

# HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

December 14, 2020

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

## **Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates**

Athletics & Activities Director Larry Usher gave Hermiston School District (HSD) updates to include: limited in-person instruction will begin in the new year, future possible sports schedule, creative ways (Livestream) the Drama Club is putting on their plays and the Choir is joining together to sing, and graduation planning events similar to last year; bond and construction updates regarding: sport fields and the new elementary school. HSD teachers and administrators, as well as kids, continue to struggle with how they connect with each other, specifically to those kids that are at-risk. Teachers build important relationships with kids and it's important that kids have positive adults in their life, which some only get at school; this is something that HSD worries about daily, however, HSD teachers and School Resource Officers are teaming up to do home visits to connect with kids, while social distancing, to help fill this gap.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Usher for the updates and reaffirmed the City's commitment to help support HSD in whatever they can.

## **Presentation- New City of Hermiston Website Preview**

City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong presented the City's new website at <https://www.hermiston.or.us/> that will come online the following day, Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A team of City staff worked to design and build the new website with Municode, the website provider, to create a website that was easy to use and allowed for the most transparency available for the public.

## **Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items**

No public comment given.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-H to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Confirmation to the Faith-Based Advisory Committee: Position #1, James Lafolette, term from 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2023 and Position #5, Kristi Atkins, term from 12/15/2020 to 12/31/2022
- C. Final Plat- Wolf Run Phase 2 4N2815CC TL 100- SW Coyote Dr
- D. Certify the November 3rd General Election Results
- E. Right of Way Dedication - Port of Umatilla
- F. Cancel the December 28th City Council Meeting.
- G. Minutes of the November 23rd, 2020 City Council regular meeting
- H. Minutes of the November 23, 2020 Public Infrastructure Committee meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

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## **Resolution No. 2171- Adopting a Master Fee and Charges Document**

City Manager Smith stated as City staff worked to review and evaluate all city fees as established during the 2020 Council Goal Session they realized the inefficiencies coming from having so many different fee and charges documents, including the difficulty in searching and finding specific fees, not only for staff but especially for the public and is proposing that the Council adopt the attached Master Fee Schedule. City Manager Smith stated some fees, specifically for the Building Department are state established fees that the City cannot control.

Council Davis asked that the Master Fee Schedule include language stating “Fees are Subject to Change” to address these Building fees, as well as other changes to language in the document. Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Resolution No. 2171 with the edits as addressed and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Ridgeway Water Line Replacement Contract Award**

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan stated this project will replace some of the oldest water main piping, from the 1920’s which some may contain lead, along a route from the intersection of NW 7th & Standard by Rocky Heights Elementary, 7th to Ridgeway, Ridgeway to NW 6th, and 6th to Hermiston Avenue. This project was adopted in the Capital Improvement Plan and will also increase the pipe size from the existing 6" diameter to 12" diameter to accommodate for past and future demand growth.

This project will also include installation of a 1.5" asphalt overlay on NW 7th Street in the replacement section due to the condition of the asphalt. This will help extend the usefulness of that road in preparation of the replacement of Rocky Heights Elementary School.

The City is asking the Council to consider awarding the West Ridgeway Waterline Project contract to the lowest responsible bidder Sineco Construction.

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Barron seconded to award Sineco Construction the West Ridgeway Waterline Project contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **November 2020 Financial Report**

Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to accept the November Financial Report as presented in the agenda packet by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

None to report.

## **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding the regular meetings he and City Manager Smith have with Representative Greg Smith, stating Representative Smith is a great partner and very active in the region.

Mayor Drotzmann presented Councilor Gutierrez with a recognition award and read it aloud to the audience thanking Councilor Gutierrez for his 15 years of service to the City as a City Councilor and Committee member. Mayor Drotzmann thanked Councilor Gutierrez for his leadership and advocacy for not only the entire community, but especially for “the little guy”. Stating the Council, staff, and community

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thank you for your valued opinion, guidance and relationship with the Latino community, and wish you well. (Standing applause from the audience.)

Councilor Gutierrez thanked the community for their continued votes to elect him to represent them during the last 15 years and asked that the City continue to work to obtain rights for Columbia River water as water is life, and this is what Hermiston needs to continue to grow. Councilor Gutierrez wished the new Councilors luck in their official capacity.

The Council thanked Councilor Gutierrez for being a great leader and inspiration to the Latino Community and paving the way for other people of color to be in leadership positions.

## **Council Reports**

Councilor Primmer thanked the Police Department from him and his family for their compassion and professionalism during the last month.

Councilor Davis stated this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Two-Rivers Correctional Institute.

Councilor Barron reminded parents and students that the Hermiston School District is there to support their school efforts in whatever they may need and applauded students for their self-discipline in doing what needs to be done for school and to those older siblings that have to take on the parental role to help their siblings as well.

Councilor McCarthy spoke about the tree lighting events on Festival Street and reminded the community about the Festival of Lights at EOTEC, as well as website home screen shortcuts that can automatically populate for individuals (city's website).

Councilor Hardin thanked the community for all the holiday displays in the City.

After direction from Mayor Drotzmann, Chief Edmiston gave an update regarding Christmas Express stating the Police Department (PD) went from having 20% of what they normally receive in food and gifts to 90% in one week thanks to the community, Hermiston High School and community organizations and clubs. Monetary donations were up 40% as people who have never donated prior, felt the Christmas Spirit and donated. Chief Edmiston stated the outpouring of donations comes at no surprise as that is what this community does, step up. However, this year there is a 20% decrease of recipients as children are not in school and kids are going unchecked. All items that are not given away for Christmas Express will be given to Agape House for their distribution.

Mayor Drotzmann urged the community to support local businesses and buy local, as these local businesses always give back to the community and need support now, more than ever.

## **Manager's Report**

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- Thanked Councilor Gutierrez for his leadership
- Hermiston Vision 2040- actively inviting members and will hold the first meeting in January

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- Due to COVID related setbacks, the Library remodel for temporary City Hall usage has been pushed back to a mid-February completion date.
- City hall bid opening will be next week and the results will be presented to the Council in January.

## **Oath of Office**

City Recorder, Lilly Alarcon-Strong, administered the Oath of Office to:

- Judge, Thomas J. Creasing, Jr.
- Mayor, Dr. David A. Drotzmann
- Ward IV Councilor, Phillip Spicerkuhn
- At-Large Councilors: Maria E Duron, Doug Primmer, Nancy R. Peterson and Rod S. Hardin

Applause from the audience.

## **Adjournment**

There was no other business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm.

SIGNED:

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Rodney Hardin, Council President

ATTEST:

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Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder