

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 12, 2020

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm and announced the meeting was streaming live on YouTube. Present were Councilors Hardin, Myers, Gutierrez, Davis, Primmer, Barron, and McCarthy. In attendance were Municipal Court Judge Creasing, and City staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Hermiston Energy Service General Manager Nate Rivera, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Recommendation to the Airport Advisory Committee: Position #1, Dan Burns, term from 11/01/2020 to 10/31/2023 and Position #2, Seth Shaw, term from 11/01/2020 to 10/31/2023
- C. Minutes of the September 28, 2020 Public Infrastructure Committee Meeting
- D. Minutes of the September 28, City Council meeting
- E. Surplus Declaration

Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2311- Correcting Ordinance No. 2288

City Manager Smith stated this is a housekeeping ordinance to correct numerical errors in Ordinance No. 2288 that was adopted on November 25, 2019.

Mayor Drotzmann requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Drotzmann requested that the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Barron seconded that Ordinance 2311 be adopted and become effective immediately after adoption by the City Council. 7 votes for; none against. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Potentially Emergency Shelter Distance Requirements

Planning Director Clint Spencer stated at the September 28 City Council meeting, Councilor Barron asked that the City present spacing modifications related to temporary emergency shelters to illustrate how these modifications could possibly allow more available space, closer to the downtown area to have other resources more closely available, for a future shelter and their guests. Planning Director Spencer reviewed maps (as displayed in the agenda packet) showing the impact of various spacing medications.

City Manager Smith reminded the Council that any requested modifications would need to be referred to the Planning Commission for review.

Councilor Barron asked if a homeless shelter can be a stand-alone facility on a property instead of being placed with another business.

Planning Director Spencer stated the shelter would need to be placed with another business, as not doing this would change the land-use designation; however, any entity is able to apply for a variance.

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 12, 2020

Councilor Gutierrez stated the City should help people in need, however children should always be our first priority, and having a homeless shelter closer to schools and parks is contrary to this as there are already drug issues at parks.

Prompted by questions from Mayor Drotzmann, Chief Edmiston stated, due to recent rules, the City is limited on asking people to leave city parks; however, this does not apply if individuals are not using the park, and/or its structures, for their intended use, ie: using the cook shack for anything other than cooking food. Since August 2020, calls for service involving homeless individuals have increased. They are right now on average 20% of calls per shift; this does not include officer-initiated contact.

Mayor Drotzmann stated police officers have training to aid persons suffering from mental health and drug issues, however, this is not their field of expertise, and more services are needed. In recent conversations with Representative Greg Smith, Representative Smith has vowed to make mental health and addiction services his priority.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates

A representative from the School District was not present.

Committee Reports

Vacancy Review Board: Mayor Drotzmann stated although the Board recently recommended appointments to the Airport Advisory Committee, there are still many other positions available and encouraged the public to apply.

EOTEC Advisory Committee- City Manager Smith stated the Committee is planning on having a meeting in November, as a Fair Board appointment to EOTEC should be completed by this time.

Mayors Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- Annual League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Conference is this week, and both he and Councilor Barron are running for different offices; Councilor Barron for a position on the Board of Directors and Mayor Drotzmann as Treasurer
- Congrats to all council candidates participating in the candidate forum and as a reminder, the Council position left by Councilor Douglas Smith is still available
- Mayor Drotzmann and City Manager Byron Smith will be meeting with Representative Greg Smith once a month to discuss city issues and encouraged the Council to reach out to either City Manager Smith or him regarding any items or issues they would like to address.

Council Reports

Councilor Primmer asked that Chief Edmiston let his officers know what a great job they did saving those children from their apartment fire.

Councilor Hardin thanked the LOC for their weekly scheduled conference call and available recording features for those that were unable to participate.

Councilor McCarthy encouraged the public to register to vote and stated the ballot drop box at City Hall is also available for those who do not wish to mail in their ballots.

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 12, 2020

Councilor Barron stated he is proud to announce he is participating in the Eastern Oregon Regional Equity Council to help distribute state funds.

Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- The County has been re-added to the State's COVID-19 watchlist as the tracers are having difficulty reaching people or having those people return calls, etc, which is concerning to the state.
- Hardcopies of the Parks Master Plan are available at the Park and Recreation and City Hall offices.
- Recent drug enforcement arrest information will be released soon.
- School Resource Officer Betty Nava, at tonight's School Board meeting, was presented a Life Saving Award from Police Department for her efforts to help save a life.
- New school resource officers were also introduced at tonight's School Board meeting as well.

Adjournment

There was no other City business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the regular meeting at 7:37pm.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. David Drotzmann

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC

City Recorder