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Regular City Council Meeting
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
APRIL 22, 2024
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 Amie Ell, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Finance Director Angie Wilson, Community Development Director Joshua Chandler, Human Resources Director Daniel Hunter, Library Director Jeff Wavrunek, Executive Assistant Abby Jara

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 City Clerk Ell. Long, McGlothlin, Runyon, Randall, Richardson present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS

The Dalles Areas Chamber of Commerce Yearly Report

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) CEO Lisa Farquharson presented highlights of the report.

Mayor Mays asked why the percentage of visitors from the Portland area was 47.9% while the spending amount was only 39.12%.

Farquharson said this is most likely due to the fact that a number of these travelers are commuters coming for work or meetings and also do not stay overnight.

Klebes how long Datify had been in use.

Farquharson said they began using Datify in 2018.

McGlothlin clarified airport data was not included in the Datify report and requested it be added in the future. He also asked who the owner of the Chamber building was.

Farquharson assured the airport could be added. She also responded the Chamber owns the building since 1936.

Mayor Mays asked if the Chamber historically stayed within their budget.

Farquharson said they work hard to avoid going over or under budget; if they go under it remains in the City's general fund; if they go over, the Chamber has to pay for it. She said the only money paid directly to the Chamber from the City were salaries and admin fees, any other covered costs are invoiced then paid from the City directly to the vendor.

Mayor Mays said the presented scope of services was very comprehensive. He asked Klebes to speak on the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for this work that was mentioned in his previous City Manager report.

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Klebes said this was the last year the contract with the Chamber. A discussion item would be brought before Council about Transient Room Tax (TRT) that will revise and narrow down an updated scope of work and services provided for TRT funds.

McGlothlin asked for a summary of the Cherry Festival.

Farquharson said it was bigger in every aspect; smooth, less issues, bigger parade, more vendors, and high attendance.

Richardson asked what the small grants program supports.

Farquharson said it funds the TRT marketing grant. The \$30,000 for other organizations who can apply to help market their events. The grants are each \$2000 each given to 15 different recipients. Examples given included; First Fridays, 4th of July music, cruise-in, and more.

Richardson asked what the Chamber's role was in working with the cruise ships.

Farquharson said they were open to working with them. They provide phone help when visitors contact the Chamber. In addition, they have notified the cruise ships of the events posted on the community calendar link on the Chamber website.

Report on Watershed Management Projects & Grants

Public Works Director Dave Anderson presented the staff report.

Long asked if there the plan would include items for reducing wildfire risk.

Anderson stated managing fuel loading and fire risk is part of the management program for the protection of water quality.

Richardson asked who will be writing the plan and what the process is for identifying it.

Anderson responded a consultant, Springboard Forestry, who has worked with other municipalities was being contracted to complete the plan. The contract amount was low enough to allow to sole source as the primary contractor. He said Skookum forestry out of Lyle, Washington would be sub-contracted by Springboard Forestry to do a lot of the local field work and inventory, saving on the cost to the City.

Mayor Mays stated Google will be making \$28,500,000 worth of improvements to the City's infrastructure, including the city's water system in the future.

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Anderson said the work was currently underway. Sewer system improvements were nearly complete and two new wells had been drilled. In addition, work had begun on the new pipeline loop main infrastructure to support them. Expected to be complete in the next several months.

Mayor Mays stated 80% of the City of The Dalles s drinking water supply comes from the watershed and asked Anderson to detail where the other 20% came from.

Anderson responded it comes from the wells the city currently has.

Mayor asked for confirmation that 0% comes from the Columbia River.

Anderson confirmed the City does not utilize the Columbia River for the City's drinking water supply.

Councilor Richardson asked for a time frame on when the aquifer storage would be ready.

Anderson said one of the two new wells had already been drilled and they were starting to build the needed infrastructure around the first ASR (Aqua Storage & Recovery). He said the first recharge season would be next winter.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Bob Kenyon asked Council to consider bringing the Transit Center back to the center of The Dalles instead of having it on the far west side of town. He shared that he had recently missed a bus to Portland as the schedule for the bus from The Dalles to Hood River brought him to Hood River too late to catch the bus to Portland (see attached)

Councilor Long asked if Kenyon had spoken with the Transit Advisory Board.

Kenyon said he had spoken to the Transit Board's and the response was, "they're working on it."

Councilor Long asked if the Transit Advisory Board suggested Kenyon dial in to be picked up and dropped off at the Transit Center.

Kenyon said they can do Dial-A-Ride but would like to see the fixed route locations adjusted to avoid the problems for all.

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CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

- For firework sales and bans staff will remain in contact with Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue (MCFR) and the County as well as continue to observe drought and heat conditions. If any action is needed it will be brought back to council.
- Waldron Drug/Gitchell Building ghost sign project installation is underway coordinated by the RARE. There will be a Mid-May launch event.
- Facilities Supervisor position has been filled by Mike Kassinger. Kadinger will be working to assess what action is needed for safe accessibility of the Gitchell building.
- The short-term rental moratorium currently in place expires on November 26th, 2024. Planning department will develop potential options for council consideration.
- Holiday decorations in partnership with the North Wasco County Parks and Recreation are nearly completed. Chamber of Commerce will now be taking down the string lights from downtown street lights in coordination with daylight savings time changes.
- A survey has been posted seeking community input on the future development of the Tony's building site.
- A rescheduled work session for the water master plan will occur April 29th at 9am. A second joint work session with the Planning Commission was scheduled for May 2nd at 5:30pm for housing production strategies.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Runyon had nothing to report.

Richardson reported;

- Attended the Gloria Center open house on April 9th.
- Meeting with City Manager about several city projects.
- Attended an Urban Renewal meeting, discussed several projects and budget.
- Attended Traffic Safety.
- Attended houselessness meeting with Mayor Mays, McGlothlin, and city staff.

Randall reported;

- Rode with Mayor Mays and McGlothlin in the Cherry Festival Parade.

Long reported;

- Met with City Manager.
- Attended the Urban Renewal Budget Committee meeting.
- Attended Cherry Festival.
- Attending upcoming League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Conference in Klamath Falls.

McGlothlin reported;

- Met with Tim Urness to discuss potential SDC charges for the airport.
- Attended homelessness meeting.
- Airport meeting.
- Participated in the Cherry Festival with Mayor Mays and Randall.
- Directed St. Mary's to the Planning Commission for questions regarding new fencing.
- Attended the Gloria Center Opening.
- Will be attending LOC Conference.

CONSENT AGENDA

Richardson requested Item 9C be pulled from the consent agenda to be discussed.

Mayor Mays asked for consensus to move Item 9C to become Item 11C for later discussion

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

Items approved on the consent agenda were: 1) The minutes of the April 8, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting. 2) A Resolution Concurring with The Mayor's Appointments to the Traffic Safety Commission. 3) Proposed Exempt/Non-Union Cost of Living Adjustment.

CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD

Authorization to Replace Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Disinfection System

Public Works Director, Dave Anderson presented the staff report.

Mayor Mays asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in support, opposition, or having any comment relating to the proposal. There were none.

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Councilor McGlothlin asked the life expectancy of the new system and how long the new system been in place.

Anderson said it had been in place for 20 years which is the expected lifespan. The new one is expected to be similar.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Richardson to adopt the Proposed Findings presented herein and approve the exemption from competition for the award of a procurement contract with William H. Reilly and Company for the purchase and installation of a new UV disinfection system in an amount not to exceed \$377,400. The motion carried 5 to 0; McGlothlin, Richardson, Runyon, Randall, Long voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

ACTION ITEMS

Adopting Special Ordinance No. 24-600, A Special Ordinance Accepting the Dedication of Real Property on Laughlin Street and Quitclaiming Real Property Between East 7th Street and East 8th Street

Community Development Director Joshua Chandler presented the staff report.

Mayor Mays commented when looking at the survey he was confused because the map was labeled East 7th street while it should say East 8th street.

Chandler said it will be correct before recording.

City Clerk, Amie Ell read Special Ordinance No. 24-600 by title.

It was moved by Long and seconded by Randall to adopt Special Ordinance No. 24-600, a special ordinance accepting the dedication of real property on Laughlin Street and quitclaiming real property between East 7th Street and East 8th Street, by title only, as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, Long, Randall, Richardson, Runyon, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Intergovernmental Agreement Library

City Manager Matthew Klebes presented the Library Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) staff report.

Corliss Marsh, Library Board thanked Klebes and Angie Wilson, Finance Director for their work on the agreement. She said the Library Board still has some concerns but they were moving forward with this agreement.

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Councilor McGlothlin asked what their concerns were.

Marsh said the concern was the administrative transfer. She said the Library District was treated as a department of the city when it is a separate district. She said they had concerns but were willing to go forward with the agreement.

Klebes clarified the agreement was a negotiated collective effort. Both sides had given on particular pieces and landed on a place of agreement.

McGlothlin asked if the agreement would allow for the replacement of The Dalles Library HVAC system.

Klebes said part of the efforts with the new Facility Supervisor position creation along with the development of a more robust capital improvement plan was to improve a planning tool to ensure the City allocates needed funds accordingly and communicates to partners the funding they will have to allocate as well.

Councilor McGlothlin said has been here for 13 years and its been on the agenda every year. He would like to see a new Library HVAC system.

Klebes said there were two errors that would need to be fixed in the agreement. One was the year written was 2023 and that would need to be changed to 2024 as well as changes to a provision of the City's code that would need to be amended as it currently specifically mentions the third IGA.

Mayor Mays asked the Finance Director Angie Wilson to give more detail on the administrative charges.

Wilson explained the general fund budget will be split between the general, street, water, airport, and library funds. An audit will calculate the amount of City provided services used. For example, for the Finance Department they would determine the number of accounts payable, receivable, and payroll while for the Human Resources department the number of staff on the payroll. She said the Fire District pays the City for services by an hourly wage.

Klebes noted the Fire District services contract was for financial services only.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Richardson to approve the Fourth Intergovernmental Agreement for Library Services with the Wasco County Library Service District contingent upon approval from the Wasco County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried 5 to 0, McGlothlin, Richardson, Runyon, Randall, Long voting in favor; none opposed;

none absent.

Mayor & Councilor Stipend Increase

Councilor Richardson reviewed the proposal was to increase the City Council's monthly stipend from \$100 to \$400 and the Mayor's to \$500, intended to start the new fiscal year. He shared a list of pros and cons.

Pro:

- Modest financial impact
- The Council puts many hours in meetings and preparing for meetings
- Potentially it would help diversify City Council by removing some financial barriers

Con:

- Since this is a public service, some might argue it requires sacrifice
- Someone running for council should know what they are getting into and should not be compensated

Richardson stated it makes sense to increase the monthly stipend. He said the reason he asked to pull this topic from the consent agenda was to ensure transparency.

Long said she had spoken with someone in her thirties with two small children who was interested in running for city council. The increase in stipend might help this person with childcare and other things making it more accessible for her to be on city council. Long said it would be beneficial to have more diversity of age and other factors on council.

McGlothlin said there are a number of personal expenses encumbered as a councilor that are not compensated and this would be a way to reimburse for those expenses.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Randall to approve the proposed increase stipends as outlined. The motion carried 5 to 0, Richardson, Randall, McGlothlin, Runyon, Long voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Councilor Runyon said he did not know this was being voted on a council level, he thought it was an item for the budget committee.

Klebes clarified this will be included in the budget proposal in May. This item required approval by Council before going to the Budget Committee as Council sets compensation.

Richardson clarified the Budget Committee had the authority to determine not to allow the

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stipend increase but first Council must approve the change in compensation before the possibility could be brought to the Budget Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Mayor Mays recessed Open Session at 7:25pm

Mayor Mays reconvene Open Session at 8:08 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.


Submitted by/
Amie Ell, City Clerk

SIGNED:



Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amie Ell, City Clerk