

**City Of Cove
Council Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2024**

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.

Council Members Present: Council President Matt McCowan, Councilors Jordan Hackwith, Jason Stone, Alan Cadinha and Shawn Parker.

Council Members Present Remotely: No council members were present remotely.

City Staff Present: City Recorder Lana Shira, Public Works Director Dave Johnson and Billing Clerk Kerri McCowan.

City Staff Present Remotely: No city staff were present remotely.

Council Members not Present: Councilor Eric Stone and Youth Councilor Emma Carson.

City Staff not Present: All City Staff were present.

Public Present: Jason Hagey, Caitlin Harrold, Union County Chamber of Commerce, Alexis Cannon, Jim Bars, Dennis Nostrant and Maxine Parker.

Public Present Remotely: Public members were present remotely. See Meeting Diagnostics print out.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Haeger.

Council Roll Call

Roll call was performed by Lana Shira, City Recorder. A quorum was determined to be present.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

- Resolution 2024-8, Modifications to the 2024-2025 Budget (See New Business)
- Cove Kids Safe Path to Schools Project (Jim Bars Power Point Presentation-See Old Business)
- 2024 Election Abstract (See New Business)

Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

Consent Agenda

- Council Minutes November 5, 2024
- Approval of Bills to Be Paid

Motion: Council President McCowan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilor Hackwith seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

Old Business

- **Municipal Court Follow-up**
Lana reported in January, when the new council members are on board, we will discuss whether or not the council wants to invite the current lawyer who runs the Union Municipal Court and the City of Union Code Enforcement Officer to one of our council meetings to discuss joining Union's Municipal Court. She noted the City of Union is willing to share the fees and felt that for around \$50 per month we can join them, depending upon what legal counsel says. This will be discussed further next month.
- **Anderson Perry New GIS Agreement**
Dave provided a verbal report of the email he sent to the council that included a draft intergovernmental agreement with Harney County to assist us with managing our GIS. He reported there are quite a few other counties in Oregon that use them and/or want to use them for GIS support. He noted it sounds promising depending on what legal counsel has to say and is much better monetarily for us. He will continue to pursue this avenue for our GIS management.
- **Cove Kids Safe Path to School Project (Jim Bars Power Point Presentation)**
Jim Bars was present and provided a Power Point presentation to outline his plan for a walking path. He provided a verbal review as well. At the end of the presentation the mayor noted that there are some things that still need to be done, and we are not yet prepared to say yes, this is a project the city will take on. She also noted we need to wait and see what the new council members' opinions of the project will be. It was noted it is a noble project; however, the council wants letters from those businesses/individuals who have committed to help outlining what it is they are going to commit to or donate. Discussion ensued and it was noted that the push back from the city is coming from the stance that the city cannot assume the risk of physical or property damage during the project and beyond. It was reinforced to Mr. Bars that he needs to get commitment from the volunteers in writing as well as waivers and letters of support. The mayor agreed to email Mr. Bars a list of the things that we need to make it a city project.

New Business

- **Approved Wage for Temporary Employee, Doug Kruse**
Lana reported the need for an approved wage for our temporary employee evolved because of the audit finding that the temporary employee did not have an approval of his wage in his employee file. She noted council needs to decide if they want to increase his wage or leave it the same. She further reported the only wage on file was from two years ago which was \$15.65/hr. She suggested we raise his wage to \$17/hr.

Motion: Councilor Jason Stone moved to increase the hourly wage of the city's fill-in, part-time, Public Works employee, Doug Kruse, to \$17.00 per hour as of December 4th, 2024. Councilor Cadinha seconded. Motion carried.

- **Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual**
Lana provided a verbal review of the Profit and Loss vs. Actual. No concerns were noted.
- **Resolution 2024-8, Modifications to the 2024-2025 Budget**
Lana explained that Resolution 2024-8 is needed because the budget will be short as outlined in the resolution. She provided an explanation of the shortfalls.

Motion: Councilor Jason Stone moved to adopt resolution 2024-8, Modifications to the 2024-2025 Budget. Councilor Hackwith seconded. Council President McCowan and Councilor Parker abstained. Motion carried.

- **2024 Election Abstract**

Council President McCowan took control of the meeting at 7:52 pm.

The 2024 election results were reviewed with no questions arising regarding results.

Motion: Councilor Hackwith moved to accept the 2024 General Election official final results as indicated by the Abstract Report provided by the Union County Clerk. Councilor Jason Stone seconded. Motion carried.

At 7:54 Mayor Haeger resumed control of the meeting.

City Council Working Committee Report

There was no TSP Committee report because the work session has yet to be scheduled.

City Recorder Report

Lana provided a verbal report:

- She explained her computer is in need of an upgrade. Philip O'Reilly, who provides IT assistance to the city, provided an estimate for the upgrade which she verbally reviewed. She reported there are enough funds in the budget to purchase the new computer and pay for installation. Council unanimously agreed to approve the upgrade.

Public Works Director Report

Dave provided a verbal report:

- We received a \$250,000 SCA grant. That will go towards paving Geni and Susie and the overlay of First and Water Streets. He should be receiving an agreement from ODOT in the next month or so.
- They are working on fabricating the speed limit sign trailer.
- They finished cleaning all the storm drains on the highway.
- There were a couple of trees that fell in town during the last windstorm, and they've been assisting in removal.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Haeger provided a verbal report:

She plans to participate in the children's book reading at the library for the Christmas tree lighting.

Youth Councilor Report

Youth Councilor Carson was not present to provide a report.

Good of the Order

There was no good of the order presented at this time.

Public Comment

Jason Hagey, Cove, OR, expressed concerns about the walking path. He noted Oregon was sued for inadequate sidewalks, which he feels brings up concerns about the current proposed path. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Suggestions for Future Workshops & Meeting Agendas

There were no suggestions for future workshops or meeting agendas.

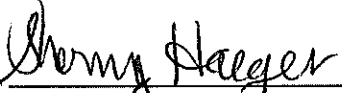
Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council meeting scheduled for January 7, 2025.

Mayor Haeger thanked Councilors Jason Stone, Alan Cadinha and Jordan Hackwith for their service on the council.

Adjournment

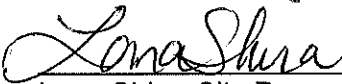
Mayor Haeger adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.



Sherry Haeger, City of Cove Mayor



Kerri McCowan, Billing Clerk



Lana Shira, City Recorder