

**City of Gold Hill City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2020**

Mayor Newport called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.; immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2) **Agenda Adjustments – NONE**

3) **Public Input – NONE**

4) **Public Hearing – NONE**

5) **Presentations**

**5.1 Mayor Pete Newport – City Awards Presentation**

The Mayor presented Awards of Appreciation to Carol Holm, Stacy Thomason, Ed Miller, Lorraine Parks, Gold Hill Can Do, Jan Byers-Sears, Tony Wilson, Jessica Simpson, Janet Wilson, Thom Canon, Brad Studebaker, Danielle Hinkley, Ron Palmer, & Rob Lowe.

**5.2 Mike Lee – Proposed Lot Line Adjustment to City Property on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.**

Mike Lee, Broker, Cascade Sotheby's International Realty represents property owner Henrietta Lundberg. She wants to offer the City the right of first refusal in purchasing real property next to Figaro's (small triangle parcel 0.25 Acres). She is asking \$135,000 + fees (\$400 est.). City is contemplating using it as a parking area. Mr. Lee had a difficult time finding useable comps. Ultimately, more info. is needed as to comps. along with a deeper look into the budget. The Mayor asked Mr. Lee for a timeframe as to how much time the City had to decide. Mr. Lee did not know off hand but said he would check with his client and report back to the City.

6) **Staff Reports – NONE**

7) **Proclamations – NONE**

8) **Resolutions – 20-R-03 Resolution Approving and Renewing Gold Valley Little League Lease Agreement with the City of Gold Hill**

City Manager Simpson noted an amendment to the Resolution previously printed: There was a line stating to install a water meter. However, the water meter was already installed, so that line should be omitted. Councilor Wilson moved that the Council approve Resolution 20-R-03 as

presented. Councilor Hinkley 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 February 10, 2020 and February 24, 2020**

Councilor Lowe moved that the Council approve the minutes for February 10, 2020 and February 24, 2020. Councilor Wilson seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

**11) Old Business - NONE**

**12) New Business –**

**12.1 Approval of FY18-19 Plan of Action to Address Material Weaknesses Found in Audit**

CM Simpson reported that the State Auditor found 5 material weakness in the audit. She further stated she developed a *Plan of Action* for these weaknesses which the auditor agreed to. Councilor Hinkley suggested reviewing the previous month's reconciliation at the same time checks are reviewed/signed (15<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of every month). Councilor Hinkley moved that the Council approve the Plan of Action to address material weaknesses found in the audit for fiscal year 18-19. Councilor Wilson seconded. All Councilors present voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

**12.2 Citizen Involvement Committee**

Councilor Hinkley requested this next concern as she has had a number of local citizens inquire about the Involvement Committee, which is a citizen only involved group that addresses local issues and concerns. CM Simpson offered to find the actual code and send it to all Council Members.

CM Simpson shared the fact she was going to try to update the Charter using a council – city manager model provide by The League of Oregon Cities. She hopes to include that on the November 2021 ballot.

Councilor Hinkley reminded everyone that we are a Bee City USA community and went over what that entailed (the use of certain fertilizers, growing certain plants, etc.).

### **12.3 Requisition for COVID 19 PPE**

Councilor Studebaker went over, in great detail, the importance of PPE. He brainstormed on the ways our City might possibly get PPE's donated from the County or perhaps from the state of Oregon COVID19 fund. He stressed the importance in being compliant with the Governor's order.

The Mayor reminded everyone we are in Phase I, and that meant no more than 25 people at a time in a room. CM Simpson announced City Hall will not consider re-opening until at least Phase II due to safety issues.

Councilor Palmer apprised everyone of the fact a local business has broken State rules and regulations RE: COVID19. He named the establishment as being Lucky's. He also called the Sheriff, Oregon Health Authority & OSHA. According to what OSHA told Councilor Palmer, they will proceed with a claim. (Of note, Phase I only allows up to 25 people in one room and they all have to be 6 feet apart) It was determined there were more than 40 people at Lucky's.

Councilor Hinkley encouraged the Council to look into possible grants or programs that may pay for our less fortunate citizens' utility bills during this economic downturn. CM Simpson announced the City is not charging late fees nor turning water off due to COVID19 so the citizens can have running water to stay clean and sanitary.

### **12.4 Whitewater Center Olympic Bid**

The Mayor called on Steve Kiesling for an update on the Olympic bid. Mr. Kiesling was physically present in the council chambers. He updated everyone by stating most of the outside experts have done their jobs and now approximately \$20,000 is needed for permits, which he hopes can be accomplished by the year's end. He mentioned the permits were needed by Dept. of State Lands, Army Corps of Engineers and "Wetlands". He continued on to say we should send someone to L.A. and he believes it will be a good thing to have the Olympics here in our little town.

Councilor Hinkley strongly voiced her opinion that there were many citizens that are extremely angry that this matter went to public broadcasting, which made it sound like all citizens wanted the Olympics in Gold Hill. She made it clear that was not the case and that there are many people that do not want it here. She further stated how angry she was about making this bid look as if the City of Gold Hill brought forth this idea and was backing it all the way, when that is not the case. During her discourse, she mentioned many points, including but not limited to how the Olympics can damage and destroy small towns in countless ways. She wanted to put the matter to a vote of the people.

Mr. Kiesling then responded by talking about a draft of a letter from Governor Kate Brown to the Los Angeles Olympic Committee (LAOC) that he brought to the council and everyone read it. He couldn't think of any small town in the world that has been hurt by the Olympics.

Councilor Hinkley mentioned Ventura, CA, where it was a sleepy little ocean town and post Olympics is now a tourist town and the people who lived there had to sell their houses and move away because the cost of living skyrocketed.

CM Simpson chimed in to clarify the fact that the letter was brought to the meeting but nobody read it as it was deemed confidential. Nobody saw nor voted on the letter, explained CM Simpson.

Mr. Kiesling then spoke, stating the City's goal is to have the permits by the years' end, and this project was all started by the City when it paid to map the river in 2012. He said Travel Southern Oregon may be able to help financially. Again, he feels it would be a good thing for the community and for everybody.

The Mayor suggested doing a town hall or public meeting. Others agreed in the background.

Some small discussions went on afterward about hotels, only doing the white water park and not the Olympics, economic impacts, actually turning a profit and using the potential money to improve the City.

It was agreed to hold this town meeting 30 days after Phase III. The Mayor stated he was not going to re-run for the Mayor position after his current term.

Councilor Lowe said one thing the Council talked about for months was to get a hotel. If word got out L.A. was even considering Southern Oregon for the Olympics, we would finally get our hotel here. He went on to say entrepreneurs would look at property around here...economic development. He said it would be disruptive for a while, but it would bring in a lot of money to the City.

### **12.5 Domain Name Change – [www.cityofgoldhill.com](http://www.cityofgoldhill.com)**

CM Simpson expressed her opinion that our email handle is difficult to relay to others. She said we already own this new domain name and it's easier to use. She mentioned previous email addresses could still be used as there would just be a re-direct on it. She called for a consensus instead of a vote due to the fact we already owned the name. Consensus was given.

### **13) City Manager Report –**

CM Simpson said the Fire District 3 Bio-Mass bin was a huge success and they are going to do it again in about 6 weeks. She also mentioned the trailer was free to use to remove debris. The Mayor inquired about software updates. CM Simpson updated him along with a quick reminder June 1, 2020 was the next council meeting and two new council members will be sworn in.

### **14) Mayor Comments –**

The Mayor brought up the 14 goals. He went through the list systematically and named all the goals that were accomplished. He brought up other goals that were cancelled due to COVID19. Other goals were mentioned, including opening up additional parts of the Sports Park. There were some trails that had poison oak and needed maintenance (widening out).

Councilor Hinkley thanked Councilor Studebaker for taking point on getting the railroad people over to chop a bunch of brush and grass out. Mayor Pete chimed in to have everyone make a list of dead or dangerous trees. Councilor Palmer mentioned the huge tree by the school that needs removing. He warned if it fell and took out the grid, it would cost tens of thousands of dollars. Everyone agreed.

The Mayor asked CM Simpson about the water meter conversions. She said it would cost the City \$150,000 to convert all meters to radio reads. Vision presented an option to buy a device that costs \$3,500 that reads the meters and acts accordingly to save time (she explains how). She mentioned this as a way to gain time to investigate grant money for the meter replacements.

The Mayor said there may be a Harvest Festival put on by Can Do. Councilor Hinkley brought up possibly doing a Saturday Market (perhaps during Gold Dust Days) and closing it out with a Fall Festival.

The Mayor ended with stating the current council was the best council this town has ever had and how much has been done in just a short amount of time.

**15) Councilor Comments –**

Councilor Hinkley wanted to remind people to be safe. Councilor Studebaker asked CM Simpson about the back-up system. CM Simpson answered that our servers were being backed up both on-site and off-site.

**Adjournment**

**Mayor Newport adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.**

Minutes Approved by:

  
Pete Newport, Mayor

Attested by:

  
Jessica Simpson, City Recorder