

**City Of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022**

Call to Order

Mayor Sherry Haeger called the regular session of the Cove Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. located at City of Cove City Hall, 504 Alder St., Cove, Oregon, 97824. Remote access to the meeting was active with public participation.

Council Members Present: Council President Matt McCowan, Councilors Lana Shira, Shawn Parker, Jordan Hackwith, Jason Stone, and Youth Councilor Ashtyn Larson.

Virtual Council Members Present: No Council Members were present virtually.

City Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Johnson, City Recorder Sherry Riley, Billing Clerk Kerri McCowan.

Virtual City Staff Present: No city staff was present virtually.

Council Members not Present: Councilor Alan Cadinha.

City Staff not Present: All city staff was present.

Public Present: Dave Coleman, Alexis Cannon

Virtual Public Present: Eric Stone, Mike Riley, Michael Otterstein.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Haeger.

Council Roll Call

Roll call performed by Sherry Riley, City Recorder. A quorum was determined to be present.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

One Time Forgiveness Allowance Doug Taylor (See New Business)

Public Comment

Alexis Cannon thanked Dave Johnson for facilitating the paving job, and leveling the shoulders on French, Hill, and Second Street.

Consent Agenda and Approval of Bills to be Paid

- Council Minutes October 4, 2022
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

Motion: Council President Matt McCowan moved to approve the Consent Agenda and bills to be paid as presented. Councilor Jordan Hackwith seconded. Councilor Jason Stone abstained. Motion approved by majority vote.

Correspondence

- Nuisance Complaints
 - Swenson French Drain Complaint
The Swenson French Drain and weed complaint was reviewed, and discussion ensued. It was noted there is nothing that is violating any county or city ordinances regarding French Drains, and it does not appear the weeds are noxious, but if there is still concern

on the complainants end regarding the weeds it was determined to direct them to call Union County Weed Abatement.

- Snider Fire Hydrant Complaint
The Snider fire hydrant complaint was reviewed. The mayor noted this has been settled. She directed the complainant to call the Sheriff's Office as this is related to a state law. It has nothing to do with the city. No further action from the city is needed.

Unfinished Business

- Cove Christmas Tree Lighting Event
The Cove Community Association (CCA) is asking for support from the city in purchasing the Christmas lights for the Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling event this December. They would also welcome any volunteer support in any way. Discussion ensued and it was confirmed the city has money available to donate, so it was determined to give the CCA \$200.00 in support of this event.

Sherry Riley will reach out to the CCA to notify them of the agreed upon donation.

Motion: Councilor Lana Shira moved to approve contributing \$200.00 to the CCA in support of the Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling event. Councilor Jordan Hackwith seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

- One Time Forgiveness Allowance – Water Leak, Doug Taylor
The request from Doug Taylor for a one-time forgiveness allowance on his October water bill was reviewed. In his request he explained he was notified of a water leak but has not been able to identify where it is. He noted he is working on correcting it, but it is not yet fixed. He is requesting a one-time forgiveness on his October bill. It was discussed he may end up needing more help after next month's bill; therefore, it was determined to move his request forward to the next meeting.

Motion: Councilor Jason Stone moved to forward Doug Taylor's one time forgiveness allowance to the next meeting. Council President Matt McCowan seconded. Councilor Lana Shira opposed. Motion approved by majority vote.

- Oregon Mayor's Association (OMA) Homelessness Taskforce Plan
The Oregon Mayor's Association Homelessness Taskforce Plan was reviewed, and discussion ensued. It was felt it did not really apply to the City of Cove as we are not a big city and we do not have a huge homelessness issue. However, it was also noted we do have a homelessness issue to a degree. After further discussion it was concluded that since this is such a new proposal and has not passed legislature yet, it will be kept on the radar, and revisited at the first of the new year.

City Recorder Report

Sherry Riley provided a verbal report:

- She is working on reports.
- She noted the City Recorder duties require more than one person can accomplish in the hours that are allotted. She is working more than 40 hours per week most of the time, which has been 50 to 60 hours per week. Much more during budget preparation.
- She is cross training with the Billing Clerk.

Public Works Director Report

Dave Johnson provided a verbal report:

- He has been preparing for winter getting things winterized.
- Replacement of street signs is still in progress.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger provided a verbal report:

- Community Beautification Recognition Program
She noted she has not had time to work with Youth Councilor Ashtyn Larson on the Community Beautification Recognition Program thus far. They will begin working on it in January.
- Planning Training
There is training this week for planning procedures and planning in Oregon. It was noted no one is going at this time.
- TSP Committee
She questioned when the next TSP meeting is scheduled, because we have been telling the public we are going to update ordinances, and she is getting questions from citizens about when the next meetings will be held. Councilor Stone, TSP Committee Chair, noted it will be scheduled this month. He explained at the last TSP committee meeting they decided to break down La Grande's ordinances and match them up with the ordinances that are in Cove's TSP, as opposed to taking it as a whole and trying to go through all their documents. This should make it much easier, so at the next meeting they should have a group of documents from the La Grande plan to work from. He noted he would like legal input on the current TSP. Sherry Riley will contact League of Oregon Cities to see if they handle planning and Councilor Stone agreed to take part in that conversation.

Kerri McCowan will schedule the next TSP Committee meeting to be held this month.

Youth Councilor Report

Ashtyn Larson provided a verbal report:

- Six students from the Cove FFA Chapter went to the National Convention in Indianapolis.
- The Football and Cross-Country teams are going to the State Playoffs.
- There is a Veteran's Assembly on November 10th at 10 am.

Good of the Order

Council President McCowan expressed appreciation for the Profit and Loss report that was provided; however, he noted it seems cumbersome and would like some explanation on the information provided and how it is presented. After discussion, it was concluded the summary pages of the report are all the council needs to see, and an explanation, if any, of problem areas.

Public Comment

Dave Coleman commented on the homelessness issue. He suggested the city express to the Mayor's Association that we felt the language was unclear and would like more explanation. It was communicated to him that nothing has been solidified, the Mayor's Association was simply soliciting support for the plan. It was concluded Mayor Haeger will send a letter to the Mayor's Association asking for more specific information about their homelessness proposal as well as bringing it up for discussion at the monthly mayor's meeting.

Councilor Shira asked about the property on Haefer that the owner's had requested to be made from residential to commercial, but they are using it as residential. It was reported the residents are staying there until they get the residence they purchased elsewhere remodeled. It was also noted commercial property can be used for residential as well.

Suggestions for Future Workshops & Meeting Agendas

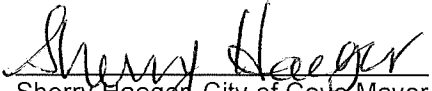
No suggestions for future workshops or meeting agendas were made.

Upcoming Meetings

No upcoming meetings are scheduled at this time.

Adjournment

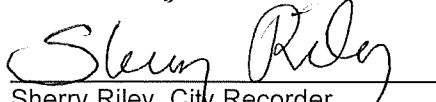
Mayor Sherry Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.



Sherry Haeger, City of Cove Mayor



Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk



Sherry Riley, City Recorder