

**City of Gold Hill City Council
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020**

Mayor Brad Studebaker called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

1) Roll Call: Mayor Studebaker, Councilors Hinkley, Wilson, Rigney, Biedscheid and Palmer responded as present. **QUORUM PRESENT.** The Mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Agenda Adjustments – NONE

3) Announcements, Awards and Proclamations - NONE

4) Public Input

The Citizen of the Year, Carol Holm, took to the podium. She thanked the Council for the award and expressed her gratitude. She assured everyone that she strives to do her best at all times to make Gold Hill a better and kinder place. She briefly updated folks by saying a group of 10 from CanDo, the IOF and a merchant from downtown are working hard to light up Gold Hill for Christmas this year.

She mentioned the flyers went out today for entering the Christmas decoration contest for both residential and non-residential categories. Entry forms will also be posted online and will be included with this month's water bill. Winners will receive \$100 and will be announced during "Daylight for Doughnuts" on December 19, 2020.

This year, Santa will not have anyone sit on his lap and will only be lighting the tree. There will be candy canes handed out at the Shopping Center this year. She again thanked everyone for their support and for the Award.

5) Public Hearing – NONE

6) Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2020

One correction in the October 19, 2020 minutes was "Scott Sweed" should be "Scott Ashpole". Councilor Wilson then moved that the Council approve the minutes for October 19, 2020. Councilor Hinkley seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

7) Council Consideration

7.1 Ethics Committee Appointments

City Manager Jessica Simpson informed the Council their binders contained another applicant for the Ethics Committee because they were short one. There also needs to be a discussion on the previous folks that were appointed. One of the applicants appears to have a previous ethics violation and the other applicant is the wife of a City employee.

Following an energetic discussion amongst the Chambers, it was mutually agreed they wanted written proof that Thom Canon, one of the applicants, was cleared of his ethics violation. It was also noted the period for accepting applications will be open until filled. As to the spouse of a City employee being on the Ethics Committee, everyone agreed to allow it so as long as the wife recuse herself should a conflict of interest arise. However, this was not officially voted on.

7.2 Council Seat Vacancy

CM Simpson reminded the Council that when they voted for Brad Studebaker as the new permanent Mayor, it left a vacancy on the Council. Per the City Charter, the Council must first declare the seat vacant, which we can then begin accepting new applications. Whomever obtains that seat, will be there until the next election in May (of 2021), at which point they will have to run and win to keep the seat for the full, remaining term.

Councilor Hinkley moved that the Council declare Mayor Studebaker's council seat open. Councilor Wilson seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

7.3 Update on City Engineer Search

Simpson informed the Council she has received everyone's score sheets for the Engineers and it is on tonight's agenda to set an executive session to discuss the results along with making a final decision. She suggested two weeks from now, or November 16, 2020, which seemed to work with everyone's schedule.

7.4 Results from Whitewater Park Town Hall

Councilor Hinkley began stating she feels there is a vast misunderstanding of what she views as a town hall. When she requests one, it's an opportunity for her, as a Councilor, to sit back and listen to citizens' voices as to what they want. However, thus far, the town halls have been presentations given to the citizens by a select few with a microphone and PA system.

Councilor Biedscheid agreed and added it should also carry an educational component and that is not the same as a sales pitch, while having people from all sides of the issue present educational, fact-based information so the citizens can learn and inform Council what to do.

A vast and heated discussion ensued amongst the chambers which included topics such as: the validity of a petition online at change.org, social media, a City facebook page with comments turned off for announcements only, improving the way to get messages out to citizens, having the Parks Committee weigh in on the situation, streaming informational videos online, and communicating through the water bill newsletter. Everyone seemed to mutually agree the City could use improvement on communicating things to the public to maximize our reach to people; and on their terms.

8) Reports from Councilors

The hearing from the new Planning Commission at the next December 7th Council meeting was discussed. It hasn't been decided yet who will give the report to the Council. The Mayor suggested it be Wendi Brown, the newly appointed President of the Planning Commission. Councilor Rigney spoke about the specifics of the Beach Park clean-up slotted for November 14th. He informed everyone Carol Holm was busy contacting volunteers and informing them that

its all clear and ready to go. Rigney went on to mention volunteers need to bring their safety equipment, gloves and their own tools. Start time will be about 9a.m. and the event would go to about three in the afternoon. There will be someone handling the volunteer waiver forms and those can be signed at the site prior to working.

Councilor Hinkley wished to commend the IOOF with the seed exchange program. She reported there was recent vandalism as someone opened all the packets of seeds and dumped them onto the ground. She wanted the community to educate their children about the value of food and seeds. Everyone agreed.

9) Department Reports

CM Simpson announced the utility bills are slotted to be on time and correct this month. However, they will be larger than usual due to no consumption being charged last month. There has been a note put into the Newsletter explaining this. If anyone has a hard time paying the extra, they can call City Hall to set up a payment plan. In addition, the fees are still "turned off".

This week we started leaf bag pick-ups. However, we have had quite a few water lines breaking so the workers have been out in the field repairing those lines which has caused a delay in the pick-up of the bags. Citizens may come to City Hall to obtain their free allotment of leaf bags.

The City also will begin cleaning all the storms drains and getting those ready for the winter. Last week, the TMDL annual report was submitted to the DEQ on time. We are slowly updating our meters to electronic wand reading and this will save the City hours of manual labor. Thus far, the City has installed 11 touch-read meters.

10) Good of the Order

Councilor Rigney wished to again thank Carol Holm and Richard Hart as to their Beach clean-up efforts. Mayor Studebaker remained positive that everyone would eventually pitch in and slowly get the Beach & Sports Parks back to the way they once were - - the City's Crown Jewel.

Councilor Hinkley reminded everyone that the storm drains were not a dumping station for folks to use their hose to wash down leaves, trash and other debris. Councilor Palmer wished to address that certain bars are still being uncompliant as to their cigarette butts as they are getting tossed into the street which then goes into the storm drains and clogs the sewer filters at the plant. Palmer suggested talking with the business owners. The Mayor suggested getting some stenciled signage. Hinkley warned the storm drains empty directly into the River and therefore we must be extra careful what goes down into them.

Adjournment

Mayor Brad Studebaker adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Brad Studebaker, Mayor

Attested by: _____
Jessica Simpson, City Recorder