

**City of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021**

Mayor Sherry Haeger opened the regular session of Cove Common Council at 7:00 p.m. with, Council President Matt McCowan, Councilor Lana Shira, Councilor Jason Stone, Councilor Jordan Hackwith, Councilor Alan Cadinha, Councilor Shawn Parker. Also present were Public Works Director Dave Johnson, Recorder Advisor Donna Lewis and Recorder Sherry Riley, Maxine Parker, Amber Parker, Dave Coleman, Jaren Hackwith. Public attendance at City Hall or Virtual City of Cove Public Works Dept. Eric Stone, Michael Otterstein, Heidi Rogers, Mike Riley. Virtual attendance by public and City Councilors were on "Go to Meeting".

All Council Members present.

Mayor Sherry Haeger called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to Agenda Mayor Sherry Haeger asked if anyone wished to add or change items on the Agenda.

- Added to Recorders Report
 - CIS SAIF changeover to CIS Jun 1, 2021 email attachment
 - Cove Cherry Fair Donation \$1000 to submit to pencil in for 2021-2022 Budget
 - Blue Mountain Humane Society Donation
 - Windwave Franchise Agreement Update progress with Laura Westmeyer
- Added to Mayor's Report
 - Discussion on Stop Signs
 - Resolution 3881 Baker City

Public Comment

- Maxine Parker questioned stop signs on all 4 corners and suggested the speeding to be addressed rather than punishing all the residents.
Council discussion regarding speed with pedestrians (adults and especially children) walking and bicycle traffic, the possibility of using speed cushions on selected roads and 2-way stop signs on a couple of cross streets on a trial basis.
Dave Coleman addressed idea of speed bumps. He had worked for 17 years in a police department. The problem with speed bumps in his jurisdiction was the fire department and ambulance responding to emergency calls worrying about shaking up patients they were transporting.
Council discussed possibility of citizens getting the license plate of the speeding vehicle and reporting them.
Dave: Johnson Public Works Director will look into the cost and report back at the next meeting.
- Mayor asked for any other public comment. None.

Announcement & Presenters – none.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of prior minutes
Councilor Shawn Parker noticed his comment on the stop signs was not added. Sherry Riley Recorder to add.
Council Matt McCowan asks question regarding Fiber Optics of what that is returning?
Donna – we are hoping for more comprehensive reports from the Quickbooks so you will get a report. I believe we have gotten 3 payments of \$200 to \$300. It is a line item in the Budget.

- Approval of bills to be paid
Councilor Jason Stone – viewing page 2 of the Council Bills Report. Card Service Center is this what we use to pay our bills?
Donna – Yes. There are things like Google Workspace, phones, HostGator, Go to Meeting, Office 365, office supplies.
Matt – Jason wasn't here last year when the Council voted to approve City of Cove staff a credit card to pay for expenses. As we move into more technology, it makes is easier to order online.
Lana: Is Graybeal volunteer insurance once a year?
Donna: Yes, we just started that back up for Clean Up Day and to cover Council and Budget Committee members on the volunteer insurance.

Council Vote: Council President Matt McCowan motions to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the change of Councilor Shawn Parker's comment.
Councilor Jordan Hackwith 2nds the motion.
Unanimous vote.

Mayor Sherry Haeger made announcement for 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing

Daniel Bowen – T-Mobile agent for U.S. Cellular - Property: 03S4021AD-600

Sherry Riley, Recorder states:

T-Mobile has requested the hearing be postponed until June 1st, 2021 because of the change in the plans.

Council President Matt McCowan: you sent out an email about that.

Donna Lewis, Recorder Advisor: The only reason we get to have it in June without advertising is that we notify at the time of the hearing that it has been postponed. That is why we are specific in our statement.

Recorder Report

Donna Lewis Recorder Advisor Report

- CIS/SAIF Change
City County Insurance (CIS) has partnered with SAIF for their Workers Compensation Coverage. The City uses SAIF for their coverage currently. You have copies of the e-mail correspondence on this subject. It is my intent to continue with CIS handling our SAIF coverage. In our correspondence with CIS and SAIF there is only a benefit in this change.
- QuickBooks
Megan at Guyer & Associates discussed the steps for setting up QuickBooks. We are in the process of entering the City of Cove's Chart of Accounts. She will be back after the first of the month. Megan's suggestions will be helpful in setting up in a way that will do Fund Accounting on a Cash Basis. In checking with the Auditor Yvonne and we have a plan that works better for Cash Basis Accounting than our old program. It will also be easier for gather information for monthly reports and for the auditors.
 - Training of the new City Recorder
 - Working on procedure's
 - Working on a Resource manual for the new City Recorder and the City Council
 - Accounts payable and General Ledger entries
 - Budget Training and Budget preparation
 - Zoning Hearing
 - Reserve Fund for Sewer Fund
 - Changeover of Bank account to Recorder Sherry Riley. Need Council vote to ok in the minutes to do the transfer in order for the bank to allow.

Council President Matt McCowan motioned to change Donna Lewis' signature to Sherry Riley's signature on the Community Bank account. Councilor Jason Stone 2nd the motion.
Unanimous vote.

Mayor Sherry Haeger asked if the Windwave Franchise Agreement was going to be discussed. Sherry Riley mentioned, the Windwave redline suggestions from Laura Westover of Cable Huston was just received this afternoon.
Council decision was to discuss the Windwave Franchise at the June 1st Council Meeting.

Sherry Riley Recorder Report

- Working on Budget
- Backflow Letters created and mailed 31 total
- Transcribed April 6th Council Meeting Minutes
- Council Meeting Prep and send email RSVP/PDF Meeting documents to Council.
- Cove Clean Up-Day: Design, Print and Direct Mail (Every Door Direct) mailer to 97824 Cove Residents. Mayor Sherry Haeger asked Sherry Riley to explain the procedure. Do we have big equipment that we borrow or donated? How does that work?
Sherry Riley answered, Mike Riley has been doing Cove Clean Up Day since 2005. He donates his time and gas costs. He brings his heavy equipment excavator or backhoe. Dave Johnson Public Works Director will use the City of Cove backhoe.
I had lined up dumpsters to be delivered Friday. We will have signs for people to follow. We ask for donations.
Mayor Sherry Haeger asked are we going to preemptively going to say to certain residents hey there is a clean-up day you can get rid of stuff? Because the nuisance ordinance will be signed today. Councilor Jason Stone agreed.
Sherry Riley mentioned everyone in 97824 zip code received it in the mail.
Mayor Sherry Haeger asked, weren't we talking about targeting certain residents that look like they are out of compliance?
Sherry Riley asked how are we going to do that?
Mayor Sherry Haeger, you look at their house.
Sherry Riley, according to the Nuisance Ordinance, it refers to the City of Cove right of way, not in their yard.
Council President Matt McCowan – do you want volunteers for that? I'll hand deliver some.
Councilor Jason Stone stated, there's things like a vehicle that is leaking oil or gasoline or an excessive amount of old cars.
Mayor Sherry Haeger, like refrigerators that are unsafe.
Sherry Riley, yes, it's in the Nuisance Ordinance.
Mayor Sherry Haeger, so does the Council not want to do that now?
Councilor Jason Stone, I think we should send them a letter in a polite way. Say we have people who will come and load the stuff up for you.
Councilor Lana Shira asked, so do we each take a section of town, get some addresses and bring them in.
Mayor Sherry Haeger, I was wondering if Dave had time to do that?
Councilor Jason Stone, Dave is the best person because he is out checking water.
Dave Johnson, Are there any the Council can think of off the top of their head now?
Councilor Lana Shira, I could give you some, but not today.
Dave Johnson stated if you could email those in it would help.
Councilor Matt McCowan: I know each homestead was contacted. Did we contact anyone from the school for volunteers? 18 year olds that could help.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, I was going to go talk to Superintendent Earl Pettit and I haven't had a chance. So I'll do that.

Council President Matt McCowan: There's a lot of seniors looking for credit with senior projects.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, I've already done that with 2 other organizations, that they are helping with.

Maxine Parker, it's not a requirement anymore for students.

Mayor Sherry Haeger said she would go talk to Superintendent Earl Pettit and see what he says.

Council President Matt McCowan, the city does budget a \$1000 scholarship.

Donna Lewis, the \$1000 scholarship was set up for a Youth Councilor. We didn't do it for 2021. We should get it lined out for 2022. But we didn't award the scholarship because they didn't go to the meetings, so she disqualified herself. We have an application we can send to Cove High School for next year.

Council President Matt McCowan: For Juniors and Seniors next year.

- Waste Pro – ordered 2 solid waste 48 yard dumpsters.
- B & K – ordered 2 metal 48 yard dumpsters in addition to the 1 metal dumpster we currently have.
- Cove High School Shop Teacher Russ Olmsted will remove tire rims from tires. Russ would like any bicycles intake.
- Prep for Union County Board of Commissioners Meeting May 4th* Sherry Riley asking for Funds for Cove Clean-Up Day.
- Submit Budget Committee Legal Ad and send copy to Yvonne CPA (auditor).
- Post Budget Committee on (COC)City of Cove website
- Create Agenda, meet with Mayor Sherry. Update Agenda/Post on City of Cove website, Cove Post Office and Public Board near Dollar's Corner Car Wash
- QuickBooks – met with Megan of Guyer & Associates. Megan suggested we upgrade to QuickBooks 2021 as the QuickBooks 2019 we currently have installed does not have Class Codes, which we need to use.
- We have installed QuickBooks 2021.
- Post Water/Sewer Payments and process Billing
- Delinquent Notification Mailing.
- Eastern Oregon Title fax response Lien.
- Covid19 Updates reviewed daily
- Continued work on Procedures for Training.
- Sherry Riley Thanked the Council for RSVP response to confirm Quorum.

Public Works Report Director Dave Johnson

- May public works report and an email request for road improvements on Geni/Susie Lanes. Council to discuss options further at the June 1, 2021 Council Meeting.
- Will also be finalizing/sending out requests for bids for the following projects this month:
 - 2nd/Hill Street culvert replacement
 - Poplar Street culvert replacement (FEMA funds)
 - Water street surfacing (FEMA funds)
 - French/Hill/2nd Streets asphalt overlay (SCA grant funds)

Public Works Report:

- Continuing to work with FEMA on flood damage reimbursement from February 2020 flood.
- ADA Ramp work continuing on Main Street. Wildish is the contractor.
- Will have a Safe Routes to School field visit on May 5th .

- Received 3rd quote for a radar “Your Speed” sign, \$4,048.00. Low quote so far for solar sign of \$2,599/each.
- Started camera inspection of sewer mains, borrowing camera trailer from City of Union.
- Working with Union County Emergency Management on updating the county wide natural hazard mitigation plan. The new plan will allow the city to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation funds.
- April 2021 Pumped drinking water 1,956,000 gallons
- Received wastewater 3,294,000 gallons
- Generated hydropower 357,289 kWhs

Mayor’s Report

- Covid19 update. We are open.
- Resolution 3881 – copy presented to the Council. Mayor Kerry McQuisten in Baker City has been all over Fox news in Boise. She is with grassroots people who don’t want Kate Brown dictating how we manage things in this county. I spoke with Lars Larsen that we know how to police ourselves.

Elgin had an outbreak 2 months ago. They figured out it was at the high school. The state representative did not know that. They wanted to shut down Elgin, but Elgin just shut down the high school and they were able to contain it. They kept their restaurants open. That is a good example how we can police ourselves.

So in Baker City, the businesses came to the council meeting asking the Council to back them up. We have common sense and can run our own city. In a 5 to 2 vote, they agreed to back them up. They created this document. They sent it to Kate Brown and it is getting a lot of press right now. When I was on Lars Larsen, I did it because I personally agree with it. So, we don’t have businesses coming to us right now, but I wouldn’t be surprised if they knew we’re open to hear them they would come to us. I have a call into Donna Beverage. All the county commissioners, Commissioners Beverage, Scarfo and Andres are behind this kind of idea. I am also going to bring this up at the next Mayor’s meeting. At our last Mayor’s meeting, all the mayors in northeast Oregon were really silenced. League of Oregon Cities brushed over the discussion about masks and how long do you have to wear masks. They would not answer it. The Mayors Meeting hasn’t really been very successful, the one run by Union County Chamber of Commerce. They are closed. So, Commissioner Beverage is assigned to the Mayor’s Meeting. The Mayors are all going to get together and talk about this. So I am just wondering what the thoughts are in the room about something like this.

Councilor Jason Stone, I have seen this and I also read the letter the Union County Commissioners sent to the state. I think, they are absolutely correct. Salem is over 300 miles away from here. Those are all high population density areas with millions of people and that is by no means what we are remotely like out here. Additionally, we have more information now on Covid19 than we ever did when this all kicked off. It’s not deadly to 99.9% of the people who get it. It’s like a really bad cold or flu. They are also finding better ways to treat it so that people who are getting it, aren’t going to die from it as like a year ago. To say the least about the damage this has done to us economically is horrible. We have thousands of businesses that have gone under that have been running for long periods of time where people have sunk tons of their own personal money into it and the state just shrugs it off. I think that is horrible.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, let me just say this is a safe zone. If you don’t agree with what Jason and I just said, that is totally cool.

Council President Matt McCowan, I just want to point out an observation. What Jason is referring to is the County Commissioner’s letter that was signed by numerous Eastern Oregon counties. This is a resolution by the City of Baker City. It is different from the County Commissioner’s letter.

Councilor Jason Stone, basically the County Commissioner's letter said, We're going to handle it ourselves.

Council President Matt McCowan, I would like to state publicly that I support Baker City's Resolution 3881 and I would like to move that the City of Cove adopt a resolution as well, for the record.

Councilor Jason Stone 2nd the motion.

Mayor Sherry Haeger asked who is in agreement. None opposed. Unanimous vote. I will make sure that it be known we signed up for this.

Council President Matt McCowan had one question. Can you make it public to the observer? I want everybody to know.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, that is what I was planning to help with. Sherry Riley can type it up. I will talk to the La Grande Observer tomorrow. I think we need to make our own resolution with our own number, our city name and then I will sign it since it has been passed. Is that okay?

Council President Matt McCowan, if we change the number do we have to have a revote?

Donna Lewis, No. I could go get you a number right now.

Mayor Sherry Haeger said, Mayor Kerry and I are having lunch next week. She will now pull me into her public comments and public forums. Since the Council is all behind me, thank you.

Donna Lewis gave number Resolution 2021-3.

Mayor Sherry Haeger asked Council if there was a motion for Resolution 2021-3.

Council President Matt McCowan moved to adopt Resolution 2021-3.

Councilor Jordan Hackwith 2nd the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Unanimous vote.

Municipal Court – Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021 Final reading

- Mayor Sherry Haeger read the final reading.
ORDINANCE 1-2021 AN ORDINANCE DEFINING AND PROHIBITING NUISANCES; PROVIDING FOR THEIR ABATEMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES; REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1 SERIES 1971; REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1999-1; and THE COUNCIL DECLARES THERE TO BE AN EMERGENCY NECESSITATING THIS ORDINANCE TAKING EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.
- Mayor Sherry Haeger asks for Public Comment. None given.
- Donna Lewis mentioned there was a citizen complaint about a Waste Pro oversized garbage can being in the City of Cove's right of way. It is not in the Nuisance Ordinance 2021-1. It is the neighbor across the street garbage can that had it delivered to the other side.
Council discussed it would include anything in the City of Cove's right of way. Also, once the Nuisance Ordinance 2021-1 is approved, then they can file a complaint.
Councilor Jason Stone makes a motion to adopt Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021. Councilor Jordan Hackwith 2nd the motion. Unanimous vote.

City Hall Remodel

- City of Cove is waiting to hear from the American Rescue Plan the legislative decision on how the Cares money may be allocated. We need more room for meetings, the remodel would accommodate social distancing. There is \$133,000 set aside for Cove.
Council agreed it would be better if there was a ventilation system, more space between people in the room.

Good of the Order

- Cove Clean Up Day - Various Council members volunteered to help with Cove Clean Up Day. Donna Lewis asked for clarification on the Council's suggesting sending out letters to specific residents regarding the Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021.
Councilor Jason Stone mentioned picking up from seniors who are not able to lift things.

Mayor Sherry Haeger said she and Councilor Lana Shira will get addresses where we should send letters.

Donna Lewis said, We just need some kind of criteria to use, if you guys are going to do that, that's great.

Mayor Sherry Haeger said, if it is against the Nuisance Ordinance and it looks like they need help, then send a letter and say we will help you. On an exception basis. I'll go to the people I know and ask if they need help. So, if you have addresses, get them over to Sherry otherwise it is going to be on everybody's honor.

Public Comment

- Future considerations
- Comments on today's decision
 - Amber Parker said she agreed with the Council regarding the Covid discussion. Amber also commented on the stop sign proposal. People should have knowledge of Oregon driving regulations. Residents who obey the laws, shouldn't be punished for those who do not. Amber pointed out there is a stop sign in front of her house, where people do not stop. Councilor Jason Stone pointed out a person driving 25 mph would not be affected by the speed bump. Amber Parker suggested to post some signs or have Yield signs at the crossroads. She had witnessed a resident speaking firmly with the young man who was speeding. Mayor Sherry Haeger said, Jason also pointed out we could do citations if we had stop signs. But I think we all agree, no stop signs. We are going to do a trial with speed bumps in strategic locations.
 - Maxine Parker said she thought putting in speed bumps would entice young people. Regarding a high school senior or junior being on the council, the scholarship automatically given to the senior. She didn't agree with this. If the junior is qualified, it shouldn't automatically go to the senior. Maxine asked if the city would a letter about something in the Nuisance Ordinance or will they only do something about it if the neighbor has to complain, put their name down and anger the neighbor. Councilor Jason Stone stated anybody can file a complaint. You may not live on that street, but you drive by and you see a big mountain of garbage or something, you could file a complaint. Dave is out checking water meters on a regular basis and if he clearly sees something that is a gross violation to the city ordinance, then he can bring it to the Council's attention. A letter can be sent to the resident they are in violation of the ordinance. Maxine Parker stated the biggest problem is the abandoned vehicles or non-operative parked in the right of way with weeds growing up, will that be resolved with the new ordinance. Council President Matt McCowan confirmed, if it is in the right of way it is a nuisance. If it's in their property, it's a project. Maxine's question is does she have to complain or will the city address it. Mayor Sherry Hager said, if someone brings it up at a council meeting. If you officially complain or if we see it. Council President Matt McCowan responded that any citizen could reach out to any councilor member or mayor. Mayor Sherry Haeger said it can be brought up to any one council member, because can't have any issue where we all talk before the meeting. Councilor Jason Stone stated, Then, we can send Dave to go look. Dave Johnson asked if that is what the Council wants him to do. I believe we have had to have a complaint from the citizen.

Mayor Sherry Haeger read from the Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021.

“ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY. Means: The City council or any person or entity who has been delegated to act on behalf of the City Council, including a Code Enforcement Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or Municipal Judge. Nothing herein shall limit the responsibility, authority, or powers of enforcement given under other city ordinances or other state law.”

We don't have a Code Enforcement Officer.

Maxine Parker asked, Does the City enforce the Nuisance Ordinance on it's own or only when they get a complaint?

Councilor Jason Stone responded, I think if witnessed.

Mayor Sherry Haeger suggests citizens to read the ordinance and see if it doesn't cover your concern and let the Council know.

Councilor Jason stated anyone on the Council can fill out a complaint.

Councilor Shawn Parker stated, it should be complaint driven. Dave has enough to do.

Councilor Jason Stone stated, if Dave were to see something that is a clear gross violation, to report it.

- The Council requested the Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021, now that it has passed, to be mailed out to all residents including landlords.

Mayor Sherry Haeger stated the Council will give Sherry addresses of people to receive the special letter.

Council President Matt McCowan addressed Maxine Parker's question about City Council Student. There were 2 applicants, last time. We picked the senior. The senior actually failed to do her duties. She was not awarded the scholarship. There are responsibilities when the student is chosen. They need to fulfill the obligations. We had a junior and a senior. We awarded the senior the position.

Councilor Lana Shira stated the Council had read the letters and compared them.

Council President Matt McCowan stated he would have loved to have the junior to apply the following year, but we didn't have one due to Covid.

Adjournment

Mayor Sherry Haeger adjourned the meeting.

Mayor

Recorder