

**CANBY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Mayor and City Councilors attended the meeting virtually. The public was asked to view the meeting live on CTV Channel 5 or on YouTube. Seating was available in the Council Chambers in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding social distancing.

PRESIDING: Mayor Brian Hodson.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Tim Dale, Greg Parker, Sarah Spoon, and Shawn Varwig.

COUNCIL ABSENT: Traci Hensley

STAFF PRESENT: Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney; Jamie Stickel, Economic Development Director; Bret Smith, Police Chief; and Melissa Bisset, City Recorder.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Jim Davis

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hodson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PROCLAMATIONS:

POW/ MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mayor Hodson read a proclamation recognizing September 18, 2020 as POW/ MIA Recognition Day.

CANBY PUBLIC LIBRARY DAY

Mayor Hodson read a proclamation recognizing September 16, 2020 as Canby Public Library Day.

Mr. Lindsay said when Covid struck, there was a backlog of 43,000 holds and the library honored those holds. The library staff took their service seriously.

CITIZEN INPUT & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: It was publically noticed that Council would be attending the meeting virtually and written comments and input on agenda items were accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16th.

Jim Davis, Fire Chief, said the Police Department came over to the Fire Station and they had a moment of silence, lowered the flag, and rang the bell in remembrance of September 11. He then provided an update on the wildfires. The Police Department did a great job running the

Emergency Operations Center. Fire lines had been extended on both ends of the Beachie Creek and Riverside fires and he was fairly confident that they would not combine. The Lionshead fire was still very volatile. The Riverside fire was 3% contained near the populated areas. It had a federal team assigned to it and numerous resources. They had not been able to have air support due to the inversion and dense smoke. The Beachie Creek fire was 15% contained. The underfire was 100% lined but not contained. The Dowty fire in Estacada was 30% lined, the Wilhoit fire was 100% lined but not contained, and the Graves Creek fire was contained. There were 69 properties that sustained damage from the Riverside fire, and of those 29 were destroyed. One church was destroyed from the Wilhoit fire. There were 58 properties damaged from the Beachie Creek fire. Canby was now out of the evacuation levels, but in the County there were still over 5,000 residences in Level 3, over 19,000 in Level 2, and over 38,000 in Level 1. There was widespread smoke in the area, but the weather forecast was for rain on Thursday which should help with the smoke. With the mobilization crews moving out of the Colton/Molalla area, they were forming a South County Task Force to operate from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow to provide extra resources to citizens.

Mayor Hodson thanked the Fire Department for their work.

Councilor Varwig said it was leadership personified and he thanked the department.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS:

Mayor Hodson stated that C4 would not be meeting next month.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilor Spoon expressed thanks to the Fire Department for their work during the ongoing wildfires. She was moved by the community coming together and helping each other.

Council President Dale also thanked the Fire Department. There had not been a water rate increase in four years. For residences it would be a 7.8 percent increase. The base water meter rate would increase from \$19.81 to \$21.36 and then it would be the 7.8% increase on the actual usage. It would be on the bills in November. The impact of Covid and unemployment had been fairly minimal as the percentage of people who were delinquent was only up 1% over last year. In terms of water volume in August, there was a mild peak of 4.3 million gallons. It was a down year for water sales. Usage was down as it was a cooler summer. The Fire would have some impact on the watershed. The Molalla River Watershed was large and it would take a longer period of time to purify. They were not expecting any toxicity.

Councilor Parker shared that 80 percent of the guests at the County Fairgrounds due to the evacuations from the wildfires had left. They estimated 200 people had stayed there. There were still 450 animals being housed at the Fairgrounds. He noted that the community was very generous and the resources went above the need.

Councilor Varwig thanked the Fire Chief for his work. He stated that the Library Board would be thankful for the proclamation recognizing Canby Public Library Day. The new Library Director would be starting on September 21st.

Mayor Hodson asked about the Spooktacular at the Fairgrounds. Councilor Parker stated the plan was to have it run each weekend in October.

ORDINANCE:

Ordinance No. 1538: An Ordinance authorizing the Interim City Administrator to enter into an Employment Contract between the City of Canby and Bret J. Smith; and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Lindsay explained this would maintain the Police Chief's employment with the City and it gave the City a date certain of April 1, 2021 in terms of succession planning. This was especially important during times of emergency like they had recently. He thought the Police Chief had shown great leadership in these hard times.

Councilor Parker noted HR law prohibited asking someone when they were going to retire and it was difficult to do succession planning. This type of arrangement gave the City a precise date and allowed for an overlap. He would be in favor of doing this type of arrangement again.

****Council President Dale moved to adopt Ordinance 1538, An Ordinance authorizing the Interim City Administrator to enter into an Employment Contract between the City of Canby and Bret J. Smith; and declaring an emergency. Motion was seconded by Councilor Varwig and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval and Discussion regarding Declaration of Emergency

Mr. Lindsay said this was an emergency declaration related to the wildfires when the City was in a Level 2, possibly moving to Level 3, evacuation status. The City was no longer at an evacuation level. The Mayor had declared an emergency and this was to ratify that, but if the Council did not ratify it the emergency would go away. The declaration was for potential federal dollars if something more catastrophic had happened. It did not look like they would need any of those resources.

Councilor Varwig did not think it hurt to have this in place just in case something happened.

There was discussion regarding how long the declaration should be in effect.

****Council President Dale moved to ratify the Declaration of Emergency by Mayor Hodson as of 1 p.m. on September 11, 2020 to end of day September 30, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilor Varwig and passed 4-0.**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S BUSINESS & STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Lindsay shared that staff had turned in the forms for the quiet zone downtown. They were currently recruiting for a lateral police officer and the Planning Director recruitment closed on Monday. Parts had been ordered for the CTV-5 broadcast to improve broadcasts. If people would still like to donate, there were trusted organizations that could take donations such as the American Red Cross. The Economic Development Director was actively seeking a grant for a Business Retention Plan. Staff was able to get new filters in the HVAC systems to all of the City's buildings to help with the smoke. He thanked staff for all their work during this time. Dave Conner had been promoted to Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor. Ryan Potter, Senior Planner, was meeting with DKS regarding the update to the Transportation System Plan to include the Walnut Street extension. He asked if the Council wanted staff to work on a route for people to go after visiting the Spooktacular at the Fairgrounds to come into downtown as well.

Councilor Spoon wanted to make sure it was safe since it would be happening at night and still following Covid guidelines.

There was consensus for staff to work on a route for people to come into downtown.

Mr. Lindsay said they had contracted with a local attorney to do the court prosecution duties. He asked if the Council was interested in creating a resolution for relaxing the permitting for open air and outside seating for restaurants.

Councilor Spoon asked if that would include temporary covers or tents. Mr. Lindsay said that could be included. It would be for businesses that had spaces where they could safely be outdoors.

Councilor Parker thought they should be permissive rather than restrictive and do everything they could to help businesses even if meant displacing some parking. Public safety should be taken into account, but to the extent they could allow people to continue to run businesses they should.

Councilor Varwig agreed that they should make it easier for businesses to welcome more guests.


There was consensus for staff to move forward as proposed.

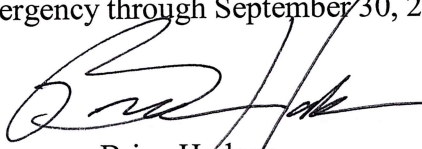
CITIZEN INPUT: None.

ACTION REVIEW:

1. Adopted Ordinance No. 1538.
2. Approved and Ratified the Declaration of Emergency through September 30, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Melissa Bisset, CMC
City Recorder


Brian Hodson