

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL & URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

Regular Meeting

June 8, 2020

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:07pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Myers, Barron, Smith, Gutierrez, Primmer, Davis and McCarthy. In attendance was City staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Chief Edmiston, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Court Manager Mollie Croisan (via phone), Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter, Sergeant Parsons, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Mayor Drotzmann announced the meeting was live on YouTube, gave the call-in information for those wishing to provide comment during the meeting and thanked Amazon for their partnership in providing Amazon Chime. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Mayor Drotzmann stated he will be reorganizing the agenda to better accommodate presenters who are traveling. Items 12, A & B, will be presented after Item 9.

Oath of Office

Mr. David McCarthy stated since moving to Hermiston with his wife, he has been very active in church and community organizations and projects. He is excited to continue serving the community in this new position.

City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong administered the Oath of Office to David McCarthy to fulfill the remaining term, expiring 12/31/2020, of the At-Large Council position. Mayor Drotzmann welcomed Councilor McCarthy to the Council. Applause from the Council and audience.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Jackie Linton, 111 W Beech Ave- stated she organized the BLM march on Saturday, June 6th; the march renewed her faith in what a great community we live in. The march was peaceful and brought unity to the community. She was touched the most by people passing by in a loud truck, as they passed by they yelled, "Jesus Loves You!". The march went wonderfully and is very happy with how it turned out.

Mayor Drotzmann stated that, although Mrs. Linton does not see herself as a Community Leader, she is one. Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mrs. Linton for her leadership, stating she, and our community, are great examples of how other leaders and communities should act like. These are tumultuous times, but leaders like Mrs. Linton have helped calm the storm and are able to lead peaceful protest with the community supporting them. Mayor Drotzmann stated he hopes that Mrs. Linton continues to stay engaged in the community.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-C, to include:

- A. Liquor License Application for "Limited On-Premises", sales for Pho Quan, LLC doing business as Pho Quan Vietnamese Cuisine, located at 920 SE 4th Street
- B. Minutes of the May 21, City Budget and HURA Budget Committee meetings
- C. Minutes of the May 26, City Council Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation- By League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Staff

LOC's General Counsel, Patty Mulvihill, and Assistant General Counsel Jayme Hafner gave information regarding the Legal Research Department of LOC which provides in-house general counsel and oversees

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LOC's legal services, including the member inquiry program, legislative/legal research, educational publications, and training on municipal best practices to smaller municipalities that are unable to obtain in-house legal counsel representation. This is a pilot program that will undergo an evaluation process in December to see if the program will continue. Counselors Mulvihill and Hafner gave information and updates regarding: specific funding for smaller cities that have been impacted by COVID-19; Legislative Session's; LOC Annual and Spring Conferences; trainings, crisis assistance and team building offered by LOC; SB-1051 and HB-2001; LOC Priorities; housing for homeless; etc.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates

Hermiston School District Superintendent Dr. Trisha Mooney gave updates regarding changes in the School District to address regulations associated with COVID-19, to include: 2019-2020 Graduation ceremony, honor walk/parade, and fireworks at Butte Park; meals provided for children 18 and under, summer lunch program; different ways teachers and district employees are connecting with children to make sure they are safe; 2020-2021 school year changes to allow children to attend school in-person; athletic changes; naming, design, and construction timeline for new elementary school, and the tremendous community support that has been given to Hermiston School District, staff and especially students.

Public Hearing- South Hermiston LID #322- Continued from 03-23-2020

Mayor Drotzmann stated at the August 12, 2019 City Council meeting, this hearing was opened and continued to October 28, 2019. At the October meeting, the hearing was then again continued to January 13, 2020. At the January meeting, the hearing was again continued to March 23, 2020. At the March meeting the hearing was continued to June 8, 2020.

City Manager Smith stated the hearing continuations are due to the fact that the Federal Economic Development Administration is continue to review the City's application. They have also asked for additional information, which the City has supplied. The City is asking that the Council consider a motion to continue the hearing to August 24, 2020 City Council meeting.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Davis seconded to continue the hearing to August 24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing- 2020-21 Fiscal Budget (Resolution's. 2154, 2155, 2156, and 2157)

Hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Council, City Manager Smith read the hearing guidelines and Mayor Drotzmann opened the hearing at 8:26pm.

Finance Director Mark Krawczyk gave information regarding the proposed adopted budget as reviewed during the Budget Committee meeting and supplied in Resolution's 2154, 2155, 2156, and 2157.

Hearing no proponents, opponents or neutral parties who wished to address the Council, the hearing was closed at 8:29pm.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked the Budget Committee members for the time they spent reviewing the budget documents and attending the meeting, as well as all City staff who supported not receiving a COLA increase at this time to show support and respect to our community and those who are struggling in these uncertain times.

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Resolution No. 2154- Declaring the City of Hermiston's Election to Receive State Revenues

City Manager Smith stated information regarding Resolution 2154 was provided in the agenda packet and earlier in the meeting, during the public hearing.

Councilor Smith moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2154 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2155 – Adopting the City of Hermiston's FY 2020-2021 Budget

City Manager Smith stated information regarding Resolution 2155 was provided in the agenda packet and earlier in the meeting, during the public hearing.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Davis seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2155 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2156- Establishes Reserve Funds for the City of Hermiston for FY 2020-2021

City Manager Smith stated information regarding Resolution 2156 was provided in the agenda packet and earlier in the meeting, during the public hearing.

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Myers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2156 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2157- Establishes the Compensation Plan for City of Hermiston Employees for FY 2020-2021, Effective July 1, 2020. - City Manager Smith stated information regarding Resolution 2157 was provided in the agenda packet and earlier in the meeting, during the public hearing.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Gutierrez seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2157 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Davis stated the Committee will meet on Thursday.

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Gutierrez stated the Committee will meet on Monday.

Stepping Stones: Councilor Hardin stated the Board is planning a trip to view the homeless shelter site in Walla-Walla. Will reach out to the Council in the near future to include them in this tour.

EOTEC Advisory Committee- Mayor Drotzmann and Councilor Barron stated the Committee is seeking a new appointee, as Chair, Steven Williams, will not be seeking a new term and gave updates regarding: site plan progression, RV Park review, events being held at EOTEC while following guidelines and approvals/inspections from the Health Department, beautification delays and other challenges due to COVID-19, and the accomplishments made by the community to build EOTEC without tax burdens to the community as promised.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann encouraged the Council to be engaged in LOC's Committee's, specifically Committee's that support diversity. Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding the tumultuous times both with COVID-19 and national turmoil with riots, the killing of an innocent man, and BLM. There should be support for peaceful

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community protests that do not include violence, riots, looting, and hurting others and support against government overreach. Protests should be about addressing concerns and being heard. There is also a movement to dissolve police departments. As long as he is Mayor, the City will never support this type of movement. Police officers are extremely valuable and support a healthy and safe community. They are important, and their daily sacrifice is always valued. Annually, the City and community partner in “I Love My City” projects, these projects continue to strengthen unity and build people up. This is what we need more of, unity and building people up.

Council Reports

Councilor Gutierrez agreed with Mayor Drotzmann and thanked Chief Edmiston and his Officers for the work they do, as well as being in the forefront with body cameras.

Councilor Davis stated she received comments from citizens that were concerned regarding the May 30th rally as some individuals were armed.

Mayor Drotzmann stated it is important not to infringe upon people’s rights of Freedom of Speech and the right to Bear Arms. The rally was peaceful and should be an example to the rest of the world.

Councilor Gutierrez agreed and stated it all comes down to respect.

Councilor Barron stated it is important not to infringe of people’s rights but also understands there is a lot of emotions of anger and pain and lack of empathy for black people. He believes officers are not always trained enough to deal with mental health crisis, but police officers should not be demonized either. Councilor Barron thanked Chief Edmiston and the City for encouraging and supporting continued training of officers and encouraged engagement and rid-a-longs with police officers.

Councilor Myers wished Councilor Hardin a Happy Birthday and recognized his 28-year anniversary as a member of the City Council.

Councilor Hardin stated it has been an incredible 28 years and is proud of the confident in staff and the incredible job they do to work outside the box to accomplish things for the City and community.

Councilor McCarthy thanked the Council and staff for making him feel welcomed and well prepared as well as the Police Department for all the work they do.

Councilor Primmer thanked the community for working together to help one another during the previous weeks wind storm.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked all first responders, lineman, contractors, City staff and Sanitary Disposal for coming together to quickly help one another and the community as a whole. It never comes as a surprise that the community is always there for one-another.

Manager’s Report

City Manager Byron Smith gave information regarding:

- Code enforcement issues at 820 E Pine Ave

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- Responding to citizen concerns
- Opening City buildings
- Power outages due to the windstorm
- Community Visions Agreement with Sara Singer-Wilson
- Plans to reopen the Aquatic Center this summer
 - Mayor Drotzmann thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the work they're doing at Funland Park, Skate Park, creating and navigating recreation programs through COVID-19, helping with fallen trees all while dealing with the fire and two floods at Funland Park and Riverfront Park. The opening of the Aquatic Center will provide a good resource and outlet to the community as well.

Adjournment of City Council Meeting and Convene Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency (HURA) Meeting

There was no other City business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the regular meeting at 9:13pm and immediately convened the Urban Renewal Agency meeting.

Public Hearing- 2020-21 Fiscal Budget (Resolution 12)

Hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Board, City Manager Smith read the hearing guidelines and Chair Drotzmann opened the hearing at 9:13pm.

Planning Director Clint Spencer gave information regarding the proposed adopted budget as reviewed during the Budget Committee meeting and supplied in Resolution 12.

Hearing no proponents, opponents or neutral parties who wished to address the Board, the hearing was closed at 9:16pm.

Resolution No. 12 – Adopting the FY 2020-2021 HURA Budget

City Manager Smith stated information regarding Resolution 12 was provided in the agenda packet and during the public hearing.

Member McCarthy moved and Member Myers seconded to adopt Resolution No. 12 and lay upon the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There was no other HURA business and Chair Drotzmann adjourned the HURA meeting at 9:17pm.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. David Drotzmann

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC

City Recorder