

**Regular Council Meeting
Held by Zoom
February 16, 2021**

Members present was Mayor Linda Spencer, Council President Trish Callahan, Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Loren Oden, Councilor Alvin Thompson, Councilor Stacy Equitz and Councilor Anna Huerta.

Staff present was Treasurer Katie Misfeldt, Fire Chief Jeff Gorman and City Recorder Lori Paxton. Planning Commission Chair Lyle Bozworth was also in attendance.

President Callahan made a motion to open the meeting at 7:00 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Election of Officers: City Recorder Paxton asked President Callahan if she wanted to continue for another year as president, or step down. She said she would stay as long as no one else wanted it. **Councilor Huerta made a motion to keep President Callahan as president for this calendar year. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

City Recorder Paxton asked Vice President D. Oden if she wanted to continue for another year as vice president, or step down. She said if no one else wanted it, she would. **President Callahan made a motion to keep Vice President D. Oden in the current position for this calendar year. Councilor Huerta seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Previous Minutes: Vice President D. Oden made a motion to approve the previous minutes. **President Callahan seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Review and Payment of Bills: Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the bills. **Councilor L. Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Budget Committee Member Application: Treasurer/Budget Officer Misfeldt said right now we have 3 positions open. The applicant has been on the committee previously. City Recorder Paxton read the applicant, Stephen Misfeldt's application answers to the council. **President Callahan made a motion to accept Stephen Misfeldt for 3 years as a budget committee member. Councilor Huerta seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Community Forest Commission Update: President Callahan told the council that she is the Chairwoman of the Commission and the Residential Committee. She informed the council that the plans we had for the 17 acre parcel are not feasible to do. It would cost the town at least \$400,000 to bring water and sewer to the land, and according to DEQ we would have to update our sewer plant. At this point we can't afford to update the plant, it would be too costly. So because of this, the potential buyer has decided not to purchase the 17 acres.

The Commission is recommending to the council to create a resolution to keep the parcel as forest land. President Callahan said there is another area in town already that could be turned into a sub-division in the future, and that is over by Redwood Ave. The cost would be a lot less for water and sewer.

Councilor Huerta asked if the parcel is labeled as forest land, does this mean nothing else can be put on

this land? Mayor Spencer said the zoning would be Forest Residential and 1 ½ acre plots could be developed, but nothing smaller than that.

Councilor Huerta said she was curious because we do not have an storage in town and it would be nice to have a storage facility. There was a short discussion on areas where to put a storage facility if one was established. (Suggested ideas: the forest parcel land, a site up near Redwood Ave and strip of land to the north across from Fairy Glen Park) Mayor Spencer said the owner of Schott's Field is looking to sell of some of his land, so that is another idea.

Vice President D. Oden made a motion to create a resolution to keep the parcel as Forest Land. Councilor Thompson seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Department Reports: Administration – A copy of this report is available at city hall upon request.

Fire: Chief Gorman said the department needs to update and replace some equipment so they can get ready for the new fire season. Due to the Obenchain Fire, we have to replace some equipment like hoses, water pumps, etc. He said FEMA is giving us between \$17,000 and \$20,000 so that would cover what we need, plus some extra. We would spend the funds out of our general fund line item and then replace it when the FEMA funds come in. **Councilor Huerta made a motion to approve the expenditure, up to \$10,000 for equipment for the fire department. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Planning Commission: Chair Bozworth said the commission held a meeting to revise the application process for a fence. We also talked about taking the fence section out of the Variance Section of the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Spencer said an attorney from the League of Oregon Cities guided us on the process. City Recorder Paxton said they would like to present all the changes at the next council meeting.

Police and Public Works: Copies of their report is available at city hall upon request.

Mayor's Report: A copy of this report is available at city hall upon request. Mayor Spencer reported on a presentation she did to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Committee to see if we could acquire funding for the community forest land. Unfortunately we were turned down. Oregon Solutions were very instrumental in helping gather the information we needed. She said her next place to go for funding is OWEB.

Mayor Spencer said she and Fire Chief Gorman met with Jackson County Emergency Management officials and discussed our concerns about not having any communication during the Obenchain Fire. We need to insure this doesn't happened again.

Councilor Huerta suggested certain town officials, the mayor, fire chief and council president, get walkie talkies to use in an emergency. Mayor Spencer said that was a good idea and would check into it.

President Callahan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. Councilor Huerta seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Council minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.

