

**City Of Cove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2023**

**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 Jordan Hackwith, Alan Cadinha, Shawn Parker, Eric Stone, Jason Stone.

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 Lana Shira, Youth Councilor Ashtyn Larson.

City Staff not Present: All city staff was present.

Public Present: Maxine Parker, Alexis Cannon, Mace Caldwell, Jamie Landa, Dan Landa, David Alexander.

Virtual Public Present: Donna Beverage, Mike Riley, Michael Otterstein, Courtney Stone.

**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.

Prior to moving on to the Oath of Office Mayor Haeger reported Donna Beverage had joined the meeting via phone. She wanted to recognize Donna for her support as the Commissioner assigned to the City of Cove. She also pointed out that she changed the agenda and handed out an edited version, noting no subjects will be missed, she just reorganized the subjects of the agenda.

**Oath of Office**

- Recorder Swears in Mayor  
City Recorder Sherry Riley swore in Mayor Sherry Haeger.
  
- Mayor Haeger Swears in New/Returning Council Members  
Mayor Haeger swore in new Council Member Eric Stone and returning Council Members Shawn Parker, and Matt McCowan.

**Council President Vote**

Mayor Haeger appointed Council President Matt McCowan for Council President for the next two years.

Motion: Councilor Cadinha moved to approve the appointment of Council President Matt McCowan as Council President for the next two years. Councilor Jason Stone seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

### **Special Presentation**

- Outgoing Council Members Plaque of Appreciation  
Councilor Lana Shira was not present at the meeting. She will be presented her plaque of appreciation at a later date.

Mayor Haeger gave kudos to the Council and thanked them for figuring out how to communicate with each other. Even though there isn't always agreement, they have figured out how to agree to disagree with decorum and politeness and have grown to work together well.

### **Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Mayor Haeger noted she looked at the Rules of Council and all the ordinances with fresh eyes and because of that took some things out of the agenda and changed the order of the agenda. She requested in the future the agenda be sent to her in Word. No other additions/changes were made.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this time.

### **Consent Agenda and Approval of Bills to be Paid**

- Council Minutes December 6, 2022
- Special Meeting, December 14, 2022
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

Mayor Haeger had some questions regarding the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report. It was requested to remove all the columns that contained zeros. An explanation of the Income – 4300 - Cash on Hand and 4045 - SCA Grant, was requested, and clarification on how the categories wages come out of is determined. Sherry Riley noted she will find answers to those questions. Council President McCowan noted this report is not a true Profit and Loss report. He explained the Council does not need this much detail. Mayor Haeger noted there are three reports the Council needs: a Balance Sheet, an Income Statement, and a Cash Flow Statement. It was unanimously agreed by Council to have a Work Session to dial in on the reports that are being requested. A Work Session/Special Meeting regarding financial reporting will be held on January 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

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

### **Correspondence**

- EPA Grants to Support Water Systems in Rural and Small Communities  
Mayor Haeger provided a verbal review of the email received from Donna Beverage regarding EPA grants to support water systems in rural and small communities. Donna Beverage noted Anderson Perry, or a similar firm, could help us with the grant writing if we choose to pursue a grant. Dave Johnson agreed to further investigate and request it if needed at the Work Session planned for January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

- WastePro Rate Increase  
Darren Larvik with WastePro La Grande provided a verbal review of WastePro's request for a rate increase noting in summary the 7.1 % increase is largely due to inflation. Council President McCowan suggested looking into partnering with the city of Union for garbage service. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to approve the WastePro rate increase and investigate options for next year. Sherry Riley agreed to contact the City of Union to see what their rates are and provide a side-by-side comparison at the next regular council meeting.

Motion: Councilor Cadinha moved to approve what has been proposed on the increase as presented for the City of Cove. Councilor Eric Stone seconded. Council President McCowan abstained. Motion approved by majority vote.

- Bank Account Signature Change  
There was no change in the Mayor or Council President. Therefore, no signature changes to the bank account are needed.
- Post-Mortem Review of Landa Council Vote: what went well, what needs improvement
  - See Rules of Council Chapter 4 for guidance for future hearings  
Mayor Haeger noted she wanted to have a discussion with the Council about what went well and what didn't go well with the Landa Hearing, and she reported she has some ideas about how to better address hearings in the future, according to Rules of Council.

Councilor Jason Stone noted the problem was there was starting to be a discussion about it and that discussion didn't get to be completed. He felt a vote was asked for too quickly. Mayor Haeger agreed. She explained she looked at the Rules and discovered she can call for a vote, a motion and a second can be made, but there still can be discussion before the motion is approved. She noted she was surprised by the way the vote went as she did not feel like the conditions in the motion were met. She summarized Councilor Jason Stone's concerns as she heard them noting she saw the procedure was a problem, her pushing for a vote was a problem, and everybody felt rushed. Councilor Stone agreed with her summary.

Councilor Cadinha noted that in general discussion became heated and voices were raised. Perhaps a pause should have been called, but he stands by his second of the motion. He further noted that at the previous meeting the Landa Variance was presented, it seemed to be green lighted, but when Mr. Landa came to the most recent meeting and explained he was requesting the same thing, he got shot down. Councilor Cadinha expressed he did not understand why that happened.

Councilor Eric Stone noted after the vote was completed and there was lengthy discussion, there seemed to be some joking by the Council at Mr. Landa's expense. He stated that was unprofessional and not appropriate.

Councilor Hackwith explained he was disappointed in how heated it got.

Councilor Parker noted the reason it got heated was because Mr. Landa had agreed to create a flag lot at the previous meeting, but at the most recent meeting he said that was never discussed, he had not agreed to create a flag lot. Councilor Parker noted he had a copy of the meeting recording and Mr. Landa does say yes, create a flag lot. That created the whole discrepancy. Then when Councilor Parker asked Mr. Landa why he didn't want to create a flag lot he stated he didn't want to spend \$2500. That's why Councilor Parker stated the request doesn't meet the criteria for a variance just because someone doesn't want to spend \$2500.

Council President McCowan voiced concern over future hearings, noting the Landa hearing is water under the bridge. He emphasized the Council needs to have more information from the Recorder in the Staff Report regarding how a request meets the criteria, so a more informed decision can be made for any type of hearing. He noted the Council didn't have that information for the Landa hearing and it didn't go well. Mayor Haeger agreed for the need to have more detailed information in the Staff Report and clarified with Sherry Riley what was being requested.

Councilor Jason Stone added that he was disappointed because he was attending the meeting on-line and towards the end of the meeting when things were being discussed he was not able to explain himself because no one was able to hear him. Therefore, he left the meeting. It was noted Councilor Lana Shira had expressed that same frustration in previous meetings.

### **Planning Committee Suggestions**

Mayor Haeger suggested forming an Operational Planning Committee that would be made up of citizens and Council members to address specific items and to make sure the Staff Report is going to be clear. Donna Beverage interjected and noted council members cannot be on the Planning Committee as you can't have the same people that approve the plan be the ones that put the plan together. That is the City Recorder's job. Sherry Riley agreed to touch base with other small cities to see if and how they operate their Planning Committees. It was noted Scott Hartell is willing to answer any questions, but he is not our City Planner. Council President McCowan agreed it is a good idea to ask for volunteers to be on the Planning Committee, and stressed we need to follow our Charter. Councilor Parker agreed we should only go to Scott Hartell for clarification or guidance. Councilor Hackwith agreed the Planning Committee is a good idea. His only concern is how fast it can be done. Councilor Eric Stone agreed. Councilor Cadinha agreed. Councilor Jason Stone agreed stating he doesn't think we should be using Scott Hartell for anything other than answering questions. The key takeaway for Council is they need to have all the information gathered at the meeting so they can make an informed decision and there won't be a free-for-all.

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was discussed at this meeting.

### **City Council Working Committee Report (8:26 pm)**

- **Transportation System Plan (TSP)**  
Councilor Jason Stone reported they have gone through all the definitions. They are trying to define structures a little better. He feels within the next month or two they will probably have a document for the Council to review.
- **Municipal Court**  
Council President McCowan noted new council members need to be appointed to the Municipal Court Committee. Councilor Eric Stone and Councilor Hackwith were appointed by the mayor. Council President McCowan agreed to reach out to Union for next steps.

### **Employee Review Cadence**

The mayor explained since we have a new state of operations it might warrant a conversation regarding what the expectations are of each role, what defines success for each roll and how do we help the people getting city business done be successful. She feels it warrants a future workshop to discuss it. Councilor Eric Stone agreed. Councilor Cadinha sought clarification on what was being suggested and after discussion agreed. Councilor Jason Stone agreed. Council President McCowan agreed. Councilor Parker clarified whether she is asking for more oversight. The mayor noted yes and explained what the oversight would look like. He agreed. Councilor Hackwith agreed. At the next meeting the mayor agreed to bring more structure to the idea.

### **City Recorder Report**

Sherry Riley provided a verbal report:

- She sent out the information on Elected Officials Essentials training for new Council and Mayors.

### **Public Works Director Report**

Dave Johnson provided a verbal report:

- The new backhoe should be delivered this week.
- He is working on quotes for coating the lower reservoir.
- They are performing equipment maintenance.

## Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger's report was discussed throughout the meeting.

- Review City Hall Hours/Public Request  
A review of City Hall hours was removed from the agenda.
- Planning Committee Suggestions  
Discussed after Post-Mortem Review of Landa Council Vote: what went well, what needs improvement
- Agenda Clarifications
  - See Rules of Council VI.B. for timing of materials distribution.
  - Correspondence Deadline  
Discussed under Additions/Changes to the Agenda
- Employee Review Cadence  
Discussed after City Council Working Committee Reports.

## Youth Councilor Report

Youth Councilor Ashtyn Larson was not present to provide a report.

## Good of the Order

No good of the order was presented at this time.

## Public Comment

Dan Landa, 1805 Jasper, asked how citizens are notified of Special Meetings and what the lead up time to that notification is. He was informed notifications are sent to the Observer, placed on the door of City Hall, at the Post Office, and at the kiosk at Dollar's Corner. He also expressed frustration with the process and the amount of time it took him to have his hearings which contributed to why the last hearing became heated. Mayor Haeger apologized to him for the way things had gone in the past but stressed as the Council moves forward and follows the rules with all of the information gathered no one will be led down a bad path. Mr. Landa was asked if he would like to volunteer to be on the Planning Committee to which he confirmed yes.

Jamie Landa, 1805 Jasper, offered help with the City's financials. She indicated she works with and is very familiar with QuickBooks.

## Suggestions for Future Workshops & Meeting Agendas

Financial Reporting Workshop/Special Meeting, January 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

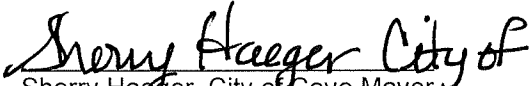
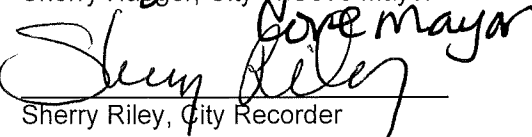
## Upcoming Meetings

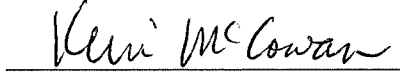
Council President McCowan reported he will reach out to Councilor Hackwith and Councilor Eric Stone to schedule a Municipal Court meeting.

A TSP meeting is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Adjournment

Mayor Sherry Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

  
Sherry Haeger, City of Cove Mayor  
  
Sherry Riley, City Recorder

  
Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk