



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2020

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present in person or via telephone were Riley Hill, Dan Capron, Norm Crume, Michael Braden, Marty Justus, and Freddy Rodriguez. Ramon Palomo joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Members of staff present in person or via telephone were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Peter Hall, Terry Leighton, Kari Ott, Dan Cummings, and Steven Romero, and Larry Sullivan.

Mayor Hill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on August 14, 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 PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-out; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

Councilor Ramon Palomo joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Artiach, Ontario, stated: *Like I told you guys before, I want to do stuff for my community and on my own. I told you about having a golf tournament that's coming up with Special Olympics and our local law enforcement agencies. I've done something that hasn't been done with Special Olympics. I got to unite two states to make one team. Not only now is it Special Olympics, Idaho, now it's Special Olympics, Idaho/Eastern Oregon. For my golf tournament, I got to bring in a national organization to help with that, and that is the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. They'd be helping us. I need to highlight Eastern Oregon because we have to go to Idaho, unfortunately, I have to win Olympic medals for Idaho, and I can't do it for Eastern Oregon. I'd like to invite you guys to all be a part of it, to help me show these people Eastern Oregon. Me and the Chief are actually trying to do something even better than that. We want to have a citywide for all the different places in the city, state works, government, a golf tournament just for them, for Eastern Oregon, here, in our community, not only to join us, to highlight the only golf course we have in this area since we don't have our other one, and maybe help them out a little bit. Just have fun and play golf! Thank you.*

CONSENT AGENDA

CAPRON moved, JUSTUS seconded, **TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2020; THE MICRO LOAN/GRANT – ONTARIO POKER ROOM; AND HANGAR LEASE TRANSFER: KATARIINA TEUFEL AND VILLE LIERAMA (373 ALPHA)**. Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-yes; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS**Resolution #2020-133: Appropriating Funding for the Emergency Purchase of Radio Equipment**

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

CAPRON moved, PALOMO seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2020-133: A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF RADIO EQUIPMENT.** Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-yes; Palomo-yes; Justus-yes; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC HEARING**Ordinance #2778-2020: An Ordinance Amending the City of Ontario Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map and Annexation and Rezone of a Parcel of Land from UGA Commercial to City Light Industrial (I-1) being located at 833 SW 30th Street, on Second and Final Reading by Title Only**

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the matter of Ordinance #2778-2020, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, no abstentions, ex-parte contact, and one declarations of conflict of interest.

Councilor Justus declared a Conflict of Interest and stepped down from the Council dais.

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

The Hearing was opened for public testimony. Opponents: None. Proponents: None. There being no Proponent and no Opponent testimony, the Hearing was closed.

CRUME moved, CAPRON seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE FINDINGS OF FACTS AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHMENT #1 APPLICATION NARRATIVE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND THE REQUEST FOR REZONE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES FROM UGA COMMERCIAL TO CITY LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (I-1), AS SET FORTH IN ACTION 2020-06-23 CPAMD, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2778-2020 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ONTARIO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING MAP AND ANNEXATION AND REZONE OF A PARCEL OF LAND FROM UGA COMMERCIAL TO CITY LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (I-1) BEING LOCATED AT 833 SW 30TH STREET, OWNER IS 883SW30TH, LLC, PLANNING ACTION 2020-06-23 CPAMD, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY TITLE ONLY.** Roll call vote: Crume-yes; Rodriguez-no; Palomo-yes; Justus-abstain; Capron-yes; Braden-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 4/1/0/1.

Councilor Justus returned to his seat at the Council dais.

HAND-OUTS**Check Register:** (Attached)

Jul → Aug 13, 2020

Minutes: (Attached)

County Court: 07-20-2020; 08-05-2020

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Adam Brown stated he was seeking representation from the Council, someone with experience with home development needs, to assist on the Housing Needs Analysis. Staff thought either the Mayor or Councilor Justus would be an asset.

Mayor Hill stated he would be willing to look at the parameters, provided it wouldn't create a conflict.

Councilor Justus stated he'd be happy to work with the Mayor on the project.

- Adam Brown: stated the Rural Fire Board led to arbitration yesterday. The Judge remanded it back to mediation on Monday. The Judge asked that the city be represented because the city has the contract with the Rural Fire Department. The Judge felt it wouldn't be fair to have that conversation without city representation. The City Attorney stated it would be could if the Council gave authority to the City manager to represent the City of Ontario in this mediation. It wouldn't be a voting roll; it would be talking about the city's expenses and possible future expenses going forward with the Rural District and SRCL.

Mayor Hill asked if Mr. Brown would put together, or with the help of the Fire Chief, what the city's expenses were?

Mr. Brown stated yes, he and the Chief would look into the costs moving forward, anticipating both reoccurring personnel costs and capital costs.

Council consensus to have the City Manager represent the City of Ontario during this action.

- Mayor Hill stated the \$2.5M for BLM – what was that status?

Mr. Brown stated he reached out to the Denver BLM office, who was controlling the funds, and he was waiting to hear back from them. He would continue to call until he received an answer. He also spoke with the local office in Vale, as well as the regional office, and also initiated conversations with the state. There was a meeting set for Wednesday to discuss the financing program for the project. It went well with the rezoning for the half street that they would be responsible for. Airport Way was going to end with the development if it was on the eastside.

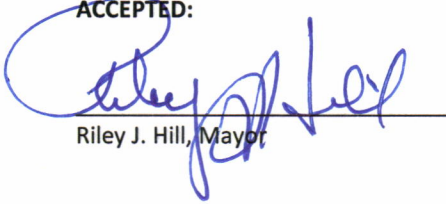
- Councilor Rodriguez stated he hadn't hear anyone speak about it since Covid started, and it had been discussed, but it was pretty much statistically proven that the Malheur County population of 30,000, which was still the county in Oregon, he believed, that had the highest percentage of weekly positive cases, was not necessarily comparable to the highest county in Idaho, which was Canyon County, a population of 230,000. Malheur County was a fraction of that, and they were still under in the average of weekly positive Covid cases. He wasn't a mathematician, but it was clear that based on those calculations, on those statistics, that we were concentrating those numbers in our community, which was causing Malheur County to have a larger number of positives. Even the top county here was still beating their top county and it was very clear that we were concentrating their numbers here. The argument that some businesses had in the beginning about "our business isn't bringing people here for that"; yes, it's very clear that it is. Being that the conversation was ended before, it definitely needed to be a conversation moving forward about they could talk about something, anything, the Council could do, not just sitting on their hands, while the county, the state, the neighboring state and counties, was causing Malheur County's number to go up. Everyone understood Malheur County was in Phase I, and from the conversations he was having with constituents, it was imminent that Malheur County would be going into a complete shut-down, just like Umatilla was. If that happened, out local businesses and everybody would be hurting. He wanted to have the conversation now about what could be implemented now, to coincide with the letter the Health Director Sarah Poe sent to Governor Brown about doing things differently to stop reverting to a complete shutdown. As leaders of this community, the Council could also enter that conversation to see what they could do, to ensure the city wasn't forced into a shutdown, where everybody in commerce in this city would suffer, including locally owned businesses. If they had a discussion about maybe making the big box businesses that were bringing in customers from the lower Treasure Valley, they should have a conversation that could potentially slow down the access or the exposure traffic that they were seeing. During the initial complete shutdown, Walmart and Home Depot were still bringing people in. He knew some of the dispensary owners talked about that and asked about the big box stores. He agreed with that. It wasn't just the dispensaries, although they did have large numbers, and potentially larger numbers from the lower Treasure Valley, Walmart and Home Depot and places like that were bringing in large numbers. The Council could not keep ignoring that because this are would continue to spiral down just like Umatilla. The Council needed to be proactive, not reactive.

Mayor Hill added that 71% of the prison employees lived in Idaho.

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