

**City of Gold Hill City Council
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2020**

Mayor Newport called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1) **Roll Call:** Mayor Newport, Councilors Hinkley, Palmer, Studebaker and Wilson responded as present. Councilors Canon and Lowe were not present. **QUORUM PRESENT.** Mayor Newport led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) **Agenda Adjustments – NONE**

3) **Public Input – NONE**

4) **Public Hearing – Budget Hearing - NONE**

Councilor Hinkley made a formal request that the Budget Committee meet again in December to determine the City is still on budget. She notes since there is an election in November, the second Budget Hearing should meet in January so the new Mayor and Council Members can be a part of it.

Councilor Studebaker expressed concerns that during the last few years, capital has decreased by about 40%. City Manager Jessica Simpson responded that nobody was keeping the books correctly which caused the numbers to not move. The Mayor chimed in to inform that bills were not being paid either, including the Sheriff. Councilor Studebaker said there was a good chance the City could slip into a recession. CM Simpson added that revenues were up this month. Since there was no public input, the Budget Hearing was then adjourned.

5) **Presentations**

5.1 **Swearing in of new Council Members**

The Mayor swore in Melia Biedscheid and Bill Rigney. Oaths were executed.

6) **Staff Reports – Key Indicators – City Recorder**

We have 120 business licenses now, which is one more than last month. Cash balance is \$469,000; \$6,000 more than last month.

7) **Proclamations – NONE**

8) **Resolutions – 20-R-02 Volunteer Resolution, Revisted**

CM Simpson noted the omitted events and made those modifications to the City's insurance carrier. Councilor Hinkley moved that Council approve Resolution 20-R-02 Volunteer

Resolution. Councilor Palmer seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

9) Ordinances – NONE

10) Consent Agenda – NONE

10.1 Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2020

Councilor Hinkley requested that the minutes be signed by the Mayor and sent directly to her for posting on our website from now on.

Councilor Wilson moved that the Council approve the minutes for May 18, 2020. Councilor Biedscheid seconded. All Councilors who were present at the 5/18/2020 Meeting voted in favor. Councilors Rigney and Biedscheid abstained. **MOTION PASSED.**

11) Old Business

11.1 Goal Setting

The mayor announced he was going to re-write all the current and new goals on the whiteboard. He then systematically read through the goal list and noted updated progress. He mentioned the One Stop meeting and how successful it was for the City and community. Grant percentage ratios, “per user” sewer rates and the 4th option (oxidation ditches) were discussed. CM Simpson reminded everyone that the pre-design is due in December of 2020. However, the city will apply for an extension due to COVID19.

Councilor Studebaker expressed his concern for having an experienced engineering firm that has previously built a wastewater plant look over the City’s current situation with Civil West. He noted some level of feeling distrust with Civil West. CM Simpson interposed that even if the City hired someone else to create a new water plan, it would look exactly like Civil West’s plan, with the same options in it as well as the numbers being estimates as one wouldn’t know the exact numbers until the job was completed.

Councilor Hinkley brought up conducting a peer review using a secondary engineering firm. After much discussion, it was consensual this was a good idea and that this was the way for the City to move forward. CM Simpson was tasked to reach out to alternate companies.

A few keynotes also mentioned were the fire hydrant was finally installed in the Sports Park, fire suppression is going well, the Bio-Mass bin is coming back, discussing the possibility of inviting DRP (Disabilities Recreation Project, Inc.) to a meeting, the municipal court software from Vision was officially installed today and we are on track to have everything installed and running with Vision by June 30, 2020.

////

////

12) New Business –

12.1 Re-opening Application Period for Committees

Committees discussed were Planning Commission, Parks Commission, Ethics Advisory Board, Public Works Advisory Board and Utility Advisory Board, Bee City USA and the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC). It was decided to merge the Public Works and Utilities with the Planning Commission.

12.2 SOREDI Grant for Covid/Local Business Economic Help

The Mayor began by stating SOREDI has earmarked \$8,000 to \$10,000 in grant money to the City for economic development and small business aid due to COVID19. SOREDI requires a detailed list and a dollar amount so they can better conclude as to where funds go. Councilor Hinkley suggested directing some of the funds to local eateries/restaurants to expand their dining areas wherein social distancing is mandated. Some of things discussed were:

Adding picnic tables/porta-potties to the beach park or other similar places, adding hand sanitizing stations / washing stations throughout strategic places in town to maintain cleanliness and adding porta-potties. Councilor Studebaker implied the retail business should be allotted a portion of the funds due to them being hit hard. Mayor Newport suggested the City ask for \$15,000+ as SOREDI hasn't etched any monetary amount in stone and we have nothing to lose by asking for more. In summary, the Mayor reiterated SOREDI would likely approve funds according to what they deem to be the "best use" for the City's economic development.

12.3 Application Period for November Elections of Council and Mayor

CM Simpson reminded everyone that even though two new Councilors were sworn in this evening, the City was already planning for the next election in November of 2020. There will be three Council seats and the Mayoral position up for election. She informed that the deadline to pick up packets and have them turned into her (as City Recorder) was August 25, 2020.

13) City Manager Report –

CM Simpson encouraged everyone to use the new domain name "cityofgoldhill.com" as it is now in effect. If anyone chooses to use their former email address, it will re-direct to the new one. She continued on to inform everyone about her call with the USDA with regards to the One Stop meeting. The USDA said the funding is based on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and the environmental review (ER), which the ER takes at least eight months and is conducted by the National Marine Fisheries should the City decide to retrofit the existing water plant or build a new one. If the pipeline option is exercised, then it will be required that a Section 106 review be utilized. However, be mindful that the 7.5 miles of land that will be needed to build the pipeline is all tribal land which can be complicated and take a lot of time to obtain approval.

14) Mayor Comments – NONE

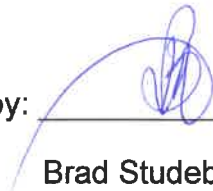
15) Councilor Comments –

Councilor Hinkley wanted to remind people to check on their neighbors, especially if they are elderly. Councilor Studebaker thanked Jackson County Public Health for their donation of PPE (masks). The idea of town hall meetings were suggested to be at the Sports Park where people could practice social distancing and offers better handicap accessibility as opposed to the Beach Park, which is very steep and has no restrooms.

Adjournment

Mayor Newport adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Minutes Approved by:



Brad Studebaker, Mayor pro tem

Attested by:



Jessica Simpson, City Recorder