

**MINUTES FROM
A MEETING OF THE HINES COMMON COUNCIL
March 9, 2021**

Present:

Mayor:

Nikki Morgan

Council:

Councilors Misty Shepherd, Gary Miller, Robert Beers, Ron Williams, Marsallai Quick and Amity York were present.

City Staff:

City Administrator Letham, Chief DeLange, Chief Spence and Public Works Acting Superintendent Lewellen

Public Audience:

Brock Eckstein, Laura Eckstein, Duane Hutchins, Scot Christofferson, Debra Christofferson, Matt Shepherd, Hilda Allison and Kaitlyn Davis

***Mayor Nikki Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the flag salute.**

Approval of the March 9, 2021 Agenda

Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the agenda for March 9, 2021 as presented. Councilor Williams seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of the February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Williams made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 23, 2021. Councilor Beers seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Accounts Payable for March 4, 2021 and March 9, 2021

Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the accounts payable for March 4, 2021 in the amount of \$159.29 and March 9, 2021 in the amount of \$13,048.05. Councilor Williams seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Department Reports

Chief DeLange – Reported there has been 173 calls since his last report. Most calls are domestic violence related. A lot of traffic citations being issued. There is still an individual breaking into vehicles at night. Do not leave vehicles unlocked and do not leave guns, cash, purses or wallets in your vehicles. Major crimes responded to a male subject run

over by a truck. He was airlifted out. It is still being investigated. During the investigation there were four domestic calls and an unattended death. January 11th, Officer Mitchell made a traffic stop. The department received a letter from the driver thanking Officer Mitchell for stopping them. Because of the traffic stop, the driver slowed down. Further down the road they ran in to 6 elk. It totaled the vehicle, but all parties survived with no injuries. Administrator Letham also commented that the day after the letter was received, he received a telephone call from a man. That man said he had been driving through town and stopped to sleep in his vehicle. He said that mentally he was not in a good place. Officer Mitchell stopped to see if he was ok and took the time to speak with him and gave him some references and now is in a much better place. He wanted to thank the City and especially Officer Mitchell.

Chief Spence – 6 calls to 911 since last month. 1 pickup truck fire. Vehicle was totaled. A couple of food fires. There was a heater fire at the Sundowner. An employee grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire and called 911.

Public Works, Acting Superintendent Lewellen – They are pumping approximately 200K gallons of water/day currently. Lagoon is handling approximately 145K gallons per day. Pumping into the overflow lagoon currently. Pumping approximately 210K gallons per day to get it full for the Spring. The Sewer Jet pump needs to be rebuilt. \$2K - \$3K to repair. Burns also has a piece of equipment that needs repair. Both cities will work with the company to share the cost on travel time. Water tank on the Logging Road needs to be cleaned. About \$2500 to have the company come out and clean it. Contractors are here working on the pumphouse for Well #3 and the two on the hill. They installed a new roof on the pumphouse today.

City Administrator Letham – Administrator Letham wanted to give a follow-up report on Measure 110 (the decriminalization of drugs). In discussing this with both attorneys from League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the County there appears there are no legal doors open to pass an ordinance of our own. Also, according to LOC in Q1 2021, the percentage of revenue from marijuana sales going to cities from the state will be down 76% - meaning cities will only be receiving 24% of what they received last year. The forecasted revenues for Q2 are equally dismal. HB2015 has been introduced by the City of Ontario and Rep. Mark Owens. If this bill passes, it will increase the amount of tax a city can collect on marijuana sales from 3% to 10%. Still working on the homelessness issue. Continue to work with the County, City of Burns and City attorneys to try to come up with a solution. Still waiting on the appraisal from Fred Ellis for the Ty Volle lot. Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE) reminder to the Council. There is a water line between Roanoke and Saginaw that is being added to the replacement list. The Anderson Perry archeologists will be working between March 18th – 25th to make sure there are no issues with that area. Superintendent Lewellen asked if we could remind residents to not drive in the alleys. Suggested that it be put on the radio and on Facebook. Ms. Allison asked if

areas where the streets have been dug up if the contractors will repair the streets. Administrator Letham said that the contractors will take care of the street repairs.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items Only (Speaking time limits may apply)

None

Old Business:

Ordinance 328: Fuel Tax

Administrator Letham read Ordinance 328 in its entirety. Councilor Beers made a motion to approve Ordinance 328 as read. Councilor York seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Deer – Review of Resolution 2252

Resolution 2252 declares that the deer population has risen to levels constituting a public nuisance. The Council has three actions it can choose from. #1 – it can rescind Resolution 2252, #2 – The Council can make a motion to act on Resolution 2252, give City staff permission to get tags from ODFW #3 – The Council can vote to make a motion to amend Resolution 2252 making it optional and place a measure on the November ballot to allow residents to vote on whether to move forward with the program. Councilor Miller asked Superintendent Lewellen about the number of deer he has seen in town. Superintendent Lewellen said he has noticed there are not as many deer as there has been in the past. Resident Duane Hutchins advised that this area is winter ground for deer. He suggested that the City just live with the deer. Chief DeLange said that he believes that the deer population has dropped since the Council enacted the “No Feeding the Deer” Ordinance. *Councilor Beers made a motion to amend Ordinance 2252 to make it optional, and to place a measure on the November ballot. Councilor Shepherd seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.*

Request for Proposal for Park Sprinklers

This RFP is for the second and third phases of the underground park sprinklers to be completed this spring. The first section to be worked on will be the City Hall park, followed by the City Hall park and then completed with the Skate Park. The RFP will be released March 10th and bids are due back by April 8th at 2:00pm. Bids will be opened after the 2:00pm close of bid. They will be verified for pricing, licensing, etc. They will then be presented to the Council to make the award at the April 13th Council meeting. *Councilor Beers made a motion to release the RFP for bid. Councilor Shepherd seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.*

New Business:

Business License Application – Columbia Plumbing Services, Inc. (Scot Christofferson)

Has been a licensed plumber for over 25 years. *Councilor Quick made a motion to approve the business license for Columbia Plumbing Services. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.*

Planning Commission Letter of Interest – Matthew Shepherd

Matthew Shepherd presented the Council with a letter of interest to become a member of the Planning Commission. The Mayor asked Mr. Shepherd if he had any problem attending the meetings and reviewing information sent out. Mr. Shepherd said he was fine with it. The Mayor appointed Mr. Shepherd to the Planning Commission.

Resolution 2299 – Transfer Funds to TLT

Administrator Letham read Resolution 2299 in its entirety. At the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year the City still had \$4,445.79 in the Tourism Promotion TLT account and the funds were moved to Available Cash on Hand. Resolution 2299 moves the money back to the Tourism Promotion TLT account. *Councilor Beers made a motion to approve Resolution 2299 as read. Councilor Quick seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.*

TLT Funds – Potential Projects

A group of residents have gotten together to form a committee to assist the Council with requests for TLT funds. They have drafted a form for people to use to request TLT funds from the Council. The first project that has been brought forward was the possibility of a reader board welcoming people to Hines and promoting local businesses and activities.

Presentation – Laura Eckstein Law LLC

Currently, the City of Hines' attorney of record has become increasingly busy and his available time to provide general counsel to the City has become scarce. Eckstein Law provides consulting services, both legal and professional. Brock and Laura Eckstein presented information regarding the legal/consulting services they provide.

CRT Housing Program – Possible Buildable Lot

In 2018, Harney County received a grant to do a housing study. The study, completed by GEODC in 2019, researched the housing needs in Hines, Burns and the County. The committee studied economic models from other cities. The basics of the Harney Homes Project is #1 Public land suitable for home building is identified, #2 A builder is given a low interest construction loan with no payments due until the home is sold, #3 The home is sold at public auction, #4 Student involvement is required in the process, #5 Proceeds after the cost of the project are used to create a Housing Fund to create future projects, #6 Other cost savings incentives are offered from each city and the county for other building opportunities. *Councilor Beers made a motion to donate the land currently known as lot #5401 on S. Saginaw Ave, after the completion of a land survey. Councilor Quick*

seconded the motion. Ayes – Williams, Beers, Quick & York, Nays – Shepherd and Miller. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period (Speaking time limits may apply):

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor York – None

Councilor Shepherd – Thank you to Administrator Letham for the reading of Ordinance 328.

Councilor Miller - None

Councilor Quick – None

Councilor Beers –Thanked the department heads for doing great jobs.

Councilor Williams - None

Mayor Morgan – None

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Adjournment:

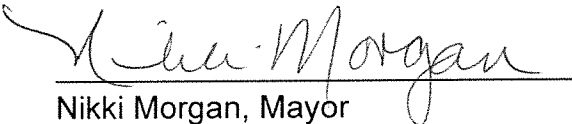
There being no further business, Councilor Beers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Williams seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kirby Letham

City Administrator

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 23, 2021.


Nikki Morgan, Mayor