

**City of Cove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2021**

Mayor Sherry Haeger opened the regular session of Cove Common Council at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Matt McCowan, Councilor Jason Stone, Councilor Shawn Parker, Councilor Alan Cadinha. Also present were Public Works Director Dave Johnson, Recorder Sherry Riley. Public presence Cindy Edwards and Del Little. Virtual attendance by public and City Councilors were on "Go to Meeting". Councilor Jordan Hackwith. City of Cove Advisor Donna Lewis. Public attendance at City Hall or Virtual City of Cove Public Works Dept. Eric Stone. Public: Alexis Cannon, Maxine Parker, Mike Riley.  
Council members not present: Councilor Lana Shira

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

**Additions/Changes to Agenda**

- Windwave Technologies legal review
- Email in opposition to Resolution 2021-3 Justin Fratzke of Cove added to Mayor's Report

**Public Comment**

- Alexis Cannon thanked the Council for all their hard work on the Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021.
- Del Little asked if he was able to comment regarding his suggested Fire Ordinance. This had been put on the Mayor's Report section of the meeting. Del stated he was present to answer questions.

**Announcements & Presenters**

- Cove Cherry Fair – Cindy Edwards
  - Thanked Council for donation this year as there was no County Room Tax funds available this year, which had previously supported the advertising costs.
  - Elkhorn Media radio advertising 2 weeks before event and they will be filming this year..
  - No hot air balloon this year, but we will have a mechanical bull for a small fee for the adults.
  - The Train will be for kids. The fire engine will be there.
  - Quilt show will be present. Quilt Raffle. Possible Fun Run some middle schoolers want to use the Fun Run for their fundraiser.
  - Inquiry of temporary storage for 2 racks of folding chairs inside City Hall shop. They will be looking for a 16 ft trailer in future to hold Cherry Fair items. They are currently painting their house, so there is need for temporary storage for 2 racks with 60 chairs total.
  - Cindy is looking for someone to take over as Cove Cherry Fair Manager after she has taken this job on for 7 years.
- Cove Cherry Fair Parade Letter acknowledged by Council to have the specific roads closed during the parade. Paperwork with ODOT for Hwy 237.

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of May 4, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
  - Approval of bills to be paid
  - Approval of May 11, 2021 Budget Meeting Minutes
- Council Vote:** Councilor Jason Stone motions to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Councilor Alan Cadinha 2nds the motion. Unanimous vote.

**Budget Hearing 7:30 pm**

Mayor Sherry Haeger opened the Budget Hearing to discuss the 2020-2021 Budget and giving citizens an opportunity to comment. Hearing no public comment given.

- Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues – Resolution 2021-4
  - **Council Vote:** Council President Matt McCowan motioned to move approval of Resolution 2021-4 a resolution declaring the City's Election to receive State Revenues for the use for General Fund Insurance. Councilor Jason Stone 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.
- Adopting the Budget – Resolution 2021-5

- **Council Vote:** Council President Matt McCowan motioned move approval of Resolution 2021-5 adopting the budget presented. Councilor Jason Stone 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.

### Recorder's Report

- Resolution 2020-2  
Correction 6/1/2021 The Sewer Fund amounts corrected.
  - **Council Vote:** Council President Matt McCowan motioned move approval of Resolution 2020-2 correction as presented. Councilor Jason Stone 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.
- Cares Money \$16,364.86 remaining
- Cove Clean-Up Day Recap
- City of Cove Councilor's Booth at Cove Cherry Fair

### Public Works Director's Report – Dave Johnson

- Idea to use CARES funds to buy a vehicle for the City of Cove to use for conferences, post office, bank. It is a justifiable expense. Also we looked at an air purification filtration system.  
There is a section on there that states separate employees
  - **Council Vote:** Council President Matt McCowan motioned Public Works Director Dave Johnson to spend the Cares money on the ideas. Councilor Alan Cadinha 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.
- Continuing to work with FEMA on flood damage reimbursement from February 2020 flood.
- ADA Ramp work continuing on Main Street. Wildish is the contractor.
- Safe Routes to School Field Visit postponed until the fall.
- Received 1 bid, Riley Excavation, for culvert replacement work at corner of 2nd/Hill Streets. Request For Bid (RFB) and Quote received. Sent out RFB to 4 contractors. Dave Johnson Public Works Director stated, he would like to make a recommendation on awarding bid.
  - **Council Vote:** Councilor Shawn Parker motioned to approve. Councilor Jason Stone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Unanimous vote.
- Received 2 estimates for speed bumps. Low quote of \$2,027 per each location on 18-20' wide street.
  - **Council Vote:** Councilor Jason Stone motioned to approve purchasing speed cushions. Council President Matt McCowan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Unanimous vote
- Will be applying for SCA Grant to widen Conklin and other additional road improvements.
- Geni/Susie cost estimates. Asphalt Paving, Oil Mat, Gravel Leveling Course, Dust Abatement. The Geni/Susie area was put in by a contractor prior to the ODOT Transportation System Plan (TSP) was adopted.  
Councilor Jason Stone mentioned the TSP (Transportation System Plan) is long overdue for change. Public Works Director Dave Johnson mentioned, he applied for the grant. The application is still in the works which looks at updating our TSP. They will look at our TSP. You need to do some justification, just because it is expired isn't justifiable enough for the City to spend the money on getting a new one. If you have more development in certain areas, present needs or things have changed the way the City has developed. Just because it is 20 years past due, doesn't mean it is not valid anymore.  
Councilor Jason Stone stated, the plan itself requires us to redo it every 5 years, so we are actually in violation of the ordinance.  
Public Works Director – Dave Johnson stated, yes, so we could do that here or we could get consultants involved to look at the plan or we could try and get a grant for that.  
Mayor Sherry Haeger: What do you recommend?  
Public Works Director – Dave Johnson: Right now the next step. I did the preapplication a couple months ago. If the Council can come up with a good justification for something the actual application, it might take another Council Meeting. We can look at and see what our reasons for a need to update our TSP.  
Mayor Sherry Haeger and Councilor Jason Stone agree we need and also need public input.  
Public Works Director Dave: we could put on the end of next month.  
Mayor Sherry Haeger suggested a separate work session because it is going to be emotional. Because people don't like where the roads are currently planned.  
Councilor Jason Stone: We have to have public input.  
Mayor Sherry Haeger: I just think if we advertise it and get public input, we will be able to move forward. Is that too quick? Something Mayor keeps hearing coming up all the time. I would rather look at it and then move on and be done with it, if you guys are good with that?

Sherry Riley City Recorder to find out steps.. advertising and putting on calendar. TSP Work Session with public input.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: We were talking about the dust abatement on Geni/Susie. Before we move onto anything else, are we going to approve anything?

- o **Council Vote:** Councilor Alan Cadinha motioned to do the oil spray on Geni/Susie Roads. Councilor Jason Stone 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Yay: Councilor Matt McCowan and Councilor Jordan Hackwith. Nay: Shawn Parker.

## Mayor's Report

Mayor Sherry Haeger

Personnel – I was going to, this is kind of touchy and I was thinking of just doing an Executive Session without our personnel here. Basically, Donna is on the line and Sherry Riley is here and it is what I want to talk about with those two. Donna is not healthy. I am worried about her continuing on full time and even part time. Our original plan was for her to be part time until the end of July and then have her fade off. And I really love Donna and Sherry both, so it's hard to talk about it in front of them. I was going to do in a management meeting to do it that way. But it's fair to do it this way. I just really feel like Sherry is competent and even though there are holes and there are things she's got to learn, I feel that she can do this job without Donna.

Sherry Riley Recorder – Okay, but I am thinking, if I can talk. Donna had a reaction to the second Covid shot.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: But I am not even talking about that Sherry. I am talking about in general and In full disclosure, I had a conversation with her husband and he said we need to figure out for her not to work

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Then that is the bottom line then.

Donna Lewis (virtual online) Noooooo.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I am just telling you about a private conversation I had with him on Cove Clean Up Day. But on the other hand...

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Was that Donna on the phone?

Mayor Sherry Haeger: She said, No. But on the other hand, I really think this is a conversation for the Council and then we go from there. If we need to have a private discussion and have an Executive Session, then I am fine with that, if this is uncomfortable conversation which I am used to having. Ummm, I think about the money too that we have approved and it's only been approved to a certain point. Now I am looking at Matt, because I know his pocket is tight. But I know we all love Donna and you know we all want to help her. Retire in a way that she feels comfortable. But at the same time, I am feeling very uncomfortable with an indefinite ending.

Sherry Riley Recorder: We were looking at Donna going part time and being an advisor if she is okay with that. You know because she has valuable experience with the Assessor's Office and all of that too.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Yeah, I am not doubting any of that at all.

Councilor Jason Stone: We could ask if she is interested in an advisor capacity.

Council President Matt McCowan: I would really like it to be Donna's decision.

Council mutually agrees to this statement Matt has mentioned.

This is based on the community, right?

Sherry Riley Recorder: Also in the Minutes, Donna is titled as, Advisor.

Council President Matt McCowan: We're asking Donna.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Yeah. We need somebody part time. Now I am going to go into my manager mode that maybe is not necessarily a mayor role, but a manager mode in an executive capacity. When somebody stays on that has prior experience and they have a lot of prior experience, that is good. However, I would like to see Sherry flourish and do her own business processes and knowledge and grow. Because we hired her to, as somebody who is competent and be able to run City Hall.

Sherry Riley Recorder: But I have been doing that. So...

Councilor Jason Stone: I don't think anyone would get in her way at all.

Sherry Riley Recorder: I don't think so either and we work great together.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Okay, then what I'd like to do is call an Executive Session with just us.

Sherry Riley Recorder: Okay.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: And I think I need to do that with a certain ordinance and I don't know the number. So I will do that after this meeting. I'm calling an Executive Session with the Council.

Donna Lewis Advisor(virtual): Can I speak, Sherry?

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Absolutely. Yes, please go.

Donna Lewis Advisor: I don't have a problem. I don't believe my husband would have said that to you. I am not unhealthy. You also need to check with League of Oregon Cities or City County Insurance because I think the employee is entitled to be there at an Executive Session when you are talking there.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Nope. So, Yeah Donna, thank you I already did check with the League of Oregon Cities and as long as I have an attorney present, I do not need to have the employee there. So my plan is to have an attorney there. Just the matters of the City and I am not trying to do something undermining. I just think it is an important conversation that I feel I need to have with just the Council. So if I do find out from legal council that the employee is required to be there, then that is fine. The meeting needs to be recorded and an attorney needs to be present. So that it is public record following the Executive Session.

Donna Lewis Advisor: Well, I am so surprised. I have given so much to the city.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Donna, you are taking it wrong. It is not about that. I am not asking you to be fired or anything like that. I want to have a conversation where I speak freely without hurting anybody's feelings. That is truthfully what I want to do. I have a lot of faces in this room that don't like that statement and I am sorry that as the Mayor of Cove I feel that I need to have the conversation. And I can't do it one on one. I have to have the whole Council there to do it. To have the conversation. I am not trying to get rid of you Donna. It's not anything against you at all. It's just how I think business needs to run for the City of Cove. It's the best for the City of Cove.

Donna Lewis City of Cove Advisor: Well then I don't have a problem, yeah. If you are done with me, you're done with me. That's fine.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Donna.

Council President Matt McCowan: Whoa.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: That's not what I said, at all.

Donna Lewis: Okay. Well, okay. I don't have anymore comments.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Ok. I am sorry you took it that way, but there was no other way for me to call this Executive Session.

Councilor Jason Stone: This feels like it is from out of left field. I don't know.

Other Council members in room agree.

Council President Matt McCowan: You need to put the genie back in the bottle.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: What I heard...the husband said, cause, I don't know...You know, I don't know this.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I have managerial courage and my courage is saying, I see a problem that I think it needs to be addressed and it's not necessarily Donna.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Okay, you said her husband. Because like I said, I don't know what goes on. It sounds like her health took a turn for the worse.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: That's not what it's about. At the Cove Clean Up, we were in here talking. Me and her husband, he said. And I said, we just appreciate all the work Donna does. I was praising her and he said, you need to get her out of that job for her health. That's what he said to me. That's all he said and he walked away. What do I do with that?!

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Okay, well you talk to...

Council President Matt McCowan: We didn't hire her husband.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Thank you! Thank you!

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I am not saying we did.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: No, but you said, What do we do? And I agree with what he said.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I don't think we hired her husband either. You don't want to have a meeting Matt?!

Council President Matt McCowan: It's your call. I'll be here.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: We need to have it! And I think it's important. And if you guys all say, no we're going to keep doing what we are doing right now, I am totally good with that.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Okay.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I have no problem with that.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Got it.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: There are times when you have a conversation. A private conversation and the only way to do that in public service is to do it legally. If I have an attorney turn tail and say, never mind I was wrong. That's a different story. I have already contacted League of Oregon Cities and I know exactly what I have to do. And this is it. I could have just sent you guys a letter and not done this right here.

Council President Matt McCowan: You don't have the right to get rid of her without the Council.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Absolutely, I don't.

Councilor Shawn Parker: Is the City paying for the attorney?

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I don't know yet.

Councilor Shawn Parker: Because that will have to go through..

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I haven't done all my homework yet.

Council President Matt McCowan: I think you should have brought this up a little bit differently.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Okay how should I have brought it up? Tell me.

Council President Matt McCowan: I would like to have a meeting about personnel. Do it in the Executive Meeting and not broadcast what the meeting was about until after the Executive Meeting.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I did say it was about personnel and you guys all jumped down my throat.

Council President Matt McCowan: Oh my.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: No Matt. That is absolutely true! That is exactly what just happened!

Council President Matt McCowan: I'm missing that part.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Whatever! Okay, I will take the high road and say, you're right I could have done it differently. We need to have a meeting about personnel and I want to call an Executive Session without personnel there.

Councilor Shawn Parker: Without an attorney then.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Until I get the information back from the attorney about how much it costs and how it gets paid for, then we'll talk about it.

Council President Matt McCowan: It's not tonight after the meeting.

Councilor Shawn Parker: We can't have an Executive Session meeting without personnel.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Yes, we can. That is what I am telling you. I've already contacted... It's not tonight. The Executive Session is a different separate meeting. You'll get a letter from the attorney saying when it happens and who's gonna be there. To protect me! As the Mayor. I've already dealt ... I've already sought council with two other mayors and the city commissioner. Or county commissioner. And this is the advice I've gotten from them and League of Oregon Cities. I don't know what else to tell you.

Councilor Jason Stone: So we'll get a letter?

Mayor Sherry Haeger: You'll get a letter and it will get posted to the public as well. I don't know how else to do a hard conversation guys. This is how I know. Yeah.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: Okay, I am not trying.. this is any anger. All we are doing is talking about stuff, but the deal is you know, first of all, I didn't like what Donna was thinking, that we are done with her. But what I am saying is why did it have to get to this point? If there are any problems, her husband said something. Either we talk to Donna or you talk to Donna about this. I thought you had a plan, that she was going to keep running the

way she is and then when Sherry figured that she was setting good with taking the reins that Donna would switch into a consulting type of job.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: How long will that take Alan?

Councilor Alan Cadinha: I don't know.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: This is the problem.

Councilor Shawn Parker: My hope is that she would be the part time consultant.

Sherry Riley Recorder: That is what we were thinking too.

Councilor Alan Cadinha: We are just talking. We're not jumping down your throat. I'm not.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: I could have left the husband comment out. I could have left it out. Sorry about that. Put the genie back in the bottle. The problem is, there is a bigger conversation that I feel needs to happen, and I do not feel that this forum is the right forum.

Council President Matt McCowan: I agree with you. Can we move onto the next topic? And stop this part of the meeting.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Absolutely.

Mayor Sherry Haeger: Okay, so now that that was fun! Let's go to Del Little Fire Ordinance Submission.

### **Del Little Fire Ordinance Submission**

- Public Comment: Del Little stated, there has basically been problems with people burning improperly within the city. Del had spoken with Deb Hansen, who said they have limited action they can take on complaints. Del researched by contacting Union County Sherriff's Department who referred to the County Ordinance. Del said, since the Council just approved the Nuisance Ordinance 1-2021, that we could work on a Burn Ordinance. Del drew up a suggested fire ordinance for the Council to review.
- Del Little had submitted documents to City of Cove Council to review:
  - Resources used to develop proposed Burn Ordinance
  - Request for the Creation of a Burn Ordinance
  - Proposed Draft Ordinance Regulating City of Cove Fire Ordinance 2021

Mayor Sherry Haeger thanked Del and asked for Council comments.

Councilor Jason Stone stated, he thought we might need something like this, but would like to read through more thoroughly.

Council President Matt McCowan, stated he would like to talk to the Cove Fire Department regarding smoking leaves at night and unattended burn barrels that they should come out and put it out.

Public Works Director Dave Johnson stated, the Cove Rural Fire Department has an ordinance they passed back in 2007, which covers the Cove area and it talks about burn barrels. That is why you call into the Fire Department before you burn.

Council President Matt McCowan, that's what I thought.

Del Little, in 2018 they modified those rules.

Public Works Director Dave Johnson, that is the county.

Council President Matt McCowan, before we go adopting something that may already be in place, I would like to make sure it is already in place.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, I have a meeting set up with Fire Chief Scott Loree and I am going to ask him to come to our next meeting. I believe it is already covered.

Councilor Jason Stone, Can we give him a copy of Mr. Little's proposal?

Mayor Sherry Haeger, Yes, I can give it to him. I think he might already have it.

Councilor Jason Stone, There is always a chance he thought of something not on the ordinance.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, I will ask Mr. Loree when I talk to him tomorrow.

Del Little, I already gave a copy to Deb Hansen and Nate. They were going to take it to the board.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, That's why I think Scott has it. I think it is already covered in 5a in the City of Cove Rural Fire Department. If they want to do more as far as enforcing, they have the authority to do that.

Sherry do we have any people calling in fire complaints?

Sherry Riley Recorder, complaints would be directed towards the City of Cove Rural Fire Department.

Mayor Sherry Haeger, we will have Fire Chief Scott Loree come and speak with the Council.

**Windwave Franchise Agreement** to be reviewed by Council for the July 6, 2021 Council Meeting.

**Email in opposition to Resolution 2021-3 Justin Fratzke of Cove**

Mayor Sherry Haeger inquired and then stated, Justin was not online or in person at the Council meeting. In Justin's email, he stated it is unlawful and inaccurate in nature. There are some things the Mayor would like to change in it after rereading it. Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten had already made an amendment to the Baker City Resolution 3881. If we could do just a little bit more homework and have a hearing on it. We will take public comment because we really didn't take a lot of public comment. It wasn't publicized as a hearing.

Council President Matt McCowan stated it is a resolution, it doesn't require public comment. The Council agreed to leave Resolution 2021-3 as it is written.

**Municipal Court**

Sherry Riley Recorder stated at the previous Council Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Council mentioned residents could just contact anyone on the Council, but in the Nuisance Ordinance it does say they need to file a written complaint. Sherry asking if the Council would like us to research further on municipal court options. Councilor Jason Stone mentioned we do have a county wide justice court if there is a way for us to get on board with that.

Council President Matt McCowan mentioned there has already been a bunch of municipal court research done a couple of years ago the attorney in Union that does the municipal court in Union. Donna has notes on that with fee range. It was looked at Island City, Elgin, but the Union one was least expensive. Baum is the attorney and the magistrate for Union. Matt suggested Sherry to review the information gathered previously.

Sherry Riley Recorder will look into the information.

**Cove Cherry Fair Councilor's to host MEET YOUR COUNCIL**

The Council agreed. Gather recycle brochures to hand out. Grocery bags for visitors to carry items. Council President Matt McCowan said, We could just to give them something and say Hi.

Councilor Alan Cadinha agreed to host.

Cindy Edwards responded, If you are not selling anything, it is free space. You just need to fill out a vendor form.

**Good of the Order – None.**

**Public Comment**

- Future considerations
- Comment's on today's decision

Councilor Alan Cadinha stated he was impressed by the Cove Clean Up Day.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Sherry Haeger adjourned the meeting.

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Council President

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Recorder