



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2020

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Riley Hill, Dan Capron, Norm Crume, Michael Braden, Freddy Rodriguez, and Marty Justus. Ramon Palomo called in at 6:29 p.m.

Members of staff present were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Terry Leighton, Peter Hall, Dan Cummings, and Steven Romero. Larry Sullivan, Kari Ott, Cliff Leeper, and Betsy Roberts participated by phone.

The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

Mayor Hill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on April 27, 2020. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website www.ontariooregon.org.

CRUME moved, BRADEN seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-out; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

OLD BUSINESSRecommendation of Award for South Oregon Street Improvements Project

Betsy Roberts, City Engineer, presented.

CRUME moved, JUSTUS seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL AWARD THE SOUTH OREGON STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO WARRINGTON CONSTRUCTION FOR \$716,225**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-out; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Rodriguez read a statement into the record regarding comments made at the previous Council meeting: (Typed verbatim from document) *In an effort to keep my promise of transparency and accountability to the community of Ontario, I find it imperative I address the events that took place after the Council meeting on April 9th as they have been intentionally confabulated into a tall-tale. As we already heard the initial accounts about what happened from my fellow Councilmember Justus last week, incorrect as they may be and appreciative of the focus on my actions by him as I am, they are 100% made-up or imagined, whatever the angle may be. There were only 4 people in the foyer outside council chambers when the events took place, the only elected official that was present was myself. There was ZERO bullying and COMPLETE absence of anything resembling a threat of physical violence. Being our chief of police was a direct witness I would've imagined some sort of legal action to take place. Nothing of the sort arose as those accounts fabled are again.... Created. It is uncommon for an elected official to engage in a passionate discussion with a community member, but not unproductive when carried out with mutual respect. It is in fact completely unbecoming and frankly 100% untrustworthy of any elected official to use lies for anything, primarily to use lies to inform the constituency. That is something I as a citizen and a city elected leader find to be gross negligence of carrying out our oath of service to the community and shows clear disregard to our communities needs starting with the basic foundation of honesty. Lastly, I also spoke with the News Media source who published sensationalized words from Justus and confirmed there was ZERO attempt to seek to corroborate any part of these claims before running with it and pushing out lies to the community. You would expect a long-standing newspaper to take all avenues available to ensure their stories are at the very least close to reality. Any publishing body knows lies through known omissions are still lies. I hope that moving forward all council members can work together for the good of the people and refrain from pointless back and forth as I have been lured into doing and am guilty of also wasting time on addressing a lie. NO MORE!*

- Councilor Capron stated the Police Chief had been asking about the noise ordinance.

Chief Romero stated it had been anticipating some direction for adoption, but that had not been done yet. The City Attorney had reviewed the current proposed updated ordinance and had submitted an approved version.

Mr. Brown stated he had asked two weeks ago to have the proposed ordinance be brought back before Council for adoption. It should be presented at the next Council meeting.

- Mayor Hill asked for an update on the Airport.

Mr. Brown stated one benefit of the CARES Act was additional funding to the Federal Aviation Administration, who was able to arrive at an additional \$350K. The runway and taxi apron project was currently out for bid. It was all “free” money. There would also be \$2.5M for an upgrade to the BLM area. Plus, there was another \$30K for operations or, if they wanted to use it for something different, they would have to submit a plan. However, using it for operations would free up that amount in the General Fund, so it could be used towards an irrigation system for the grass runway.

- Mayor Hill stated he had received four calls regarding the asphalt patches that had not been done on Idaho, which had been open for quite a while. He believed there was some regulations the city had about patching those within a week, but wasn’t sure if that was factual. He assumed that was being taken care of.
- Mayor Hill stated he had received some calls regarding a ditch on Dorian Drive that had been open and running full of water for over two weeks. Mosquitos were not out yet, but they would be. He had never seen it remain full like that before, but he wasn’t sure the city had jurisdiction over that.
- Councilor Crume stated he had previously mentioned an issue about a place off North Oregon and 4th Street; had anything been done there? It was three quarters of a block off Oregon Street onto 4th, if turning West onto 4th, there were many vehicles that were junk and trailers parked in the road. Cars parked in the yard and around the house.

Mr. Brown thanked him for the reminder; he’d look into it.

- Councilor Crume mentioned the weed situation at West Park Plaza.
- Councilor Justus stated the question of “founded” or “established” for the City of Ontario might be coming to the forefront and wanted everyone to be prepared.

Councilor Palomo joined the meeting via telephone at 6:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(h)

An executive session was called under provisions of ORS 192.660(2)(h) to discuss current or potential litigation. The Council reconvened into regular session at 7:20 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Adam Brown, City Manager, asked if the Council was ready to pass the proposed resolution.

Mayor Hill stated he did not like passing items before actually seeing the wording.

Mr. Brown confirmed the action would be brought before Council at the next work session.

Councilor Braden stated because arbitration was the day after, he was prepared to act on it at the current meeting.

Councilor Justus suggested requesting to move arbitration maybe seven days. They were 99% in agreement with the proposal. That way, they could approve the verbiage as presented.

Councilor Braden stated how they could act now, they could state how they wanted item #4 amended, get it in writing, and the approve it as amended.

Councilor Crume stated they had done that in Executive Session.

Councilor Braden stated that was why they took that time. It was prepared to be acting on now if the Council wanted to do so.

Mr. Brown stated #4 would have to be changed to say the city was willing to offer a 12-month grace period, and that was the essence of it.

Councilor Capron stated it would be a 6-month, with an additional 6-month grace.

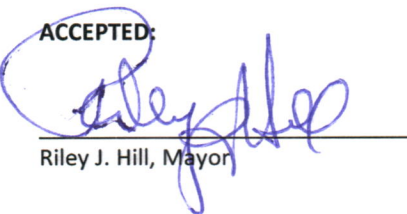
Mayor Hill reiterated he did not want to vote on it until he saw it in writing.

Councilor Capron stated they could always hold an emergency meeting. If needed, could they do an emergency meeting on Tuesday after the agenda meeting, maybe via telephone, to approve the resolution once the proposed change was in writing.

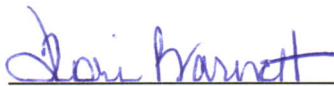
ADJOURN

CRUME moved, CAPRON seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-yes; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:


Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST


Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder