are beginning to setup this volunteer process, and once established it will also be for other events where the City may need volunteers. Mayor King let her know if she wants to start it now, she may.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Use of Tourism Funding for Local Advertising: Mayor King discussed the background regarding tourism funding for local advertising. Administrator Thomas explained how tourism money may be spent. He explained what the funds have been used for previously. Mayor King mentioned contracting with a business to advertise Amity in regional media, and asked Council to consider it. It would cost around \$3,500. Councilor McArthur stated she would like to see some metrics on the effectiveness of such advertisement. Councilor Bojorquez asked if the advertising is just for certain business or for Amity as a city. Mayor King stated it was for Amity overall but may highlight our businesses. She explained some of her ideas for marketing Amity but noted there would be costs involved. Councilor Bojorquez recommended that we change over our branding. Councilor Bojorquez then moved to table using tourism funds for local advertisement to the next council work session for further discussion. Councilor McArthur seconded motion and with no further discussion motion passed 5-0
- B. Use of City Funding to Abate Nuisances: Administrator Thomas described using city funds to abate nuisances, adapting programs from the City of Sheridan. He went over two examples. Councilor Goings expressed concerns that the city will have to accept all the cost. Administrator Thomas explained Sheridan determined that it saves money doing this, considering the cost to the City to enforce its codes, Administrator Thomas thinks Amity would also see a savings. Councilor Dunlap asked Administrator Thomas if there are currently some residences in town that would benefit from these programs. Administrator Thomas stated that there are 5 residences that could use the help to clean up their properties. Mayor King suggested an alternative may be doing two city wide clean ups per year. Councilor Bojorquez asked around how any citations have been issued that are relevant to these programs. Administrator Thomas explained around 24 this year (2022). Mayor King asked for more clarification if this is a first step in the citation process or done after they have been cited. Administrator Thomas replied he would need to ask his colleague in Sheridan. Mayor King expressed concern that allowing neighbors to use a dumpster provided to a single homeowner may cause more problems if we require the property owner to be responsible for the dumpster. Councilor Goings asked if Recology could do a voucher and city cover half the cost of the process. Administrator Thomas stated he would have to investigate both the concern and the vouchers. Mayor King suggested when they receive a citation, we inform them to apply for a city provided dumpster. Councilor Bojorquez suggested doing another city wide clean up instead. Councilor Dunlap suggested reaching out to local school or groups to volunteer to come help with cleaning citizens' properties. Mayor King asked council if they would like for her and the Administrator to get more information from Sheridan or investigate another city-wide cleanup. Councilor Goings recommended we do another city wide clean up. Councilor Dyche suggested this would be a better topic for a Council Work Session. Councilor Dyche also thought another cleanup is great idea.

Councilor Dunlap moved to table this and discuss at council work session. Councilor Bojorquez seconded and with no further discussion motion passed 5-0.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

City Administrator Report: City Administrator Thomas submitted his report and updated Council regarding Salt Creek Bridge, and the boil water notice. He also updated Council about the water main leak and lifting boil water notice east of Hassle Lane. He told Council how the City received significant

help in fixing the leak from the City of Monmouth Public Works, Perrydale Public Works and Ore-Vac. Councilor Bojorquez asked if can submit a formal thank you letter. Administrator Thomas sent one to all the entities, which helped.

He then mentioned the tree falling across Jellison, which resulted in a road closure. He then updated and went over a complaint City Staff received regarding uneven sidewalk in the downtown area. He said the cost to fix it would be around \$10,000.

Mayor King asked for an update for the wastewater study. He replied he didn't have an update. She asked when we would get the sewer rate study if that was linked to the wastewater study. Administrator Thomas said they are not, and we should get it in the next month or so. There were no further comments or questions for the City Administrator.

City Recorder/Treasurer Report: Recorder Johnson submitted her report and had nothing to add. 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. There were no further comments or questions for Public Works.

Library Report: Librarian Jenkins submitted her report and was not present at the meeting. Administrator Thomas updated council there will be some closures this month due to shortage of staff. The City has posted and advertised the closures. There were no comments or questions for the library.

City Engineer Billing Report: Billing report submitted. Mayor King noted how much Keller has received for the Salt Creek Bridge project asked how the city would cover the costs of their services if it went over budget. Administrator Thomas explained they would still do the work, but Amity would have to pull from the provided loans and grants to cover the costs. He then stated that the majority of the work is complete, and the costs will be zeroed out until this time next year. 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 that our local fire volunteers who were on a conflagration wildfire came back but left again for another fire. Also, Amity is on high fire alert thru the weekend. There were no comments for Councilor Dyche.

Councilor Sandy McArthur Comments: Councilor McArthur is looking for a grant and opportunity to post about leash laws in town. There were no comments for Councilor McArthur.

Councilor Goings Comments: Councilor Goings updated on the pipe that broke and it was likely installed in the 1920s. Mayor King thanked Councilor Goings for being a part of the crew that helped with to fix the leak. There were no further comments for Councilor Goings.

Councilor Bojorquez comments: Councilor Bojorquez had nothing to report. 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 had nothing to report. There were no comments for Mayor King.

Councilor Bojorquez moved to adjourn meeting at 8:00 pm. Councilor McArthur seconded and without discussion motion passed 5-0

**Approved by City October 12, 2022**

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Rachel King, Mayor

**Attest:**

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Natasha Johnson, City Recorder