

# HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

September 13, 2021

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Barron, Spicerkuhn, Davis, Duron, and Myers. Councilor Primmer was excused. Also in attendance was Judge Thomas 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, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. The pledge of allegiance was given.

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

Hermiston School District (HSD) Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon gave information regarding:

- Construction updates on Loma Vista and Rocky Heights Elementary Schools, High School Annex, and the Ribbon cutting for the Softball Fields at the game on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm.
- Participation in athletics has increased dramatically. That was not expected, COVID last year dropped participation significantly. The HSD believes this increase is due to students not being able to compete in prior years due to COVID.
- Student demographic data was presented at the last HSD meeting showing growth in the Hispanic population from 45% from last year to 56% this year with an 18% increase in graduation rates for Hispanics, as well as graduation rate increases with white students.
- HSD has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest limited or interrupted (migrant students that do not attend a full year of school) student base in Oregon. This information was a huge hit to HSD and brought a realization of what we need to do to help these migrant students.
- Amazon's contributions to technology programs at HSD.

After answering Council questions regarding non-physical extracurricular activities offered to students and what the HSD is doing to employ a larger Latino teacher base, Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Bacon and the HSD for all they are doing to continue activities for students and help them succeed.

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

None given.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

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

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Recommendation to the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee: Position #6, representing the At-Large Community, Luke Swanson, remaining term from 09/28/2021 to 06/30/2022
- C. Recommendation to the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee: Position #7, representing the At-Large Community, Weston Putman, term from 09/28/2021 to 06/30/2022
- D. Liquor License Application for "Full On-Premises, Commercial", sales for V8 Bar, located at 675 N. 1st Street, Unit B
- E. Liquor License Application for "Full On-Premises, Commercial", sales for OMG! Burgers & Brew, located at 201 E. Main Street
- F. Public Notice of the May 17, 2022 Primary Election Seeking City Official Candidates
- G. Grant of Easement to Cascade Natural Gas
- H. Minutes of the August 23rd, Regular City Council Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

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## **Resolution 2196 - Construction Loan for LID 322 SHIP Project**

City Manager Byron Smith gave information regarding the short-term loan that will allow the City to complete the LID project.

After some discussion, Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Hardin seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2196 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Resolution's 2197 and 2198- Modifying Speed Limits on Two City Street Segments**

City Manager Byron Smith gave information regarding the citizen request to lower the speed limit at W Highland Ave and staff's recommendation to lower the speed limit at W Hermiston Ave.

### **Public Comment**

Jackie Linton, 111 W Beech Ave- asked that the Council consider adding lighted cross walks in these areas, specifically W Hermiston Ave.

After some discussion, Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Duron seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2197 and lay upon the record to lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour on W Highland Ave between the intersections of SW 11th Street and SW 15th Place. Councilors Peterson, Barron, Spicerkuhn, Davis, Duron, and Myers voted in favor; Councilor Hardin voted against. Motion carried 6-1.

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Spicerkuhn seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2198 and lay upon the record to designate a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on W Hermiston Ave between the intersections of NW 4th Street and NW 11th Street. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Resolution 2199- Sewer Pipeline Crossing Agreement**

City Manager Byron Smith gave information regarding the proposed pipeline crossing agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company in order to complete decommissioning of sewer Lift Station #3.

After some discussion, Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Duron seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2199 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

## **SHIP Property Use & Alienation Agreement**

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan gave information regarding the proposed property use agreement with the Port of Umatilla in order to satisfy a grant award requirement from the Economic Development Administration that awarded the City \$1.48M to provide 50% of the funding to install water, sewer, and street infrastructure in the South Hermiston Industrial Park.

After some discussion, Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Barron seconded to direct the City Manager to execute the Property Use and Alienation Agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

**Parks and Recreation Committee:** Councilor Myers stated the Committee did not have a quorum but received information from Interim Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Arts regarding: Funland fence, Riverfront Park, Teen Adventure Park, Adult and Youth sport programs, and the previous Parks and Recreation Director, Larry Fetter's retirement.

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There was some discussion regarding installing an additional fence at Funland park for the security of the Park. After City Manager Smith spoke, the Council decided to wait until the donor fence was installed in October to reevaluate an additional fence. There was also some discussion regarding lighting and camera feeds at Funland Park that the Police Department will be monitoring.

At the Mayor's request, City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong gave updates regarding committee attendance, vacancies and applications.

Mayor Drotzmann asked that committee members please show up to meetings and participate as there are many individuals who are interested in serving on City Committees.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding the following:

- Umatilla County's recent approval for a homeless shelter. The location is temporary but may become permanent. The Cities of Umatilla, Echo, Stanfield, Hermiston as well as Umatilla County and organizations like Stepping Stones and others have been and continue to work on this issue.
- The City has been notified that a new larger corporate entity has purchased Sanitary Disposal. The City is speaking with new owner to get their franchise approved by the Council.
- There will be a general meet and greet tomorrow at 2:00pm at BMCC for the new BMCC President
  - Councilor Barron asked that the new BMCC President present to the Council regarding his vision of BMCC
  - Mayor Drotzmann stated he will give an invitation to the new President in a few months once he has had time to get more familiar with BMCC and the community.

## **Council Reports**

Councilor Peterson spoke regarding the League of City's Women's Caucus and her desire to be appointed to the Board to make sure it is inclusive and be able to represent Eastern Oregon; and her attendance at another conference that gave updates regarding: COVID cases, delayed care for mental health, and other great information.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Councilor Peterson for volunteering her time to represent Eastern Oregon.

Councilor Duron stated she was very pleased the City was able to give recognition to Vernon Cook and his family before his recent passing. Councilor Duron thanked everyone involved in the Palau Festival and all those who volunteered, as well as a big thank you to all hospital and law enforcement personnel for their work keeping people safe on a daily basis.

## **Manager's Report**

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter has officially retired, but is remaining employed under a contract, to continue to work on a few items. The City has contracted a recruitment office to help find his replacement. The position will close on October 2<sup>nd</sup> after which, the City will directly oversee the interview process which the Council will be a part of in some way.

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## **Recess for Executive Session**

At 8:05pm Mayor Drotzmann announced the City Council of the City of Hermiston will now meet in Executive Session in the Conference Center Rotary Room for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to employment of a City Attorney. The Executive Session is held pursuant ORS 192.660 (2) (a) which allows the Council to meet in Executive Session to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Council to discussing matters pertaining to considering the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are excluded. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No final decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, the council will return to open session which the audience may attend. The executive session will last approximately 20 mins.

## **Reconvene- Consider a Motion to Hire a City Attorney**

Mayor Drotzmann reconvened the regular meeting at 8:43pm.

City Manager Smith asked that the Council consider a motion to hire a City Attorney.

Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Spicerkuhn seconded to hire Richard Tovey as the new City Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tovey thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for the City of Hermiston.

Mayor Drotzmann welcomed Mr. Tovey to the City of Hermiston and stated he believes Mr. Tovey will be a great asset to the City. (applause from the audience)

## **Adjournment**

There was no other City business and Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:46pm.

SIGNED:

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Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder