



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES August 6, 2020

The scheduled Work Session of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present in person or attended via telephone were Riley Hill, Dan Capron, Norm Crume, Michael Braden, Freddy Rodriguez, and Ramon Palomo. Marty Justus was out.

Members of staff present in person or via telephone were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Dan Cummings, Terry Leighton, Peter Hall, Steven Romero, Kari Ott, Dan Beaubien, Dallas Brockett, and Rick Reyna.

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 August 4, 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, CAPRON seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-out; Palomo-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CONSENT AGENDA

CRUME moved, CAPRON seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED THE WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2020**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-out; Palomo-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Artiach, Ontario: He just received approval for the first, annual Local Law Enforcement Torch Run, Special Olympics – Idaho, and now it was going to change to Eastern Oregon. On Saturday, October 3rd, at Scotch Pines Golf Course, he wanted to hold a golf tournament for local law enforcement agencies from Idaho and Eastern Oregon. He wanted to bring about unification. He was going to approach the marijuana dispensaries and associates and have them assist with the other businesses in the community to sponsor and donate to this golf tournament. He had gold medal sponsors already for \$2,500 or more, and silver sponsors for \$1,500, and bronze medals for \$750. The tournament would be 4-man best ball and each team could either pick their own players, and it should be of police offices, dispensary workers, and an athlete from the Special Olympics. His goal was to make this one community, so they'd need to be one team. All he saw now was only vision, but no unification, with a whole lot of he said, she said situations. His goal was to make this an annual event to bring the community together. He intended to have a live auction, a long-drive contest, putting contest, closest-to-the-hole contest, live music, and plenty of food. He was there extending an invitation to them all to participate. All these communities needed to come together, and this seemed like a good first step. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS**Code Enforcement: Update and Complaint Status**

Steven Romero, Police Chief, presented. At the previous Council meeting, it had been discussed the potential options on how to move forward with Code Enforcement abatement policies, how abatements were conducted, who was used for abatement. It was his understanding that the Council, the City Manager, and the Police Chief would have some additional discussions regarding what they'd like to see out of Code Enforcement in the future.

Currently, he had tasked Code Enforcement with doing an analysis of the current practices and policies, include local and state ordinances, to draft a new proposal and methodology on how to operate Code Enforcement abatement actions. He received a preliminary draft of new abatement guidelines and recommendations. That report had been forwarded to the City Manager. He hoped to provide a clean, final draft to the Council, for review very soon. He believed some of the recommendations included adjusting the fines, putting a ceiling on fines, who was used for the abatement actions, and a matrix on how to gauge appropriate civil penalties on the violators. As the Council was aware, there were chronic violators, first-time violators, and hardship violators. They could not use a cookie-cutter approach. Each scenario had to be reviewed on an individual basis to make a good determination on getting that property into compliance, and how to achieve long-term compliance to avoid dealing with the same properties over and over.

Staff had restructured the violation table as to what constituted the three different levels of violations for ordinance violations, which were low-risk, moderate-risk, and high-risk. There was a matrix being developed to determine what the risk factor was based on the violations and those would then be matched to the appropriate civil penalty amount, based on the conditions that existed, and that was scalable, which should make the decision a bit easier for the Council as to what direction to move. This draft incorporated the local and state regulations, but they were also basing it off the City of Salem model.

Last month there were 278 open cases. About 75% of those cases had remained open for a substantial amount of time, which was a month or longer. He tasked the two Code Enforcement Officers with finding a solution on how to reduce the amount of open cases without ignoring the problem. He encouraged them to experiment with different approaches for conducting abatement actions against properties. They were driving in mapped areas, taking pictures, and taking information. Another approach had been to split the city in half, with one Officer working one section while the other worked the other section, to see how much ground could be covered. One focused on identifying and documenting the problem, and the other focused on cleaning up the problem. The biggest success had been in using the old approach of communication. It was his belief that this month, the city had collected \$12,000 in civil penalties on properties that had been habitually difficult to bring into compliance or pay their penalties. In addition, another \$11,000 had been collected over the past two weeks. This was due to the Officers reaching out and making contact, working with people on the abatement problems. Properties were being cleaned up and penalties were being paid. It was a work in progress, but they would develop the perfect model.

Councilor Capron stated he had reported a couple issues in his own neighborhood, and they had both been taken care of, so he wanted to personally thank Officers Brockett and Reyna for whatever they did to make that happen.

NEW BUSINESS**Bid Award: Taxiway and Hold Apron Construction at Ontario Airport**

Dan Beaubien, Airport Manager, presented.

CAPRON moved, CRUME seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL PRE-APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION BID FOR BEUS CONSTRUCTION AS PRESENTED, PENDING FAA FUNDING.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-out; Palomo-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**Financial Monthly Report** *(Attached)*

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

Public Works Quarterly Report *(Attached)*

Kevin Mullin, Jacobs Operations Specialist, presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Cultural Designs** *(Attached)*

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented. Consensus (4/2/1) to move forward with the design as presented. Councilor Crume and Mayor Hill against. Councilor Justus out.

Lagoons Dredging and Side Spreader

Kevin Mullins, Jacobs Operations Specialist, stated as they moved forward, they were recommending amending the bid to ask for the inclusion of spreading in the bid price, and that the purchase of the spreader be tabled.

Virtualization and Recording of Council Meetings

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented. Staff had been experimenting with recording over the previous meetings, and he had been on several conference calls just this past week because that was the new order of business due to Covid. Staff would like to automate the audio/visual system in the Council Chambers, and he wanted to use the contractor that had been doing the audio/visual work for staff over the past two meetings. He'd like to have him assist in the design and build of a new system. There was a pot of money from the state that was used for Covid-related items, and it would run around \$40K to replace the existing system and make it all automated. The city could not afford to have a videographer on site every time, but the money being worked with had \$330K, so there was enough.

Stepping away from the audio/visual issue for a moment, within that pot of money, they could also help businesses. There were businesses on the buffer line of 50% which was the number to be eligible to apply for programs and assistance, and some were just a bit under that threshold, so there was a group that was going to meet and create a program from that same pot of money to assist those businesses there were just on the cusp of making the eligibility cutoff.

However, for the current issue at hand, the audio/visual, he was seeking approval to move forward with replacing the equipment. The funds had to be expended by December 31, 2020, or they were returned to Washington. This would constitute a new contract that would be brought before Council for approval.

Geof Hill, (currently videoing the meeting) stated the environment they were working with was completely different in that there were multiple live microphones all at the same time. Every mic was functioning simultaneously. When a call came in, in order for the Council to hear it, he had to manually mute that, but on Zoom that was automatic. Ideally, everyone would be wearing earphones, but they were not going to do that. They had to come up with a balance between what came out of the speakers when the call came in and what was heard. He was manually muting it so it didn't echo. Regarding the remote callers, the reason they were not seen was because they were not turning their cameras on. As he sat there in master control, the only person who had the camera on was the Finance Director. It worked okay, but on her side, he could see the stats and see what the bandwidth was doing, and she didn't have sufficient bandwidth so the Council would hear the audio artifacting. But if she had a cleaner signal, it would have come in nice and clear. Everyone else had their cameras turned off. The city could do nothing about those who called in but could only provide the best from City Hall. However, they could work to improve the system for staff. For the public at large, they couldn't do anything for them.

Consensus (6/0/1) to move forward with the project, not to exceed the \$330K. Councilor Justus out.

HAND-OUTSDepartment Stats: (Attached)

Fire & Rescue Jul 2020

Public Works Jul 2020

Police Jul 2020

Code Enforcement Jun 2020

Code Enforcement Jul 2020

Code Enforcement 2nd QuarterMinutes: (Attached)

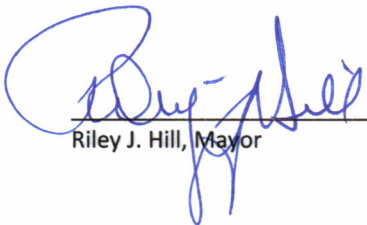
County Court 07-15-2020

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Councilor Crume reported that he and the City Manager had attended the last Airport Committee meeting, and the majority of the talk was over the fuel delivery issue. It became a heated discussion among a few members, or one member, really, and rightfully so. He was able to express a situation that his normal daily business put him in to where having one fueling station was not going to work. It was made clear to all of them. The FBO agreed and stated that he wanted no part of dealing with fueling the ag operation because he couldn't. It was up to the Council to develop a new formula on what to do. It might end up being what was already in place in that anybody that was going to pump fuel out there would have to have all the safety requirements, along with a contract with the city stating they were taking care of all those things and would be paying flowage fees. The City Manager created a mini committee with the people out there who were involved, and with the people running the aerial application businesses, which would begin next month. They'd put it all together and bring it back for discussion and recommendation. The arguments brought everything into the open, so it really was beneficial.

ADJOURN

CAPRON moved, RODRIGUEZ seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-out; Palomo-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

ACCEPTED:

Riley J. Hill, Mayor**ATTEST**

Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder