

**City of Gold Hill City Council
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020**

Mayor Newport called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; immediately followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

1) **Roll Call:** Mayor Newport, Councilors Hinkley, Lowe, and Studebaker responded as present. Councilors Palmer and Canon were absent. **QUORUM PRESENT.**

2) **Agenda Adjustments – NONE**

3) **Public Input**

Steve Kiesling

4) **Public Hearing - NONE**

5) **Presentations**

Presentation order was switched around for convenience.

5.1 Carl Tappert – RVSS – contract amendments and pipeline SDC cost update

Carl Tappert, manager of RVSS, presented a proposed amendment to the contract with the City. The current contract does not address capital improvements. RVSS has built up a surplus of approximately \$100,000 from the payments the City has made over the last three years. The proposed amendment would allow RVSS to redirect those funds towards some needed repairs in the collection system.

He also let the City know that the Regional Rate Committee had reached a decision regarding the pipeline SDC cost. If the City chooses to build a pipeline to the Medford plant, rather than building a new wastewater plant or rehabilitating the current plant, the SDC cost was projected to be approximately \$2 million. The Regional Rate Committee decided that if the City of Gold Hill ended up choosing the pipeline option, they would regard the city as a light industrial area, and rather than charging an SDC based on number of households, they would charge it based on the City being one entity joining the plant. This would reduce the potential SDC cost to \$600,000.

5.2 Gold Valley Little League – contract renewal

Officers of the Gold Valley Little League came to request their lease be renewed for another five years. They expressed their gratitude to the City for using the fields. ICM Simpson noted that the lease would need to be updated before being renewed.

6) Staff Reports

Simpson requested a meeting of the Personnel Committee to change the job descriptions to make the Administrative Clerk into a Deputy Recorder, to bring a higher level of skill to the front counter.

7) Proclamations – NONE

8) Resolutions – NONE

9) Ordinances – NONE

10) Consent Agenda - NONE

11) Old Business - NONE

12) New Business

12.1 Motion to Confirm Intent of extending Interim City Manager’s term to June 30, 2020, to include Retention of a Mentor.

Mayor Newport explained that after reviewing all of the candidates and conducting interviews, only one candidate made it to the final round. There was general unhappiness with choosing this candidate just because they were the only one left. After discussion about whether to start the search over, the Council decided during Executive Session that they would extend the Interim City Manager’s term instead. This Motion reconfirms their intent from the Executive Session. Councilor Wilson made the Motion to Confirm the Council’s Intent of extending the Interim City Manager’s term to June 30, 2020, during which time she will retain a mentor. Councilor Lowe seconded. Councilor Hinkley was absent from the Executive Session and questioned why the one candidate was not given a chance for a second interview, as per the Council’s rules governing the City Manager search. Councilor Lowe responded that the majority of Councilors in the Executive Session didn’t feel that the remaining candidate’s skill set was what they were looking for, and they would rather give Simpson a coach to bring her skill set up to the level that they needed. Councilor Studebaker pointed out that since Eagle Point was also searching for a City Manager, at a higher wage level, it was not a good time to begin the search again. Mayor Newport explained that it was a conservative choice, and that revisiting it in June would give everyone a fresh perspective. Councilor Studebaker agreed that it was conservative, and that bringing in a consultant was a good choice because the Council didn’t want to rush into a bad choice after what happened last time. Councilor Hinkley signified her understanding, and the motion moved to a vote. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

13) Interim City Manager Report

Software is scheduled to be installed on March 4, and Simpson will begin updating January and February’s numbers so that the budget committee can see actual numbers.

14) Mayor Comments

There will be a Spaghetti Dinner at the Odd Fellow’s Lodge from 5-8 on Saturday night. The number of businesses downtown is expanding, and the gas station has reopened.

15) Councilor Comments

Councilor Hinkley mentioned an uptick in vehicle break-ins in town and encouraged everyone to be vigilant.

Councilor Studebaker brought up fire risk reduction through two tracks: fuel load reduction and watering/greening up combustibles (grass). Fire District 3 identified two high risks, along the mountain, and along the river. He'd like to create a fire break on the hill along 6th/7th Avenue. He wants to get the sports park watered to help create a safer area along the river.

He also reported on the presentation of a 10' x 5' banner from the Hanby AVID society showing their projected future of Gold Hill. He will bring it to City Hall to be hung.

Councilor Lowe gave a shout out to Can-Do for celebrating their 20th anniversary of supporting the community.

Mayor Newport called on Steve Kiesling to give an update on the Whitewater Park. He presented the option of having RVCOG take over the project of permitting/funding the work for the river bottom modifications. He had a draft letter from Governor Kate Brown written to the Olympic Committee and giving support for the Whitewater Park's Olympic hosting bid in 2028. Councilor Hinkley suggested that this be properly noticed so that citizens could give their input.

Mayor Newport called on Melia Biedscheid, who wanted to know if there had been any further talk about installing security cameras downtown. The Mayor told her there had not.

Mayor Newport called on Richard Hart, who reported that he had been doing some volunteer work in the park. He had been removing dead trees and trimming others, giving the park a nice clean look. He said he and Tony have been doing some good work together.

Mayor Newport adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Minutes Approved by: _____

Pete Newport, Mayor

5/18/2020

Attested by: _____

Jessica Simpson, City Recorder