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Regular City Council Meeting
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
JULY 24, 2023
5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Mayor Richard Mays

COUNCIL PRESENT: Darcy Long, Tim McGlothlin, Rod Runyon, Scott Randall, Dan Richardson

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Matthew Klebes, City Attorney Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Izetta Grossman, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Finance Director Angie Wilson, Community Development Director Joshua Chandler, Human Resources Director Daniel Hunter, Executive Assistant Amie Ell

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mays at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Roll Call was conducted by Executive Assistant Amie Ell. Councilors Long, McGlothlin, Randall, Richardson, Runyon present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mays asked Councilor Richardson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Richardson invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Long and seconded by Randall to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion

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carried 5 to 0; Long, Randall, Runyon, Richardson, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Connie Krummrich, former member of The Dalles Beautification Committee presented her recommendations to Council regarding the litter campaign. (see attached)

Russ Brown, citizen, reported the District Attorney had been less than forth coming with requests for information on the results of arrests for vandalism, stolen property, assault cases. He said without prosecution the laws have no bite.

He said he was unable to get copies of the exit interviews from police officers. He said he hoped the Council was getting the information.

Mayor Mays said he understood Human Resources denying the request. He said he had been updated on the exit interviews.

Runyon clarified Brown was requesting information regarding the consequences of arrests from the District Attorney.

City Manager Klebes had requested information from the District Attorney and would follow up on the request.

He said exit interviews were voluntarily given. He reminded Brown that the City Manager oversees all City staff; Council were policy makers.

Bob Kenyon, citizen, reported attending a Traffic Safety Commission meeting, where he recommended discontinuing the flashing yellow lights at night and weekend in the downtown corridor. He said with the increased traffic to the river and drivers not paying attention the street were unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

Richard Wolf, citizen, said he had a report from Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue regarding the 4th of July fireworks and number of calls over the last 10 years.

He said Human Resources refused to give him the qualifications of the new Project Manager. He said he was concerned they weren't qualified.

He said trees were dying downtown due to exposed roots and steel grates.

Wolf said the Community Development Director and the City Attorney were rude and interrupted

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citizens at a recent Planning Commission meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes introduced the new Economic Development Director, Daniel Spatz.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Long reported:

- Meeting with City Manager
- No Urban Renewal meeting

Councilor McGlothlin reported:

- Airport Board – fuel sales going up; significant military/jet traffic
- Met with Scenic neighbors/Airbnb owner
- Annex Open House

Mayor Mays reported:

- Community/Government Affairs with City Manager
- Sally Johnson, The Dalles Art Center new Director
- Underliner ribbon cutting
- KODL
- Community Outreach Tour
- Swearing in of Officer Green
- Annex Open House

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Randall to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, McGlothlin, Randall, Runyon, Richardson, Long voting in favor; none opposed.

Items approved on the consent agenda were: A. Approval of the July 10, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes B. Authorization to Surplus 10,000 rounds of 40 caliber ammunition C. Authorization to Surplus Police Vehicles D. Authorization to Surplus 36 Glock .40 caliber handguns E. Resolution No. 23-025 Designating the Vertical Housing Manager for the City of The Dalles.

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PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to receive public comment on the close-out of Community Development Block Grant Project No. H20012, providing home repair for eligible households

Mayor Mays read the process for Public Hearings then opened the Public Hearing

Mayor Mays asked for the staff report.

Community Development Director, Joshua Chandler introduced Saldavar Torres Cruz as the translator if one was needed. Chandler reviewed the staff report and all findings.

Mayor Mays asked for testimony.

Hearing none he closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Runyon said unused funds would be returned to the State. He asked if that would affect ability to receive funding in the future.

Chandler said he had asked the State that questions and they said it would not affect future funding.

Chandler said the Community Development Block Grant rotates with cities taking turns facilitating the grant. He said it was likely that the grant would not go through the city on the next round.

ACTION ITEMS

General Ordinance No. 23-1399 Amending Various Provisions of The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (Offences) and Title 6 (Traffic)

City Attorney Jonathan Kara asked Codes Enforcement Officer Nikki Lesich to come forward to answer questions.

Kara reviewed the staff report, adding Tree of Heaven to the noxious vegetation list (photo attached).

Kara said best practice would be to ask for comments from the audience on the ordinance.

Rodger Nichols, citizen, asked if the ordinance would require residents to remove Tree of

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Heaven from their property.

Kara said it would not.

McGlothlin asked if the rooster ban would be phased in.

Codes Enforcement Officer Nikki Lesich said she would work with the owner.

Kara said Codes Enforcement would do outreach before implementation.

Long clarified noxious vegetation in the right of way or over property lines.

She asked for clarification on “used by trespassers for habitation”.

Kara said it meant inhabiting. He said the ordinance gives the City the opportunity to remove brush or tall grasses.

Richardson asked for description of RV permit program. He asked if 24 hours was enough time for owner to move the vehicle.

Lesich said originally the RV permits were for citizens to park their RV in front of their home to service, clean and pack the RV. She said people are using the permit incorrectly, and are living in the RV.

Lesich said almost all the RV tows were abandoned vehicles.

Mayor Mays asked if any councilor wished to have the ordinance read in full. None requested the ordinance read in full.

Mayor Mays asked the City Clerk to read the ordinance by title only.

Executive Assistant Amie Ell read the ordinance by title only.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt General Ordinance No. 23-1399 Amending Various Provisions of The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (Offences) and Title 6 (Traffic), adding the Tree of Heaven (*ailanthus altissima*) to the noxious vegetation list, by title only. The motion carried 5 to 0; Richardson, McGlothlin, Long, Runyon, Randall in favor; none opposed.

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General Ordinance No. 23-1398 Amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 6 (Traffic) by Creating Chapter 6.02 (Overnight Parking in City-Owned Parking Lots)

City Manager Matthew Klebes asked Police Chief Tom Worthy to join the upcoming conversations. Klebes reviewed the staff report.

Richardson asked if there were complaints on 1st Street.

Chief Worthy said the complaints were lack of safety, trash, and vehicles that weren't running.

Richardson asked if staff had seen people in the 1st Street lot move to other locations.

Chief Worthy said staff had noted people moving from one location to another.

Mayor Mays asked if any councilor wished to have the ordinance read in full. None requested the ordinance read in full.

Mayor Mays asked the City Clerk to read the ordinance by title only.

Executive Assistant Amie Ell read the ordinance by title only.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Long to adopt General Ordinance No. 23-1398 Amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 6 (Traffic) by Creating Chapter 6.02 (Overnight Parking in City-Owned Parking Lots), by title only. The motion carried 5 to 0; Randall, Long, McGlothlin, Richardson, Runyon in favor; none opposed.

McGlothlin excused himself at 7:26 p.m. and returned at 7:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Nuisance Crime and Community Livability

City Manager Klebes reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Mays suggesting going through the items in order.

A. Owner Authorization to Enforce the Law

City Attorney Kara said the form stemmed from an incident with absentee owner and hazardous conditions. He said he worked with the District Attorney to create the form that preauthorizes The Dalles Police and Wasco County District Attorney to enforce

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trespass and other property crimes occurring on property owner's property without the property owner being present.

B. Volunteer Security Camera Registry

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to proceed with the initiative.

C. Creation and Updating of Information Resources for Community

Council was in favor of the toolkit and posting resources on the City's website.

D. Mid-Columbia Center for Living Pilot Community Outreach Service Program

Chief Worthy spoke in favor of the pilot program. He said police would be on hand if needed.

City Manager Matthew Klebes said if Council was interested he would bring back more information. He said he was looking into using the opioid funds to support the effort.

Runyon asked what would be the next option if opioid funds weren't available.

Klebes said he would work with the Finance Director to find other General Fund resources.

E. Watershed Position Changes

Runyon asked when the position would start.

City Manager Klebes said it would take a budget amendment for the current fiscal year.

He said there would be an interfund transfer from Public Works to the Police Department to pay for the Watershed Patrol portion of the full time position.

F. Police "Overfill" Position

Council was in favor of the position.

G. Purchase and Installation of a New 24-hour Bathroom Facility

McGlothlin said he was not in favor of restroom on Arco Parking Lot. He said there was a better use of funds.

Runyon said he was devastated at the condition of the restroom at the Veteran's Services Center. He said he was not in favor of any restroom at the Arco Parking Lot. He said it should first be discussed with St. Peter's Landmark (across the street).

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McGlothlin suggested:

- Annex parking lot
- Lewis & Clark Park – with a caretaker
- Mill Creek walk way

Long said the discussion item was to give staff direction on the desire to have a 24 hour restroom. She asked how much time and funds had already been spent on trying to address the issue of no downtown restrooms. She said the restroom wasn't just for the homeless.

Long was in favor of a Loo type restroom. She said it had been used in various cities, was easy to clean.

Randall said the downtown needed one or two restrooms. He said the question was, where was the best place to locate restrooms.

Richardson said he would like to see more research.

Mayor Mays said there was a need for a facility.

City Manager Klebes said for many years the City had provided 24 hour restrooms at Lewis and Clark Park. He said now those restrooms were only open dawn to dusk, and for events.

Klebes said he had talked to business owners. He said some are in favor, others are concerned about the unknown. He said the main concern was proximity to their business.

He said the Arco Parking Lot had been identified in the past as a location, he would continue to identify other possible locations.

Long asked what the concerns were. She said visibility was good at the Arco Parking Lot.

Klebes said the restroom at the Veteran's Service Center had become a campsite, blocking the sidewalk, with vandalism. He said it was closed for a period of time for repairs. He said during that time staff was able to have conversations about keeping it clean. Klebes said since the reopening from dawn to dusk there had been less issues.

Klebes said he spoke with Astoria regarding their Loo. He reported they has some issues, but not more issues.

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Mayor Mays said the Arco Parking Lot was good option, 3rd Street being a one way street located 2 blocks from the Police Station.

City Manager Klebes said staff would continue due diligence on the concept of a 24 hours restroom.

Mayor Mays asked if anyone in the audience wished to comment on the subject.

Lisa Farquharson, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce said the Mayor and City Manager had come to her office to talk about the issues before Council.

She had the following comments:

- A. Works, Chamber uses it
- B. Security camera registry, good idea
- C. Tool kits, great job – businesses were looking for this
- D. Outreach, in favor of people on the ground to help with addiction or mental health issues; allows police department to focus on other issues
- E. No comment
- F. No comment
- G. Loo – need something safe, well lit, as indestructible as possible. Arco Parking Lot – hesitant but hopeful.
She said she had just seen photos of art work on Loo's – looked great.

She Thanked staff for all the ideas, very thoughtful.

Abandoned Shopping Carts

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report.

City Manager Matthew Klebes reviewed the staff report.

McGlothlin said it was theft when someone took a shopping cart off the property of the store. He said the police needed to do something. He suggested stopping people and issue a warning to return the shopping cart.

City Clerk Grossman noted the time was 8:25 p.m. She said a motion was needed to continue the meeting past 8:30 p.m.

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It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Randall to extend the meeting to finish the discussion. The motion carried 5 to 0; Richardson, Randall, Long, McGlothlin, Runyon in favor; none opposed.

City Manager Klebes said staff currently picks up and returns some carts. The ordinance requires retailers to go and pick up their carts that have been reported. He said larger retailers have been using anti-theft devices.

City Attorney Jonathan Kara said his research on the ordinance included: letters going out to 20 retailers, State Statute allows the ordinance, speaking with North West Grocery Association. He said Amanda Dalton from the association was in attendance.

Amanda Dalton said the State Statute was 10 years old. She said the association wanted to be partner's with cities. She asked that the City give grocers grace to implement.

McGlothlin said Captain Carrico had told him at a Community Clean up items that can be used for survival cannot be taken. He also noted that the problem isn't as bad as it could be, because Donny Lewis picks up carts and returns them to the stores.

Amanda Dalton said they provide contract services to pick up and return carts. She said the most effective sweeps are in conjunction with a community clean up.

Cody Miller, The Dalles Grocery Outlet said he received the letter from the City. He said at the end of the day the carts are stolen property. He said it didn't make sense to fine the stores because someone stole the cart.

City Manager Klebes said the ORS allows a fine. He said the City would work on compliance, not fines.

City Attorney Kara said the ORS says the retailer must retrieve the cart within 72 hours of receiving notice of an abandoned cart. He said if the retailer goes to retrieve the cart and it was full of personal belongings the fine would not apply.

It was the consensus of the Council to have staff bring something back to Council in September.

City Manager Klebes noted that staff works very hard to keep the Council Agendas manageable.

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ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Submitted by/
Izetta Grossman, CMC
City Clerk

SIGNED: 

Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Amie Ell, City Clerk