

**Town Council and Butte Falls Community Forest Commission
Work Session
July 11, 2022**

Members in attendance were Acting Mayor Trish Callahan, Councilor Delena Oden, Councilor Paul Price and Councilor Alvin Thompson. Councilor Matt Goodman and Councilor Stacy Equitz, were absent.

Staff present was City Recorder Lori Paxton and Public Works Operator Chris Bray.

Butte Falls Community Forest Commission members were Mike Smeltz and Nate Bailey.

Audience present was Marc and Shone Ellis, Jerry and Jerrylynn Scriven, Peggy and Keith Gilliam, Evan and Emily Goettel, Janice Schultz, Theresa Price, Jeff Rambo, Dale Norling, Nic Rodgers, Liz Stritenberg and Mark Rohde.

Councilor Oden made a motion to open the work session at 7:10 pm. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Acting Mayor Callahan said the reason for this work session with the commission is to answer questions that councilors and citizens have about the community forest plan. She said they will take questions from the audience after the council speaks, and the audience will have 3-5 minutes per person to speak. She introduced Mike Smeltz as the Forest Manager and Nate Bailey as the Marketing Manger for the commission.

Councilor Oden read from the list of questions that Marc Ellis submitted: Who is making the translations and determinations for what is written on paper for the land use requirements? Mike said Mayor Spencer was doing that, but now is is more of a collaboration between us.

Councilor Price's question: Who decides what the land use requirements are for residential use and interests? Mike said Justin Cullumbine, the guy who wrote the community forest plan, is working on this and this will need more clarification, because there are two entities, forest and city. The residential plan is there and not off the table yet. We would need to work on sewer infrastructure and that is going to be costly, but we are not opposed per our plan.

Councilor Oden's question: Is the cemetery going to be able to expand? Mike said it is the same thing as the residential issue. We could present it as a historical forest landmark and said he doesn't believe an expansion would be prohibited.

Dale Norling voiced his concerns about the timber by saying we aren't going to be making a lot of money on it. Mike agreed.

Shone Ellis asked if she could become a member of the forest commission? Acting Mayor Callahan said yes, we are always looking for volunteers that want to help and thank her for joining.

Janice Shultz commented about the forest plan being a legal document and it all should be implemented and you should continue to work with Justin on it. Mike said we are in negotiations with the forest

service about the residential issue, as they were aware that it was in the plan when they approved it. Mike said as far as the recreation plan goes, we have not put that in place yet.

Marc Ellis said he met with the forest commission members and has a better understanding of what the plan is about and feels better about it. We might even be able to expand our urban growth boundary in the future.

Liz Stritenberg voiced her concerns about the homeless people living on Truck Road in Rvs. She said need to find a place for them to go and we need to clean up the forest. Mike said so far the people that are living there, temporarily, have been very cooperative, but we do not have permanent plans to let homeless people live in the community forest. We plan on cleaning the forest of the junk piles we are finding and maybe we can use some FEMA money for that. Acting Mayor Callahan said we can try and look for a place to have the homeless set up.

Councilor Oden thanked the forest commission and audience members for being open and honest and said we need to keep up with good communication. By the council getting the correct information, only then can we make the correct decisions.

Acting Mayor Callahan said if anyone has anymore questions, please submit them in writing to her. This is a learning process for us all.

Councilor Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Councilor Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.