



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 15, 2020

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Riley Hill at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present in person or by call-in were Riley Hill, Freddy Rodriguez, Michael Braden, Norm Crume, Ken Hart, and Marty Justus. Ramon Palomo arrived at 6:41 p.m.

Members of staff present in person or by call-in were Adam Brown, Tori Barnett, Dan Cummings, Peter Hall, Terry Leighton, Steven Romero, Kari Ott, Larry Sullivan, Al Cablay, and Laura Reyes.

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 December 11, 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: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-out; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

CONSENT AGENDA

CRUME moved, BRADEN seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED 11-05-2020 COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES; 11-17-2020 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES; AND 11-24-2020 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-out; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

PRESENTATION

John Breidenbach, CEO Ontario Chamber of Commerce, stated: *Thank you Mr. Mayor. I've been asked to come here tonight and speak to you on behalf of the businesses and try to give you an update on what's going on. Before I start, because I'm not sure I'm going to make it to any more meetings in 2020, and I don't want to do this by Zoom, I personally want to thank Councilman Palomo, Councilman Justus, and for your service not only on this board on the Council but for your service on Revitalize Ontario which I know you're staying on that, and to Councilman Norm Crume. Norm, thank you very much for that last many years that you've been on this Council. What many of you don't know is that after a Council meeting, the next day or the next week, Norm has often picked up the phone or picked up my phone call to kind of get a pulse on what's going on in the business community. Norm, I have really appreciated your support and your outreach to the business community to understand what's going on. That being said, if anybody new to the Council would like to pick up the phone and do that, I'd like to do it by phone, but I can start coming to Council meetings on a more regular basis, too. I just wanted to thank you Norm, and Marty, and pass that on if he's not on the phone to Ramon.*

During the last eight months of this pandemic and freezes and lockdowns and shutdowns and salons being shutdown and bars being shutdown and the restaurants being shut down, our businesses in Ontario, as you heard at your last City Council meeting, have really been suffering. So, what we have tried to do at the Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce for the last eight months is A-#1, keep our doors open. Keep our doors open. We have served many people who are looking for Community in Action, many people who are looking for help, not only businesses but just citizens in the area to try to give them guidance and where to go. Over the last eight months if you are a Chamber member or know somebody who is, you have probably been hit in your inbox by a ton of emails coming from my desk, me personally, trying to pass on to the businesses in Ontario and the whole area about grants that are available, rather than the federal grants with the PPE, the idle grants, the state grants, the Oregon Restaurant Association grants, the Travel Oregon grants, the last couple weeks the county grants, and as soon as I was made aware of the city's grant program, then that grant too. Many businesses have called me back over that time to get more details, and I try to be the liaison between the grantor and the grantee will tell you, it's not over, as I know you all follow the federal news there may be some more help coming federally and as of today, Governor Kate Brown has called our state legislators back into special session on Monday, one day only, and so I took advantage of that particular situation and passed on to Representative Mark Ownes and our great Senator Lynn Findley some information that we put together a few weeks ago via a survey to the Chamber membership. I had help on this, a lot of help, and I appreciate it, from City Manager Adam Brown. So, I just passed on so they would know on Monday that what our businesses are dealing with. I would highly encourage the City Council to reach out to them prior to Monday and ask them to remember the businesses that are in this because on her agenda, from what I read today, it is a vaccine distribution, funding to get schools back open, and one other thing, but nothing was mentioned that was business related directly. Oh, it was evictions and landlords that was the third item. I got the notice through Senator Findley's office is how I found out about it and I was able to dig a little deeper.

So, we sent out a survey to all the businesses about three weeks ago and we asked them what is your risk of going out of business because of this freeze. This was right when the freeze first started, not after it got extended. At that point, there were 15.3 businesses out of the 73 respondents that were on the verge of going out of business. There was 55.6 that said no, and there was 29 that said maybe. And I can tell you, in talking to, I don't know who answered this, but in the last week probably that 29 has grown quite a bit. People are really, business owners and general managers are really getting afraid that this isn't going to end soon enough that they can stay open. I will tell you that the ability that you guys did as a team to get some heaters and some propane and tried to help the restaurants out has been greatly appreciated and it's been greatly received by the community as something, basically the words were anything the city can do to help is not taken lightly. Also, passed on a couple businesses to the county with their grant right after that same conversation.

The next question was regardless of the harm done, do you believe the Governor's freeze order, as currently written, was the right thing to do. We had 73 respondents, but only 30% saying yes, it was the right thing to do. 54% said no, and 13% said some is right.

We asked the question would you like us to send a letter to the Governor on behalf of the businesses and yes it was said by 57.6% that we should do it. 32% said no, and 98 said yes. That was when we had 73 responses and then it jumped up to 144 responses and I had 77% say no, don't send a letter.

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated they had written the survey offering the business community a voice to the state. It was sent Tuesday morning of the Chamber meeting and had 73 responses. John suggested pushing it out one more time to try for more responses, and the count doubled very quickly. John picked up some conversation within the community that people outside the business community were upset about it. When he reviewed the results, it definitely looked like tampering. The pattern of responses changed 180°, so they used the cutoff of 73.

Mr. Breidenbach continued: *I put the word out there that I have a board meeting coming up Tuesday morning and I want to present this to the board, so I wanted the answers by that, the board and myself that morning thought 73 out of 356 members was a little low, let's try it one more time, and that didn't work so well. On that, the responses were the biggest impact to our community by far was 42% saying that the order needed to adjust the bars and*

restaurants and those type of things. So, what I did was I shared this information with Senator Findley and asked him to take the advice. I did it again today when I had that. I did not write a letter directly to the Governor's office to say hey, change the freeze. Our businesses are dying because of it, although I know they are. I honestly believe what happened with that survey is we have 356 members, roughly, and out of that, we have many state agencies, many non-profits, and many businesses that are across the river and I really feel, as Adam just stated, I really feel like that first 73 were the people that it was affecting the most and the ones that understand were directly here in Ontario. The survey was a Google survey, it was anonymous. We did reach out to businesses. Some of the directly sent some comments back of ways they thought we could tell the Governor in a not so nice way to change things, and some of them had some really good ideas that I also shared with Senator Findley. That was one of the things that we've done over the year, or over the last eight months, was the survey.

Other things we have worked on very hard, and Peter Hall and Adam Brown and myself and the great team over at SBDC at TVCC, Chris Holloway, Andrea Testi and Ronda Baines, have worked to put together what we're calling the Shop Four Rivers Gift Card. You many have heard of this already; you may have seen it. I was invited to a workshop along with the Nyssa Chamber and the Fruitland Chamber and the Payette Chamber and the Weiser Chamber, to work together and come up with this plan. It's a national company that does this and they showed up where they've done it in Eugene and some other cities in Oregon, but the one that really hit close to home for all of us is it's working in Burns, in the Shop Harney County, and they had over 40 cards signed up that first day. We're barely getting the 40 cards. We haven't launched the full program yet, but we're working on it. What this is, this is a digital Mastercard. You can print on paper, but it's a digital card that you can purchase and then you can give as a gift and they can only be redeemed at stores, businesses, restaurants, etc., City Hall, Chambers, that are signed up to take the card. So, you can't buy a Shop Four Rivers card and go shop in Eugene with it, or even shop Harney County. You have to use it here. The idea is, and we were trying really hard to get it pushed out prior to the holiday season, is we have some major employees here – Heinze, Woodgrain, etc., that have several thousand employees or right at that thousand employee mark, that could buy these as gifts for their employees and then their employees would move the money locally instead of shopping outside the area. It's still a work in progress we're working on all the time. They had 13,000 already of people buying cards. The program works like this: if you go in and you digitally buy a card, you have a percentage as the buyer to the card. I was able to reach out to the Malheur Enterprise and Les Zaitz and the Malheur Enterprise subsidized that up to \$500, so all those people that are buying cards right now, until that \$500 in fees is gone, which is going to last quite a while because it's only like a buck or two per card, are able to use that money. There's also if you sign up to use the program, and I know Kinney and Keele is one of the people who have signed up for it, and others, you can offer special offers that will go right onto the website. You can do like 20% off or buy one-get one and we're also working with Swire Coca-Cola and Heart & Home Hospice and some other businesses to do the buy-one, get-one, so if you buy a \$25 card, you're going to get a \$25 card to give away, and that's been all done by sponsors at this point. There is a website that I encourage you all to look at called ShopFourRivers.com and it takes you to the company site and it's called Yiftee. I feel, the Chamber Board feels, and the community partners feel that are involve din this, it's a wonderful program. We did invite the Nyssa Chamber to come on board with us; the Fruitland Chamber did come on board; Vale is looking at it; Wieser held off at this point; and then us. The reason we did it regionally is because we know that there's a lot of businesses that would give these cards and we would just as soon maybe everybody from the Fruitland places that would give a card to Walmart not that Walmart is the evil empire but maybe they would give them to the local stores. It was open to all businesses, restaurants, bars, bookstores, whatever. It was not just at this point done just for Chamber members. We may be doing some stuff down the road where we'd highlight the Chamber members a little bit more to make sure they're getting some extra return on investment and then offering special deals only to the ones that are Chamber members so only can put specials on their websites. But that's a recovery thing, after the pandemic, after the closures, after the freeze. Right now, it's about trying to come up with a program to get some local dollars moving locally. I'm pretty excited about it. Does anyone have any questions about it? I'm not the expert, believe me. Call Chris Holloway. It's a great program. Peter and Adam are on almost all the Zoom calls with me and everything, so hopefully it's something that we're going to continue see working. Right now, I'd say probably the biggest fish that has been signed up that will take the gift cards is Red Apple. So, you can buy your groceries or treat your employees to these give cards so they can use them there.

The next thing on my list to talk about is just something that I'm kind of excited about. It's coming together today thanks to again the help from Peter and the city with the Zoom account. We are going to have – this Saturday – from 1-3, a virtual visit with Santa and Mrs. Clause courtesy of the Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce, kids will be able to drive by, drop off a letter, Santa will read the letter, if they have the Zoom capabilities which most kids do because of the schools, they can Zoom in and talk to Mr. and Mrs. Clause. Myself, the Chamber Board, and the people who kind of came up with the idea really wanted to do something that was semi-normal, and Santa Clause is semi-normal, and to let the community know that we, the city, the area Chamber, is still here to support besides just sitting around and complaining about everything that is going on. That will be this Saturday from 1-3. I'd tell you to come in and see Santa, but you can't do that, but you can drop off a letter to Santa. Peter will be there to help with the Zoom technology part of it, thank you for that Peter.

Those were the things I wanted to highlight this evening, but as always, I am here to answer any questions that you might have. I really encourage you, if you are a Chamber member or the city or whoever, and you get those daily emails with the grants, share them with everybody. At this point, I will tell you that currently, when we sent out our dues starting in March, we send a letter that stated hey we know it's tough, if you can't make your full dues payment this year, whatever, reach out to us, let us help you get through this, I'm about \$8K in past 90-days dues of what we would have normally collected here in December. Everybody's got their story about how it hurt, but I will tell you that we did not get to have our auction right away, and that's \$24-25K usually every year. We didn't get to have our Global Village. We basically make about \$2,500 which usually goes back into the next year's event, so it's not really a profit. Not having the parade is usually a \$500 profit to the Chamber to cover the labor, so the way we've made this up is right when the pandemic started, one of our team members quit and we decided right then and there that we weren't going to fill that position until this was over and that salary that goes with that is kind of where we are at.

I also encourage you as you are out and about talking to businesses and trying to help them, to ask them, and I know it's a difficult thing, but ask them to be consistent. The first call I got Monday morning when I walked in the office was the restaurants want us to help them and do carry-out and I called a restaurant and I wanted to do carry-out and they told me it's been too slow and it's snowing and they're closing. The person went to fast food because fast food is open all the time. Customer service is still going to be key to recovery. We had a conference all the other day with Eastern Oregon Business Association. As you all know, or those of you who have been on the Council for a long time, we area a member of that. As we do the tourism for the area and the recovery plan that we're really trying to work on for next year had a lot more to do with soft skills than worldwide marketing. We're not going to reach out to Germany and Japan and try to get visitors here from them; we're going to try and get local people to shop local, stay local, those type of things, but we're also going to try to make sure that there is some training available for front-line staff at restaurants, hotels, gas stations, etc. most all employees, and I know you guys have heard this, and some of you have employees, most all employers are telling me right now their biggest issue is staffing and getting staff. As we do this recovery and roll out when we get new people, we want to get them trained right. I really don't like it when I go to a hotel and the front desk person doesn't know who I am, so I pretend that I'm not from here and then I ask what is there to do in this town and they say huh, or nothing. There's plenty to do and it's going to be our job to train them.

Thank you for your time and I will be back after the first of the year to get on the agenda to talked with the new councilors to talk about the Visitors and Conventions Center.

OLD BUSINESS

CARES Act Funding

Adam Brown, City Manager, presented.

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE COUNCIL SIGN OFF ON THE REMAINING LINE ITEMS THE CITY IS PROPOSING TO UTILIZE THE CARES ACT FUNDING FOR BEFORE THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-out; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.



Approval of the Property Line Adjustment Deed between the City of Ontario and Iliad Media Boise, LLC, (Formerly FM Idaho Co., LLC) to Complete the Contract Requirements of the NW Washington Avenue Project

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROPERTY LINE ADJUSTMENT DEED BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND ILIAD MEDIA BOISE, LLC, TO COMPLETE THE CONTRACT REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTHWEST WASHINGTON STREET PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE DEED.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-out; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 6/0/1.

City Manager Compensation

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated his appreciation for his evaluation and the constructive feedback going forward. But he was requesting the Council table this issue until March. After speaking with several Councilors, these were difficult times and he believed the city was going in a good direction and he didn't want to take away from that optic, so he asked for deferment to March.

Council consensus to table this issue until March, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2020-148: Supplemental Budget for Carryover Projects

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

CRUME moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2020-148: A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CARRYOVER PROJECTS AND CORRECT SEWER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Resolution #2020-149: Prioritization of In-Person Education

Ken Hart, City Councilor, presented.

HART moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION #2020-149: REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR STRONGLY CONSIDER HAVING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR AT LEAST PART OF THE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE PRIMARY EDUCATION.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Request for City Council to Initiate a Vacation on Council's Own Motion – Requested by Community Development Director and Ray Miller, Representing Property Owners, Regarding a Portion of SE 1st Street

Dan Cummings, Community Development Director, presented.

CRUME moved, HART seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND RAY MILLER FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO INITIATE A VACATION PROCEEDING AUTHORIZED UNDER ORS 271.130 FOR VACATION OF A PORTION OF SE 1ST STREET AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT "1" IN THE REPORT.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

CRUME moved, RODRIGUEZ seconded, **THAT THE CITY COUNCIL REQUIRE THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS TO PAY THE CITY EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THIS ACTION WHICH ARE OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT AND ALSO HAVE A GATED FENCE INSTALLED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE VACATION OF THIS PROPERTY.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)**Ordinance #2783-2020: Vacating all that Portion of SE 7th Avenue as shown on the Partition Plat 2009-06 filed under Malheur County Plat Records under Instrument #2009-4928, Dated June 25, 2009, on First/Second Reading by Title Only**

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the above stated matter, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, no abstentions, ex-parte contact, or any declaration of a conflict of interest.

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.

HART moved, JUSTUS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE #2783-2020 VACATING ALL THAT PORTION OF SE 7TH AVENUE AS SHOWN ON THE PARTITION PLAT 2009-06 FILED UNDER MALHEUR COUNTY PLAT RECORDS UNDER INSTRUMENT #2009-4928 DATED JUNE 25, 2009 AND AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT "2" OF THIS REPORT ON FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

HART moved, JUSTUS seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #2783-2020, AN ORDINANCE VACATING ALL THAT PORTION OF SE 7TH AVENUE AS SHOWN ON THE PARTITION PLAT 2009-06 FILED UNDER MALHEUR COUNTY PLAT RECORDS UNDER INSTRUMENT #2009-4928 DATED JUNE 25, 2009 AND AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT "2" OF THIS REPORT ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY TITLE ONLY.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

Ordinance #2781-2020: Acceptance of Private Properties as Public Rights-of-Way for Public Streets, on First/Second Reading by Title Only

It being the date advertised for public hearing on the above stated matter, the Hearing was declared open. There were no objections to the city's jurisdiction to hear the action, no abstentions, ex-parte contact, or any declaration of a conflict of interest.

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, BRADEN seconded, **CITY COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE #2781-2020, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CERTAIN TERRITORY AS CITY OF ONTARIO STREET RIGHT OF WAYS AND AS PUBLIC STREETS, ON FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

CRUME moved, BRADEN seconded, **THE CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #2781-2020, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CERTAIN TERRITORY AS CITY OF ONTARIO STREET RIGHT OF WAYS AND AS PUBLIC STREETS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Braden-yes; Hart-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Water and Sewer Waivers for Restaurants and Bars**

Mayor Hill stated this had been added to the Agenda at his request.

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated the city had done this back in March, April, and May, and it wasn't restricted to restaurants and bars. It was for anyone required to close. The total forgiven for those three months was \$15,285, which were mostly restaurants and bars.

Mayor Hill stated the city could afford that and believed this should be retroactive into November when the Governor shut them down again.

Mr. Brown stated staff was in support of this action, also.

Mayor Hill reminded the Council there were a couple businesses not observing the mandate and wasn't sure if they should be rewarded.

Councilor Hart stated they should use the same process used before. Businesses would have to apply for the relief.

Councilor Crume suggested changing the wording to read any business that had been closed by the Governor should qualify for this relief, retroactive to when the shutdown happened again.

Councilor Rodriguez stated he would support excluding businesses that did not comply.

Mayor Hill stated there would be no action taken on this tonight but was seeking a consensus to give direction to the City Manager on the type of resolution to develop.

Councilor Hart stated a restaurant that could still do carry-out, but was at 20% of normal, he hoped that restaurant could apply.

Councilor Rodriguez stated his comment was towards only the businesses that had not shut down at all.

Councilor Hart proposed November, December, January, and February, and then revisit.

Mr. Brown stated instead of aligning with the Governor's date of closure, it would need to line up with the city's meter reads and billing cycle.

Mayor Hill stated if a business was shut down or only doing take-out, maybe they could shorten the application, removing the P&L portion, simplify the process.

Mr. Brown stated because this was citizen money, it was not tied to any federal requirements. The city could make the requirements as simple as they wanted.

Councilor Crume stated for restaurants doing take-out only, but doing way less than usual, they needed to develop a guideline for the City Manager to allow those type of businesses to apply. He also agreed that if a business was supposed to shut down and opted not to follow the mandate, they would be ineligible for the benefit.

Mayor Hill summarized what the Council was saying was that they wanted to give water and sewer waivers, starting back in the billing cycle November to February for businesses that had been impacted or shut down, meaning no interior seating, and anyone who had not followed the Governor's order would not be eligible for the waiver.

Mr. Sullivan stated they could state the waiver would be effective for any business that could show a substantial loss of profit due to their compliance with the Governor's order.

Mayor Hill reiterated they did not want to have the businesses have to provide a P&L statement.

Councilor Justus wanted to ensure that the language included any business that failed to adhere by the Governor's guidelines was not eligible for the funds.

Council consensus to have the City manager develop a resolution based upon the language provided and bring it back to the Council for adoption at the next meeting.

Mr. Brown stated in the meantime, he had ceased shutoffs for now.

HAND-OUTS

Check Register: October-December, 2020 *(Attached)*

Councilor Hart asked if this batch was usual because it seemed rather large. It would be easier in smaller chunks.

Mr. Brown stated it was provided monthly, but the one before them had some carryover.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Councilor Crume stated regarding the COVID testing being done in our area, which he totally supported, the testing was being done during the day when people who were working could not participate. There needed to be some way to either be open earlier in the morning and/or stay later in the evenings. It would be a great help to the community and to maybe bring the overall numbers down.
- Mr. Sullivan stated he and Mr. Brown had been working with the Oregon Border Board to develop an agreement that would aid the Border Board in making sure that the grants that they approved, and they had been approving grants since May, that those grants were going to be administered properly as required by Biz Oregon, the Oregon agency that oversaw that grant funding. Many of the grants were going to be going through grant administration from the Oregon Community Foundation, but there were some grants that they were not able to handle because of legal requirements, so they asked the City of Ontario to act as a grant administrator for those particular grants. He and Shawna Peterson had been working on some language that would allow the city to act as a figurehead grant administrator even though the city would just be doing a pass-through of the money. The funding would go to the city, the city would distribute the grant, then Oregon Community Foundation would come back and make sure all the legal requirements were being met. Some contract language was traded back and forth that day, and it appeared to be good. He knew that Ms. Peterson was also alright with it. He just wanted to give the Council a briefing because that contract would be appearing before Council at the next meeting. The Border Board was anxious to get the contract approved because the businesses that they had given the grants to had been waiting since May for the money, and they finally received the various procedural steps to begin distributing the funds. This contract was the last piece of the puzzle that had to be completed to distribute money.
- Mayor Hill stated he had been contacted by the county to serve on a committee for negotiations between Americold and the transload facility. He had not accepted yet, and was not sure if he should, or if there were any conflicts to accepting.

Mr. Sullivan stated there would not be a legal conflict because there was no financial interest in it. Whether or not it would create any political difficulties, he could not say. It was his personal decision.



- Councilor Justus stated this would be his last Council meeting and wanted to thank everyone for the wonderful experience. He'd been on Council for five years and he totally enjoyed working with the city and its staff, as well as this Council and the two previous Councils. It had been an honor and a privilege to serve his community, and he thanked the citizens of Ontario for the privilege.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(e)

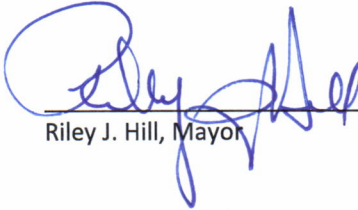
Mayor Hill stated for the record that Councilman-Elect John Kirby would be attending the Executive Session.

An executive session was called at 7:42 p.m. under provisions of ORS 192.660(1)(e) to discuss real property. The Council returned to regular session at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURN

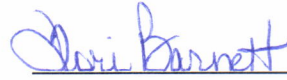
CRUME moved, JUSTUS seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Rodriguez-yes; Justus-yes; Palomo-yes; Hart-yes; Braden-yes; Crume-yes; Hill-yes. Motion carried 7/0/0.

ACCEPTED:



Riley J. Hill, Mayor

ATTEST



Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder