

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 10, 2021

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Barron, Primmer, Spicerkuhn, Duron, and Myers. Councilor Davis was excused. In attendance was Municipal Court Judge Creasing, as well as City staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, 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.

City Manager Byron Smith announced, per the request of the Hermiston School District, their presentation updates would be postponed until the end of the meeting.

Recognition- Hermiston STEM Scholarship Award from Anderson Perry and the City of Hermiston

Joshua Lott from Anderson Perry presented the \$1,000 STEM Scholarship Award to Benjamin Vander Stelt of Hermiston High School. Mr. Lott stated Anderson Perry, in partnership with the City of Hermiston, are always excited to give back to the communities they work and serve in, especially being able to promote and help those interested in STEM fields. Mr. Lott stated Ben is an ambitious young man who has maintained a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend George Fox University to study civil engineering. (applause from the audience)

Mayor Drotzmann congratulated Mr. Vander Stelt on his scholarship and encouraged him to return to Hermiston after he's completed his studies.

Proclamation- National Police Week

Mayor Drotzmann read the National Police Week Proclamation into the record and thanked the Police Department for their efforts making Hermiston a safe place to live and work.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Dave Faux, 1 SW Alderbrooke place, asked that Council consider ordinance enforcement regarding sidewalk obstructions as the new scooter business is setting up and leaving their scooters on sidewalks blocking access for those in wheelchairs.

At the request of Mayor Drotzmann, City Manager Smith stated the City has received both positive and negative comments regarding the scooters, however with all new things come challenges, but the City can contact the business owners regarding this issue.

Consent Agenda Items

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

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Recommendations to the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee: Position #1, representing the Umatilla County Fair Board, Doug Bennett, term from 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2024; Position #2, representing the Farm-City Pro-Rodeo, Michael Kay, term from 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2024; Position #4, representing the At-Large Community, Jennifer Roberts, remaining term beginning 05/25/2021 to 06/30/2023.
- C. Liquor License Application for "Off-Premises", sales for Carson (formerly Heller & Sons), located at 615 N 1st Street
- D. Liquor License Application for "Full On-Premises, Commercial", sales for Cozy Corner Tavern, located at 128 E Main Street
- E. Minutes of the April 26, 2021 Regular City Council meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

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Public Hearing- Supplemental Budget #2 FY2021 (Resolution No. 2179 below)

Hearing no potential conflict of interest, City Manager Smith read the hearing guidelines and Mayor Drotzmann opened the hearing at 7:14pm.

City Manager Smith gave information regarding the proposed supplemental budget, to include: additional expenditures in six funds, transfers appropriations between budget categories in three funds and authorizes inter-fund transfers in three funds as detailed in the agenda packet.

There were no Proponents, Opponents or Neutral parties who wished to address the Council, and the hearing was closed at 7:28pm.

After Council and staff discussion, Council Duron moved and Council Spicerkuhn seconded to approve the staff report as presented by City Manager Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2179- Supplement the FY2021 Budget- City Manager Smith stated Resolution No. 2179 was reviewed and discussed earlier in the meeting, during the public hearing.

Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Resolution No. 2179 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

West-End Community Development Group IGA

City Manager Byron Smith stated the cities of Echo, Stanfield, Umatilla, Hermiston, and Umatilla County would like to join together in partnership with Pac/West Lobby Group in seeking projects that will improve and strengthen West Umatilla County area through the proposed intergovernmental agreement. The agreement would allow Pac/West to continue to provide government affairs services that would focus on legislative issues, deemed priority, by the group. There would be no additional costs to the City, however, additional funds would be paid to Pac/West by the other entities.

After some discussion, Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to authorize the City Manager's signature on the IGA for Government Affairs. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Water System Lease Agreement

City Manager Byron Smith stated in the mid-1990's, the City of Hermiston and the Port of Umatilla entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to form the Regional Water System (RWS). The RWS utilizes Columbia River water rights held by the Port of Umatilla; as part of the formation of the RWS, the City received a portion of those water rights. However, all of the City's allocated portion of water is not able to be delivered to potential users at this time.

The Port, a few years ago, began leasing most of its unallocated water rights to large agricultural customers; these customers are now requesting additional water rights to lease. The "second position water", in the proposed lease, would be a year to year lease and pay the City \$15,750 per year until the City needs the water for future industrial development, at which point, the City could terminate the lease with one year's notice.

After some discussion, Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Duron seconded to approve authorizing the City Manager to sign the lease. Motion carried unanimously.

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Restaurant Assistance Pilot Program (RAPP)

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan stated at the Council's April 26th meeting, the Council directed staff to focus a portion of the resources from the American Recovery Plan Act to help local businesses recover from economic impacts created from the COVID pandemic. The Pilot Program, RAPP, would allow the City to invest \$50,000 in a program to purchase gift certificates to restaurants throughout the City and give them to constituents through utility bills, Library and Parks and Recreation programs, and by partnering with the Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce to distribute them as well. This pilot model is based similarly on the program recently created to promote an infusion of attendance and cash flow to the Hermiston Cinema and Desert Lanes Bowling Alley.

Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kristina Olivas, introduced herself and thanked the Council for their warm welcome and support and stated if the Chamber Board decides in favor of partnering with the City for RAPP, she would promote gift cards to all City restaurants, not just those who are Chamber members.

The Council discussed best ways to administer and track gift cards, the amount of money each gift card should be preloaded with, incentives or requirements for those using the gift cards to spend more than the gift card amount at the restaurant they select, and finding ways to encourage Latino businesses and constituents to participate and patronize these businesses.

Ms. Olivas stated it would be in the best interest for each restaurant owner and constituent if RAPP was created with the least amount of requirements to follow and as easy to use as possible. And while the City and Chamber would like to encourage people to patronize Latino and smaller restaurants that have been impacted the most, we cannot dictate where patrons choose to spend their money and eat.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan also asked that the Council consider simplifying the pilot program as the City will receive feedback from the community and business owners that the City can use to modify the program in the future, if the City decides to continue with the program.

Councilor Spicerkuhn recused himself as he is a Board Member of the Chamber of Commerce and this would be a direct conflict of interest. Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Barron seconded to direct staff to proceed with finalizing and implementing a Restaurant Assistance Pilot Program as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation- Hermiston School District Updates

Hermiston School District (HSD) Superintendent Dr. Tricia Mooney gave updates regarding:

- The partnership between the HSD, Parks and Recreation Department, the Library, Champions, and Umatilla Electric Cooperative to create a busy summer program for elementary, junior high and high school students. Plans include academic focus, credit retrieval, migrant summer school, swim lessons, library programs, sport camps, hydromania, and more. The HSD wants to make sure they are helping create an atmosphere of learning and fun and target agricultural workers families as summer is the busiest time of the year for these families
- Graduation will be similar to last years graduation with a parade and graduates receiving their diploma on stage, lived streamed. Also, depending on the COVID case count, the HSD plans to give four entrance tickets, instead of two, to each graduate for attendees to watch graduation inside of the building
- Winter sports are in progress at this time and are being livestreamed. There will be no regional or state competitions this year. Less students are participating in sports this year compared to other years for

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a variety of reasons. The HSD will try to bridge the gap to connect with students in many ways and on different levels

- Construction continues at Rocky Heights, Loma Vista and the softball fields

Committee Reports

Regional Solutions Committee (not a City committee)- Councilor Barron requested that the Council review and respond to what they feel are priority issues from the list of items sent to them earlier today.

EOTEC Committee- Mayor Drotzmann stated the Committee will meet next month as there lacked a quorum to meet this month.

Stepping Stones (not a City committee)- Councilor Hardin stated the Board met and welcomed Representative Greg Smith to participate in the meeting. The Board discussed possible locations for Stepping Stones to include the Army Depot and ways to centralize needs for those utilizing these services.

Mayors Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding:

- Regional Water updates with JR Cook
- Recent LOC Spring Symposium which featured a lot of great information and discussion regarding emergency management preparedness, public health, and much more
- May 18th Elections
- Virtual Town Halls with Senator Wyden on May 14th and Senator Merkley on May 12th
- Budget Committee will meet May 20th. Meeting invitations have been sent
- Asked that the community protect themselves, loved ones and the community as a whole, by getting the COVID vaccine as this will also be the way we can get back to living a normal life

Council Reports

Councilor Hardin stated the I Love My City events over the weekend were successful with about 200-300 volunteers and participants each day.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter, the Faith-Based Advisory Committee, and all those who participated in the I Love My City events.

Councilor Barron stated the I Love My City event is a great reminder to keep the community clean and encouraged the community to vaccinate themselves and their children ages 12 and older.

Councilor Peterson encouraged the public to support small local businesses and attend the Spring Bazaar this Saturday from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Community Center parking lot.

Councilor Duron stated she attended the Dog Park's Grand Unleashing, I Love My City events, and a COVID Vaccine event facilitated by Euvalcree, and asked if the City could work with local farmers to come together to administer vaccines to farm workers, at their job sites, to encourage and support vaccine efforts.

Per the request of Mayor Drotzmann, City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong stated the Hispanic Advisory Committee recently had a vaccine event at the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church and are working with farmers to facilitate supporting vaccines being administered at job sites during work hours. The Hispanic Advisory Committee will be meeting next Monday and should have an update on their efforts at this meeting.

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Mayor Drotzmann stated he would support efforts made by the Hispanic Advisory Committee to encourage vaccine events at farm labor work sites.

Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding construction updates for City Hall, stating the contractor is forming the foundation for the basement of City Hall and will begin infrastructure work that will, unfortunately, prevent water from being distributed to main street businesses for a week. Contractors will work diligently to complete this work so business will be able to have water services as soon as possible.

Adjournment

There was no other business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.

SIGNED:

Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder