

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES****August 22, 2023**

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Council was called to order by Mayor Deborah Folden at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present were Deborah Folden, Susann Mills, John Kirby, Ken Hart, and Sam Baker. Penny Bakefelt was excused; Eddie Melendrez was absent.

Members of staff present were Dan Cummings, Tori Barnett, Clint Benson, Kari Ott, Casey Mordhorst, Michael Iwai, Al Haun, Paul Woods, and Andy Wood.

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

**AGENDA**

This Agenda was posted August 18, 2023. Copies of the Agenda are available from the City Hall Customer Service Counter and on the city's website [www.ontariooregon.org](http://www.ontariooregon.org).

KIRBY moved, BAKER seconded, **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

BAKER moved, HART seconded, **TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, WHICH CONSISTED OF APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2023**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

**PRESENTATIONS****Recognition by Veterans Advocates of Ore-Ida: Police Officer Richard Fraizer**

Charlene Pelland read a statement: *Today, when there is so much media attention about all the supposedly negative publicity about our police, I want to send my highest regard for one of your police officers. On July 10th, our office placed a call to have a veteran trespassed from Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida. That day, we gave him a gas card, and bought a part for his vehicle, and this was not the first time that we had helped him financially. We had asked him to make sure he was off the property by 4 p.m., when we close. He had caused some issues that made the staff uneasy having him on the property after closing. Officer Richard Frazier answered the call and was very nice to this gentleman. The gentleman could not leave the property as he was not able to get the part that we bought for him earlier in the day installed in the vehicle. That day we only had three ladies in the office who did not know anything about fixing cars, and he had three dogs in his car that were aggressive. Officer Frazier helped him install the part and made sure that I could get safely to my car. He made sure that the gentleman got safely off our property. I am enclosing a copy of a certificate on behalf of Veteran Advocates that I would like to make sure that Officer Frazier gets this for his file. He went over and beyond the call of duty to help this person and made sure our staff were safe. He deserves a great deal of credit for his gentleness and kindness toward all involved. His behavior during this call was evident of your tremendous leadership and proper training of your officers. Thank you so much to Officer Frazier and to you for the great police department here in Ontario. Your friend in service, Charlene Pelland, CEO, Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida*

**Beck-Kiwanis Park Improvements**

Dan Cummings, City Manager, stated it was part of the city's plan to attempt to maintain more of the assets the city already had prior to building new. Relating to that, about a month ago he'd tried to take three of his grandkids fishing, but there was very little around this community, including across the river, because all the ponds he grew up around and went fishing in, were all overgrown, and low water years made stagnant. But, he figured you could always fish at Beck-Kiwanis; however, that pond, too, had become stagnant and overgrown so badly that it was almost impossible to get to. Therefore, this plan was part of what he would like to begin doing with the city's funds. (Pointing to the overhead), here's the Master Plan that staff created, and it basically was the red showing a future total ADA type path. It would be hard surface, not the gravel that was currently out there. The yellow, coming from the tennis court, it was red, and yellow out in the water would be an ADA dock, so people in wheelchairs or using walkers, or anyone who had a hard time maneuvering on regular docks, it would be an accessible dock for fishing off or just to enjoy the wildlife, such as turtles, birds, or fish. The blue was proposed for installing aerators so they could get oxygen back into the water, hopefully to cool it a bit, so the fish population could be improved. The other docks, the orange in the bottom left hand corner, was another dock for people to use for fishing. Then there were areas all along there for inexpensive boulders with topsoil that would get someone out just past the vegetation area. It would provide access to fishing without having to take all the vegetation away from the bank, so it would still maintain the wildlife areas. It was proposed to tie the middle pond, which showed as a different color, in talking with Fish and Game, it was possibly cleaner because it was not being contaminated by surface water running off the irrigation of the lawns, running off from the fair grounds to the west, and the grounds to the north. They were going to try and limit that. The middle piece showed them connecting that pond by cutting a channel like the other one had, and eventually building a bridge. Keep in mind, this was the Master Plan, it was not going to happen overnight, but they had to have something in place to get started. Meeting with Fish and Game, he learned there were grants the city could go after that if the city was trying to improve accessibility, fishing, and wildlife, there were grants available. As the Council might recall, the Council had already approved \$40,000 to put against improving the existing trail.

**Option #1** would be to utilize the existing \$40,000 and improve the red trail around the pond with just the gravel that was currently there. But, long term, that was not accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, elderly with canes, etc. A gravel type trail was not the easiest to maneuver on. With current prices, staff was not positive they could get the entire trail done for the \$40,000.

**Option #2** would be to do a full ADA trail, or hard surface, from the tennis courts, heading north towards the bridge and the area he referred to as a "resting spot". The \$40,000 would not get them much there. He did not believe that was a good option.

**Option #3** would be to not do the "resting area", and do the same thing heading south, tying into the trail coming from the restroom area, with a hard surface trail. That was probably as far as they could get with the \$40,000, not sure if they could get all that done for that amount. But, it was a step towards that.

**Option #4**, which he would really like to pursue, was that the city did not spend the \$40,000 now, but to go after grants to determine how much money could be received from grants, utilizing the \$40,000 as matching funds to build a lot more, if possible.

Overall, he'd like to put off improving the existing trail for now, and go after grants to see what kind of money the city could get to begin improving the Master Plan out there. It could not be done all at once, more like a multiple year project to get to where they wanted, but it was his request to not spend the \$40,000 now, to hold it back for seed money. If the city did not receive any grant funds at the end of the grant cycle, they could always improve the gravel trail. Many people in the community liked the idea of spending some money to fix an asset the city already had. Also, on the Master Plan where it showed an ADA on the south side, the reason he did not want to do that through the entire park was, in between the island, those were standing areas. They were already mostly hardpacked. True, no one could get clear around it in a wheelchair unless someone was pushing the chair, but it also kept it more to nature, to keep that area to the gravel and sand trail. Wildlife would function better there.

Councilor Hart asked if this proposal had been presented to the Parks Committee.

Mr. Cummings stated he didn't want to go too far with it. He had presented something similar to the committee, and they were on board. He wanted to give Council the first shot at telling him what direction they wanted him to move in. Also, every phase of the project would go before the Parks Committee and the Public Works Committee, because Public Works would be providing the maintenance funds for this project. He hoped that the Parks Committee would move on getting some fundraising going, to get the community involved. Maybe then it would only take a few years, instead of a longer period.

Councilor Hart stated Mr. Cummings had raised the issue that he had been unable to get down to the water. Was there something that could be done now to make it more accessible? Were there areas that could be cleaned out, or did they have to wait?

Mr. Cummings stated right away they could probably start with whatever grant received to get the islands, the rocks and gravel, to get people out there. Plus, in speaking with Fish & Game, there were sections of that that the city could burn off a lot of the heavy overgrowth, as long as it was outside of the egg season. But, burned off material would regrow. He'd like to move forward on some plan as soon as possible. One option he hadn't mentioned was they were going to try to get all the irrigation, the lawns were fertilized, so any runoff going into the pond was not good for the fish. He was also toying with the possibility of using the city's wells out there to supplement water into the pond to try to add cooler water in. It was just recycling ground water. That cost would have to be calculated, since they'd be running pumps. There were a lot of different options. He planned to get all the experts, the Fish & Game people, all those heads together to figure out what was working in other places. He expected to do some improvements this coming fall, maybe burn some off once mating season was done.

Councilor Mills asked if the city had grant writers on staff, who were experienced in that type of grant writing?

Mr. Cummings stated there were three members of staff currently in a grant writing class, and one more would be going out to class tomorrow. He planned to come back later with a proposal on grant writing.

Councilor Mills asked the distance around the park.

Mr. Cummings stated it was around a mile and a quarter. It would be a really nice walk. If the Council chose to say no, they wanted a hard surface path completely around it at some point, that could be done. He was just trying to keep some of it more natural.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Proclamation: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month: September, 2023

Mayor Folden read the Proclamation into the record: *Whereas, mental health, substance use, and problem gambling behaviors affect all communities nationwide. With commitment and support, our family members, friends, colleagues, and community members with these disorders can achieve healthy lifestyles and lead rewarding lives in recovery. By seeking help, people who experience mental health, substance use and/or harmful gambling behaviors can embark on a new path toward improved health and overall wellness. The focus of our local theme for Recovery Month for September 2022 is "Recovery is for Every Person, Recovery is for Every Family, Recovery is for Every Community, Recovery is for Everyone!" To celebrate their journey, we recognize the challenges of recovery, and we support them! We realize the need to share resources and build networks that support recovery in all forms, as we are all part of the solution. Recovery Month and Hands Around the Park spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to one's overall health and wellness, and that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover; and, Whereas, the impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our country, with 46.3 million people suffering from active addiction in the past year. Oregon ranks second among all states for adults with substance use disorders and third in the nation for youth with substance use disorders. Additionally, an estimated 84,000 adult Oregonians have moderate or severe gambling disorders. These conditions in one way or another affect us all. Through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health, substance use,*

*and harmful gambling disorders, which can help guide more people into needed treatment. Managing the effects of these conditions can help people achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally; and, Whereas, the Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve lives to promote and support treatment, and recovery practices, educating communities about prevention and acknowledging the dedication of service providers and community members who assist in making recovery possible. For the above reasons, we are asking the citizens of Ontario, Oregon, to join us in celebrating this September as Recovery Month. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Deborah K. Folden, Mayor of Ontario, Oregon, do hereby proclaim September, 2023, as Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month in Ontario, Oregon, and call upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance.*

Mark Keele, Clinical Supervisor/Partner, Altruistic Recovery, thanked the city for their support, and voiced his appreciation for everything the city did.

**Proclamation: Vietnamese Community of Oregon**

Mayor Folden read the Proclamation into the record: *Whereas, Vietnamese refugees have proudly resided in the City of Ontario and surrounding communities since the conclusion of the Vietnam War; and Whereas, Vietnamese Americans have put forth their full toiling energy building the City of Ontario and surrounding cities in a multitude of prominent areas including industry, economy, culture, education, and military service; and Whereas, Vietnamese Americans have counted on the state of Oregon, USA as being their second heart, mind, and family homeland; and Whereas, Vietnamese Americans have embraced Vietnamese customs and traditions that have been continually practiced through generations; and Whereas, a large number of the Oregon's Vietnamese Americans respectfully embrace the yellow and three red striped Heritage and Freedom flag as a symbol of Vietnamese Americans community; and Whereas, it is the will and desire from Vietnamese Community Of Oregon and its community members, that the Vietnamese American Heritage and Freedom Flag be recognized as the official flag of their organization in the City of Ontario. Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Deborah K. Folden, Mayor of Ontario, Oregon, do hereby recognize the Vietnamese American Heritage and Freedom Flag as the official flag of Vietnamese Americans in the City of Ontario, and resolutely encourage all to join in the reverent recognition of this cultural heritage and freedom flag.*

**DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**

**Finance: Monthly Report**

Kari Ott, Finance Director, presented.

**Public Works: Quarterly Report**

Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director, presented.

**HAND-OUTS**

**Minutes:**

County Court: 06-28-2023; 07-19-2023; 07-26-2023; 08-09-2023

Tater Tot Trail: 06-15-2023; 07-12-2023

Diversity: 07-19-2023

**Department Stats – July, 2023:**

Fire& Rescue, Public Works, Code Enforcement, Police

**Check Register**

July 2023

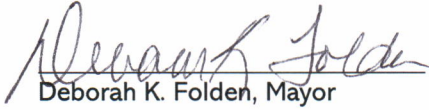
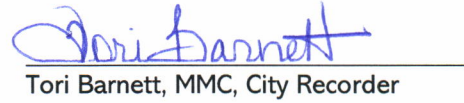
Councilor Hart asked Ms. Ott about the payment to CIS Trust, was that annual?

Ms. Ott stated yes, it was the city's liability insurance. The city received a prepayment credit for paying in full.



ADJOURN

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, **THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. Roll call vote: Mills-yes; Baker-yes; Kirby-yes; Hart-yes; Bakefelt-out; Melendrez-out; Folden-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

**ACCEPTED:**  
Deborah K. Folden, Mayor**ATTEST**  
Tori Barnett, MMC, City Recorder