

**Work Session / Regular Council Meeting
May 17, 2022**

Members in attendance were Acting Mayor Trish Callahan, Councilor Matthew Goodman, Councilor Stacy Equitz, Councilor Alvin Thompson and Councilor Paul Price. Council Vice President Delena Oden was absent and Mayor Linda Spencer is on leave of absence.

Staff: Treasurer/Budget Officer Katie Misfeldt, Public Works Operator Chris Bray and City Recorder Lori Paxton.

Audience: Marc Ellis and Community Forest Commission members Don Hamann and Mike Smeltz.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Price made a motion to open the work session at 7:02 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Community Forest Commission: Don Haman and Mike Smeltz each gave an update on the Community Forest Plan.

Mike said we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Trust For Public Lands of what we can and can't do on the 430 acres we acquired. The program is under way now and we should be able to finish it in three years. The first year is writing a FEMA grant for \$450,000. This money will be used for commercial thinning operations on Obenchain Road, and priority fuel reduction. In year two we should have all the commercial thinning done, about 200 acres total and have all priority level 1 and 2 fuel reductions done. Also in year two we will do a fuel program which is testing small burns and will do prescription burns on a regular rotation. . In year three is where we tie up any loose ends and priority level 3 fuels complete along with other pre-commercial thinning, if needed. After the third year we will start work on the recreation portion of the plan.

Don said we are building for the future, growing trees and harvesting periodically. We will start burning the piles in the second year in the fall.

Councilor Price asked how is this going to generate more interest for tourist coming to Butte Falls? Mike said in the recreation program; biking, hiking, working with the school kids, community garden and address food challenges here. Ideally we would like to eventually have some campsites at the falls and are in the process of working with the National Parks Service the campsites idea.

Councilor Price inquired about the train progress. Acting Mayor Callahan said they are going to start up again and work up a 10 year plan. Tourism is huge for this kind of thing and it is run by all volunteers. They will have a museum, easy walking trails by the cemetery and talked about having a dining car for special tours. She said we will hold a town hall meeting with Ric Walch from the Southern Oregon Railroad Society soon and they will give us an update on their progress.

Councilor Goodman asked if it was okay for the train to run through the community forest? Don said yes, it is written in the contract for public and for education. Don said Butte Falls is leading the nation on this.

Councilor Goodman and Marc Ellis asked more questions that could not be answered. Acting Mayor Callahan said Mayor Spencer is the one who can answer those questions and asked them to put all their

questions in writing and we can address each one.

Councilor Equitz made a motion to adjourn the work session at 8:15 pm. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Councilor Equitz made a motion to open the regular meeting at 8:15 pm. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Previous Minutes: Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Bills: Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the bills. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Business from the Audience: Marc Ellis wanted to know why the council was allowing all the trees in town to be cut down. An ordinance needs to be created and a tree committee in place to deal with this. A lot of trees have been removed now. Acting Mayor Callahan said the school had some hazard trees and one of them was buckling the sidewalk at the main office. We also have some city trees that are a hazard and need to be removed. We need to start replanting a tree every time we take one out. City Recorder Paxton said she has a draft tree ordinance and will have it ready for the next council meeting.

Job Descriptions Update: Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the City Recorder and Treasurer job descriptions as amended. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

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

Public Works: a copy of this report is available at city hall upon request.

Safety Committee: a copy of this report is available at city hall upon request.

Fire: Treasurer Misfeldt said Fire Chief Jeff Gorman received a check for \$22,000 from the Frank Ault grant that he applied for. This money will be used to purchase new radios for the fire department.

Councilor's Report: Councilor Equitz requested using some of the COVID grant funds for the Landing. They need to repair their roof and need \$10,192 for the roof and \$3,327 for the food pantry. Treasurer Misfeldt said we can give money to businesses that help the community and the Landing is perfect for that. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to donate to the Landing \$10,192 for their roof and \$3,327 for the food pantry. Councilor Price seconded. Not carried.**

Councilor Equitz said or we can give them a set amount to help cover any extra costs incurred. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to rescind her previous motion. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried. Councilor Equitz made a motion to donate to the Landing \$15,000 for the cost of the roof, food pantry and any overage. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Councilor Equitz said we could also use some the COVID funds to fix the city hall's bathroom. Acting Mayor said that is already in the works. She thanked the council for their input tonight.

Councilor Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Councilor Goodman seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.

