

**City of Gold Hill City Council
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2020**

Pro tem Mayor Brad Studebaker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- 1) **Roll Call:** Pro tem Mayor Studebaker, Councilors Hinkley, Wilson, Rigney and Biedscheid responded as present. Councilor Palmer was absent/excused with Councilor Wilson as his proxy vote. **QUORUM PRESENT.** The Mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Agenda Adjustments** – City Manager Jessica Simpson briefed the Council that the presentation regarding the powerhouse purchase will be pushed ahead to August 3, 2020. The swearing in of the judge will not occur tonight as she was previously sworn in yesterday.
- 3) **Public Input** – Mark Warwick’s letter addressing the recklessness surrounding the pyrotechnics / fireworks and the debris and chemicals going into our storm drains was read aloud. The Council discussed possible remedies to avoid this type of thing being a re-occurring hindrance, including implementing public education and or conducting a town wide clean-up. CM Simpson pointed out there is an ordinance currently in place which would constitute what transpired this weekend as illegal. However, enforcement would be quite difficult under the City’s current resources.
- 4) **Public Hearing – Budget Hearing – NONE**
- 5) **Presentations – NONE** (Powerhouse Purchase Proposal Cancelled)
- 6) **Staff Reports** – CM Simpson announced the old software system (Springbrook) is now terminated and the City has fully transferred over to the new system (Vision MS).

Councilor Hinkley reminded and cautioned everyone that the company DOXO, whom charges a fee to pay online, is not affiliated with the City of Gold Hill.

Councilor Biedscheid and CM Simpson discussed meter upgrades and the ability to conduct radio reads by investing in a new hand-held meter reader. CM Simpson was tasked with drafting a summary cost analyst report as to meter upgrades / equipment costs verses employee time expenses to manually scan and input meter reads.

7) Proclamations – NONE

8) Resolutions:

8.1 Resolution 20-R-09. Resolution Scheduling Biennial Election of Gold Hill City Officers on November 3, 2020.

CM Simpson apprised the Council that this Resolution is not required by our Charter prior to her reading it aloud. After discussion clarifying a few key issues, Councilor Hinkley moved that the Council Adopt the Resolution. Councilor Wilson seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Wilson voted yes as Councilor Palmer’s proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

9) Ordinances – NONE

10) Consent Agenda:

10.1 Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2020

Councilor Rigney moved that the Council approve the minutes for June 15, 2020. Councilor Hinkley seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Wilson voted yes as Councilor Palmer’s proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

11) Old Business:

11.1 Appointment to fill Mayoral Vacancy

Deb West was the only person whom submitted an application for the Mayoral position.

Councilor Wilson moved that the council nominate Brad Studebaker to fill the open mayoral position. Councilor Rigney seconded. Before a roll call could be instituted for the vote, Councilor Hinkley introduced that Deb West is her preference. Her perspective is that a City Councilor position is a voting position whereas the Mayoral position is only a voting position in the circumstance there is a tie. She contended that Brad Studebaker was voted in by the people because they wanted him to vote on their behalf, as their Councilor, and represent the people of Gold Hill. If he remained as Mayor, he would simply lose his voting power.

Councilor Wilson remarked that Deb West, as a past Councilor, rarely showed up at the meetings. Councilor Hinkley interjected that Deb West went through a lengthy battle with the death of her child, but in the present, Ms. West is in the position to devote more time to the City.

The room was full of discussion regarding the City’s Charter and how it applied moving forward with filling the Mayoral seat. The word “shall” was discussed in detail. Councilor Rigney was not alone with his interpretation of “shall” to be defined as “will”. It was mutually agreed to push this matter to the next meeting. Hence, Councilor Wilson made a motion to table the matter for the next meeting at which Councilor Rigney seconded the motion. All Councilors present voted in favor. Councilor Wilson voted yes as Councilor Palmer’s proxy. **MOTION PASSED.**

11.2 Swearing in of Municipal Court Judge – Jen Zammetti

This was previously done. It was noted the first court date is scheduled for July 15, 2020.

11.3 Wastewater Master Plan Review Update

CM Simpson re-capped where the Council ended their previous session on this matter - - being they opted for a peer review. She reminded the Council that they previously voted for the City to find a new Engineer. In light of this, she suggested the Council eliminate the peer review. She punctuated the fact that funds were not budgeted for such a cause. She strongly urged that Council proceed directly into searching and securing a new engineer, whom can go right into the pre-design phase. The Council agreed and directed her to do so. She advised the Council that RVSS wished to Annex with the City rather than continue on a contractual basis.

The alternate option would be the City hires their own plant operator and ventures into the wastewater business as they have done in the past. Simpson noted one of the caveats of annexing into RVSS is they will lose one of the stapled services which the State of Oregon requires in order to qualify for revenue sharing. The City would be shifting from five to four services offered to their citizens. For Clarity, she enlightened the Council that four services represented the bare minimum amount to maintain eligibility. Of note, OAWU finished their review of the masterplan and declared it was very thorough. Mayor Studebaker commented that OAWU were well known for reviewing paper plans, but do not have the best reputation insofar as physically erecting or building structures.

11.4 Town Hall in the Sports Park:

The question was posed by the Council as to whether there would be enough time to compile the needed information by the proposed July 18th date for the wastewater plan. Subsequent to deliberation, it was mutually agreed that the Committee Town Hall would be switched to the July 18th slot. The other two town halls would simply drop down in order, with setting the wastewater town hall to August 10th and pushing the Whitewater / Olympic town hall for October 15th.

a. July 18th 9-11am: Wastewater Plan: Options & Costs

NEW DATE - Reset to August 10th 6-8 pm

b. Aug 10th 6-8pm: Whitewater Park/Olympic Bid

NEW DATE - Reset to October 15th 6-8 pm

c. October 15th 6-8pm: Citizen Committees: staff up

NEW DATE - Reset to July 18, 6-8 pm

12) New Business –

12.1 Consideration of returning to monthly Council meetings

CM Simpson informed the Council that some have expressed a desire to only meet once per month, as the City's Charter mandates. Now that issues seem to be in good order, weekly or bi-weekly meetings are unnecessary. Councilor Biedscheid suggested the Council meet more often but keep the meetings shorter, as long meetings seem to irritate patience levels.

An email list to be used to notify the public was suggested as a means of communicating the Councils' next meeting date. After much dialogue and the idea of a survey monkey being used, it was consensual to all that Council would meet once per month with the stipulation to leave time open for work sessions which the public would be invited to participate. The basic rule of thumb is if matters begin piling up or there is a pressing issue, a work session will be scheduled.

12.2 Reopening of Senior Center

Mayor Studebaker conversed about benefits of re-opening the Senior Center once the green light is given. He spoke about the different programs and activities members of the community

have shared with him. The hopes of eventually offering nutritious meals to the seniors would be ideal and welcomed.

Councilor Hinkley mentioned that OSU has a great music program and could help unite the seniors. The Mayor chimed in with the possibility of involving local schools for special activities.

13) City Manager Report – grant updates, water rights update

CM Simpson reported that although she was unable to get the water permits to pull water from the river to irrigate the Sports Park, the City was able to affix the water cannon to metered water. She is working on the back end to obtain the permit for the cannon and to cancel the transfer permit to clear the way for a new permit. A healthy discussion ensued over the pros and cons of using treated water over raw river water.

She also reported she applied for a grant with the Oregon Marine Board to put in vault restrooms at Ti'lomikh Falls parking area.

She further advises that she will proceed with executing the Intergovernmental Agreement from SOREDI so that the City can be a part of their grant process.

She announced that Ride the Rogue, (the large cycling event) will be riding through Gold Hill on September 26, 2020. This would be an ideal time for local businesses to get their name out in the form of sponsorships.

Further announcements were Gustaf and Fredenberg Streets have been paved, with the paving at Estremado to First Avenue being rescheduled during the Spring of 2021.

14) Mayor Comments

Mayor Studebaker reminded everyone fire season is in full force and effect. He wants everyone to be keen to the rules and regulations and to spread the word. Councilor Hinkley informed the Council that Fire District No. 3 will pull their debris trailer to anyone's home, free of charge, to remove yard debris. The Mayor thanked FD#3 for their role in funding a fire hydrant in the Sports Park, which estimated to cost \$5,000.

He reminded everyone to keep a heightened awareness of staying sanitary and clean. He urged people to wear masks and use good judgment until COVID passes.

15) Councilor Comments –

Councilor Biedscheid inquired about the two story brick house on the corner of Gustaf and Main. She wanted to express her gratitude that the new owner is repairing and making the brick house look great again. The idea of giving out an award of "Most Improved Home" was discussed to persuade citizens to beautify their own homes to make the City look more appealing.

Councilor Hinkley reminded everyone to please check on their neighbors and the elderly as we go through this COVID19 era. In addition, she mentioned that suicide and depression rates have significantly increased, so please call, email or physically check on them.

As final thoughts, Councilor Rigney made the masses aware that November 14th was the public town clean-up day for the Beach Park. Councilor Hinkley added it would be nice to install a stability rope so older and physically challenged folks could easier access the Beach Park.

Adjournment

Pro tem Mayor Brad Studebaker adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Minutes Approved by: _____ 

Brad Studebaker, Mayor pro tem

Attested by: _____ 

Jessica Simpson, City Recorder

