

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 26, 2020

Council President Hardin called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm and announced the meeting was streaming live on YouTube. Present were Councilors Myers, Gutierrez, Davis, Primmer, Barron, and McCarthy. Mayor Drotzmann was excused. 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, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Chamber of Commerce CEO Kimberly Rill thanked the City and staff members for allowing the Chamber to utilize the Community Center for Candidate Forum for free, stating there isn't many places in Hermiston that are conducive to social distancing for larger groups.

The Chamber, along with other community groups, will be hosting a Veterans Day Car Parade. Veterans are invited to participate, in their own vehicles, and travel throughout downtown, with volunteers holding flags along the street throughout the parade route. The City and Chamber will also be awarding Veterans with tokens of appreciation as well. The parade starts at 9am. Anyone wishing to participate or volunteer is asked to contact the Chamber prior to November 11th.

Consent Agenda Items

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

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Confirmation 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. Recommendation to the Faith-Based Advisory Committee: Position #2, Terry Cummings, term from 01/01/2021 to December 31, 2023
- D. Recommendation to the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee: Position #1, representing the Umatilla County Fair Board, Doug Bennett, remaining term from 11/10/2020 to 06/30/2021
- E. Minutes of the October 12, City Council work session and regular meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing- Annexation 4N2802BC Tax Lot 1900, .5 acres - 315 E Theater Lane

After hearing no declarations of conflict of interest from the Council, Planning Director Clint Spencer read the hearing guidelines and Council President Hardin opened the hearing at 7:08pm.

Mr. Spencer presented information regarding an application from Humberto Medelez to annex 0.50 acres of land located at 315 E Theater Lane to allow connection to city services as detailed in the City Council agenda packet.

There were no Proponents, Opponents or Neutral parties who wished to testify and the Hearing was closed at 7:11pm.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to approve the Findings of Fact as presented by Planning Director Spencer. Motion carried unanimously.

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Ordinance No. 2312- Annexing 4N2802BC Tax Lot 1900, .5 acres- 315 E Theater Lane

City Manager Smith stated this ordinance was presented during the public hearing.

Council President Hardin requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only. Council President Hardin 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 Davis moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded that Ordinance 2312 be adopted and become effective 30-days after adoption by the City Council. 7 votes for; none against. Motion carried unanimously.

FY2021 1st Quarter Investment Report

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Barron seconded to accept the quarterly investment report as presented in the agenda packet, by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council thanked Mr. Krawczyk for a job well done providing easy to understand and transparent information.

September, 2020 Financial Report

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to accept the September Financial report as presented in the agenda packet, by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee- Councilor Primmer stated Chief Edmiston updated the Committee regarding: Crime statistics, transit activity, department goals, school resource officers, Senate Bill 111.

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Barron stated the Committee did not meet in October, but is hopeful to be able to meet in November.

Statewide Transit Investment Fund Meeting- Councilor Primmer stated he and Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan met with this group and were able to secure additional funding for the Hermiston Hopper.

Faith-Based Advisory Committee- Council President Hardin stated the Committee will meet November 3rd.

Council President Report

Council President Hardin congratulated Mayor Drotzmann and Councilor Barron for the great work they did in their LOC presentations.

Council Reports

The Council encouraged the community to vote. Councilor Gutierrez stated currently, the Country is divided, and we must come together no-matter the election results.

Councilor Barron stated he recently spoke to the owners of Rio Express and they were unaware of the Cares Funding Disbursement to help business owners and had not heard from anyone from the Chamber of Commerce or City. Councilor Barron asked that the City think about more innovative ways to try to do things differently to make sure information reaches the public and to also consider having a liaison to help business owners understand and fill out the information, but ultimately to help get the word out as more could be done.

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City Manager Smith stated the City worked in Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, over a two-day period, and verbally called and contacted hundreds of businesses in Hermiston to give this information out; this group included bilingual staff members as well. The City will continue to work with the Chamber, as well as the Chambers Hispanic Business Network, to find ways to continue to improve.

Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- The City received an award from the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) for the Hermiston Projects website <https://hermistonprojects.com/> and the transparency it provides
- Beginning November 1st, Carey Meerdink will be the new City Prosecutor per a recently executed contract
- Gina Wicks from the Parks and Recreation department is retiring after 15 years of service. The Council is invited to wish her well on Thursday Oct 29 at 2:00pm at the Community Center
- Goal Setting Date is tentatively set for January 8th and 9th or 22nd and 23rd. Please contact City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong this week to confirm your date preference
- The City will be hosting a Trick or Treat Drive-Thru event at the Community Center on Saturday, October 31st from 4pm-6pm
- Hard copies of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are available
- Library Renovations are doing well, both outside and downstairs of the building
- City Hall plans are about 85% complete and should be out to bid by mid-November and be presented to the Council at the first meeting in December to possibly approve a contract

Adjourn City Council Meeting and Convene Urban Renewal Agency Meeting (At or After 7:30pm)

There was no other City business and Council President Hardin adjourned the regular City Council meeting and called to order the Urban Renewal Agency Meeting at 8:08pm.

(Judge Creasing exited the meeting at 8:08pm)

New Business- HURA Facade Grant application- 4N2810DA Tax Lot 6600 145 SW 4th St

Planning Director Clint Spencer gave information regarding the facade grant application for exterior improvements of \$36,229 to a commercial property located at 145 SW 4th St. The project is eligible for a match of up to \$10,000 based on the proposed budget. The existing building has been used as a single-family dwelling, but the applicant proposes to lease the remodeled building for commercial office space. Because residential uses are not eligible for facade grants, staff recommends addition conditions to the grant approval to ensure commercial use of the property before reimbursement is issued.

Member Primmer moved and Member Gutierrez seconded to approve a 50% match of \$10,000 for the exterior improvements to 145 SW 4th Street with the condition that the reimbursement will not be issued until a commercial tenant has occupied the property. Motion carried unanimously.

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Adjournment

There was no other Urban Renewal Agency business and Chair Hardin adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm.

SIGNED:

Rodney Hardin, Council President

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder

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