

**City of Gold Hill City Council
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2020**

Mayor Brad Studebaker called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1) Roll Call: Mayor Studebaker, Councilors Wilson, Rigney, Palmer and Biedscheid responded as present. Councilor Hinkley was absent/excused with Councilor Biedscheid as her proxy vote. **QUORUM PRESENT.** The Mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Agenda Adjustments – NONE

3) Announcements, Awards and Proclamations - NONE

4) Public Input

The Council phoned Cindy Oldfield to obtain her public input. She expressed her concerns as she overheard that fifty thousand dollars was missing from the City's coffers. She asked if anyone from here on is hired, including appointed councilors, will be mandated to have background checks, along with what are the City's safeguards to prevent this type of thing from reoccurring. City Manager Jessica Simpson stated that there is an ongoing police investigation and the City could not talk about the matter at this time. Councilor Palmer asked Ms. Oldfield where she attained this information as it was not privy to public knowledge. After it was made clear that the City initiated the investigation, and it was ongoing and therefore nobody could talk about it, Councilor Palmer again asked Ms. Oldfield where she obtained the information. Of record, she did not answer the question and the call was ended.

The Council then patched in the next caller, who was Christine Alford. She asked if there was any place in the audit where the missing funds were recorded. CM Simpson spoke up and repeated that the City cannot discuss the issue due to the ongoing police investigation. Ms. Alford then directed her next questions to Simpson and Mayor Studebaker, asking if they were aware that in 2018 the City Manager received three requests to investigate fraud in City Hall and that the CM declined to investigate due to the majority of the City Councilors - - Palmer, Canon, Tolman and Dell blocked the efforts to investigate and shielded the employees from any scrutiny. The Mayor responded by saying it's an interesting point she brings up and that is something we certainly will take a look at. However, now is not the time to discuss these issues.

5) Public Hearing – NONE

6) Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2020

Councilor Rigney moved that the Council approve the minutes for August 17, 2020. Councilor Biedscheid seconded. Councilors Rigney, Palmer and Biedscheid voted in favor. Councilor Biedscheid voted yes as Councilor Hinkley's proxy. Councilor Wilson abstained due to her not being at that meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

7) Council Consideration

7.1 Proposed Land Purchase of Tax lot 363W22BA - 3800

Logan Young approached podium. He reminded everyone that he formerly operated the Buddy's gas station in Gold Hill. He stated he is interested in the purchase of this tax lot. Following Council discussion, which consisted of his plans to put a mobile food truck on the lot, it was agreed that Mr. Young would put together an offer and will present to the City.

7.2 Planning Commission Appointments

CM Simpson began by refreshing everyone's minds as to whom is allowed to be appointed to the Planning Commission by reading the Municipal Code(s) aloud. After careful considerations, the new Planning Commission was mutually agreed on and appointed as follows:

Seat #1 is Mark Warwick, Seat #2 is Margaret Dials, Seat #3 is Wendi Brown, Seat #4 is Ken Martin and Seat #5, the out-of-towner, is Steve Kiesling. Councilor Biedscheid was consented to be the *ex officio* which is a non-voting member.

CM Simpson set a tentative meeting for October 13, 2020 at 6 p.m.

7.3 Resolution(s) to Establish Method of Creating Committees; Creation of Parks and Ethics Committees

Resolution 20-R-10, which governs the way Committees are formed, was voted as follows:

Councilor Biedscheid moved that the Council approve Resolution 20-R-10. Councilor Palmer seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Biedscheid voted yes as Councilor Hinkley's proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

Resolution 20-R-11, which governs the Parks Committee, was decided as follows:

Councilor Wilson moved that the Council approve Resolution 20-R-11. Councilor Rigney seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Biedscheid voted yes as Councilor Hinkley's proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

Resolution 20-R-12, which governs the Ethics Committee, was voted as follows:

Councilor Wilson moved that the Council approve Resolution 20-R-12. Councilor Biedscheid seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Biedscheid voted yes as Councilor Hinkley's proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

7.4 City Attorney Evaluation

Councilor Biedscheid requested that this item be on the agenda due to the current City Attorney giving insufficient and / or bad advice regarding the planning process. Moreover, the Attorney failed to read the Municipal Code(s) prior to advising the City, which caused us to look incompetent in the public's eye. In light of these details, Simpson was directed by the Council to find a new City Attorney.

8) Reports from Councilors

Councilor Biedscheid addressed the Council as to needing a better plan to evacuate the City in the event of an emergency. CM Simpson proposed forming a citizen alert program and she may suggest something in the next Newsletter. Councilor Palmer agreed and suggested the local schools would be a great place to start as they can house people using their gyms. Mayor Studebaker agreed and made his input known regarding ideas for fire safety protocols. He also reminded everyone that the Beach Park clean-up day was set for November 14, 2020. Councilor Rigney commented on his visit with the Soil and Water Conservation folks.

9) Department Reports

CM Simpson was happy to inform the Council that the City submitted its five-year report to DEQ, which it was accepted. Three hundred and thirty-one water meters were recently obtained from the City of Jacksonville and we can now begin to replace broken meters. The Outhouse near the boat ramp has been finished and looks very nice. The Marine Board turned down the grant to place vault bathrooms near the Ti'lomikh Falls parking area. Due to COVID, a new payment window was installed in the foyer at City Hall.

Christmas wreaths were upgraded with better and brighter lights. There will be a map of decorated houses in Gold Hill so people know where to look. A contest with a later determined prize will be given to the winner of the best decorated house. A mass test email to all the businesses in and around Gold Hill was initiated to notify them that the State of Oregon is giving away free PPE. Since the email worked great, it was also used to notify these same businesses that SOREDI is taking applications for grant money in relief of COVID. Many businesses appeared at the Library Park on September 28, 2020 to apply. The Mayor added that there was to be a second grant, this time from Jackson County, and he will keep everyone informed.

Simpson went on to say there is a need for an Executive Session to discuss the evaluation and hiring of one of the four engineering firms that applied to be the City's premier Engineer. She mentioned a good time may likely be this coming Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. Lastly, she announced the DEQ tentatively granted the City an extension to the MAO.

10) Good of the Order - NONE

Adjournment - Mayor Brad Studebaker adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Minutes Approved by: _____

Brad Studebaker, Mayor

10/18/20

Attested by: _____

Jessica Simpson, City Recorder