

City of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021

Mayor Sherry Haeger opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7 p.m. with, President of the Council Matt McCowan, Councilor Alan Cadinha, Councilor Lana Shira, Councilor Jordan Hackwith. Also present were Public Works Director Dave Johnson, Records Donna Lewis and Sherry Riley. Virtual attendance: Councilor Shawn Parker. Public virtual attendance: Michael Otterstein, Amy Johnson, Alexis Cannon, Eric Stone, Eric Franta, Maxine Parker.

Virtual attendance by public and City Councilors were on “Go to Meeting”.

Not in attendance: Councilor Jason Stone

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

Mayor Sherry Haeger requested virtual persons when speaking to state name, then speak.

Public Comment – None given at this time.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of prior minutes from February 2, 2021 regular meeting. Council President Matt McCowan moved to approve the February 2, Meeting minutes. Councilor Jordan Hackwith second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of bills to be paid. Council President Matt McGowan moved to approve the bills to be paid. Councilor Alan Cadinha seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder Report

- Council reviewed reports by the Records Donna Lewis and Sherry Riley.

Public Works Director Report

- Council reviewed report by the Public Works Director.
- Dave brought up the current Transportation Growth Management Program (TGM). It is a 20-year-old plan. Dave mentioned it is up to the Council if they wish to pursue submitting a TGM Program Pre-Application 2021. Once submitted, ODOT would take a look at our transportation system and determine if it needs to be updated. Mayor Sherry Haeger asked if the Council would like to motion. Councilor Lana Shira motioned to ask Dave to submit the TGM Program Pre-Application 2021. Councilor President Matt McCowan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- We are working on getting a back-up generator for the city in case we have an ice storm or something that lasts longer than a week to provide water to the community.
- Councilor Alan Cadinha inquired and Donna Lewis responded, now that Dave Johnson has his certification Mike Brown will no longer be on the City of Cove payroll.

Mayor's Report

- Cherry Fair is scheduled for August 21st. The Beer Festival, which is managed by the La Grande Main Street Downtown, had been scheduled the same date. Mayor Sherry Haeger spoke with Director Taylor Scroggins and the Beer Festival has been rescheduled for a different date.
- Cindy Edwards, President of the Cove Community Association (CCA)/Cove Cherry Fair is retiring after this year. Mayor Sherry will be putting together a proposal.
- Covid19 update – Union County is Open with a Moderate Level. We will educate, not enforce.
- Parking at the school – We had an informal complaint. There were some people parking in the street because of the snow. There was an accident. Mayor Sherry Haeger spoke with Superintendent Pettit who discovered students were parking out there. He sent out a memo to the students that they will be liable financially for any accident that happens if they are not parked appropriately.
- Food Bank – Information has been posted on the City of Cove website. Good information to share.

Budget

- Appoint New Budget Committee Members: Michael Farrell, Michael Siniff, Lonnie Weaver and Pam Mann. Council President Matt McCowan moved to approve the new Budget Committee Members. Councilor Jordan Hackwith second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next step, the Budget Committee elects a Budget Committee Chairman at the Budget Meeting.
- April 27th at 7:00 p.m. – Budget Meeting (tentative)
- June 1st at 7 p.m. – Budget Hearing (tentative)

Job Reviews –

Mayor Sherry Haeger asked who on the City Council would like to volunteer to be on the Job Review Committee. Mayor Sherry Haeger, Councilors Lana Shira and Jordan Hackwith volunteered. It was proposed Mayor Sherry Haeger and Councilor Lana Shira will look over the current Job Review Process. Mayor Sherry Haeger will present a proposal to the Councilors at the April 6th Council Meeting.

Recorder Donna Lewis will find the current Cost of Living increase for the Council to consider.

Budget Resolution – Moved to April Council Meeting.

Municipal Court – Nuisance Ordinance. Council President Matt McCowan moved to approve the Draft Nuisance Ordinance a First Reading will be at the April 6 Council Meeting. Councilor Shawn Parker second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Underground Fiber Technology:

Windwave Technologies/Inland Development Corporation provided a Franchise Agreement to City of Cove after starting work for excavation beside City of Cove streets to provide fiber optics line to the Cove School District. The Council asked at the February 2, 2021 Council Meeting to have Windwave Technologies Inc., DBA Windwave Communications/Inland Development Corporation Franchise Agreement to be reviewed by League of Oregon Cities (LOC).

LOC responded they do not handle Franchise Agreements and referred City of Cove with a list of legal attorneys specializing in these documents.

Recorder Sherry Riley emailed the listed attorneys and provided City of Cove Council with quotes from 4 legal firms to review the Windwave Franchise Agreement. At the meeting, Council President Matt McCowan suggested Windwave pay for the legal review and to have Records Donna/Sherry Riley and Public Works Dave Johnson choose the legal firm. Mayor Sherry Haeger offered to contact Windwave and negotiate having them pay for the legal review.

City Hall Remodel

Public Works Director Dave Johnson presented the Council with a layout of the proposed City Hall Remodel from Fall 2020. We would need updated costs as the costs of materials have gone up.

Recorder Donna mentioned there may be Cares Money which would reimburse the City of Cove for what was spent on a new ventilation system. The Cares Money must be Covid related and spent before the June 30, 2021 date, unless they extend the deadline.

Councilor Shawn Parker asked Dave if a generator back up system for emergency if the power goes off. Ventilator won't work without electricity.

Council President Matt McCowan *motioned* to spend the Cares money for the upgrade of the ventilation system for City Hall and possibly a backup generator. Councilor Alan Cadinha *seconded the motion*. Motion passed unanimously.

Blue Mountain Humane Society

City of Cove was sent a letter asking for a donation with data listing services BMHS provided to Union County. Our records show the last donation was 2011 for \$500. The Council determined to ask BMHS to present to the council the services provided to the City of Cove.

Good of the Order

Councilor Jordan Hackwith had someone come into Dollar's Corner asking for information on the Greater Idaho Mandate. The Council suggested to direct people with questions to the Union County Commissioners. Donna Beverage is the Cove liaison.

Councilor Alan asked about the handicap curbs on corners to be installed.

Public Works Dave Johnson said it was in his report. It is funded with State of Oregon funds. Once they are done, the City of Cove will maintain them.

Councilor Lana Shira asked Councilor Jordan Hackwith, who owns Dollar's Corner, if there is a donation set up for fuel for the volunteers who have been doing volunteer snow removal.

Councilor Jordan Hackwith said that citizens wishing to donate money to specific accounts may do so.

Councilor Alan Cadinha asked if we can budget to give funds to volunteers who do snow removal.

Councilor President Matt McCowan responded; Volunteers should be funded by volunteer funds.

Councilor Lana Shira stated it makes volunteer an employee of the city. Lana asked if it can be advertised to the City of Cove residents that donations can be made at Dollar's Corner for specific accounts of volunteers who perform snow removal.

Mayor Sherry Haeger will bring it up at the Mayor's Meeting and see what other cities do.

Recorder Donna Lewis will contact our insurance company and clarify if the city can make donation to volunteer snow removal.

Adjournment

Mayor Sherry Haeger adjourned the meeting.