

**Regular Council Meeting  
July 19, 2022**

Members present was Acting Mayor Trish Callahan, Council Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Statcy Equitz, Councilor Paul Price and Councilor Alvin Thompson. Councilor Matt Goodman was absent.

Staff present was Treasurer Katie Misfeldt, Community Forest Manger Mike Smeltz and City Recorder Lori Paxton.

Audience in attendance was Gerald & Gerrylynn Scriven, Leonard & Rita Howe, Evan & Emily Goettel, Diane Stephens, Mark Rohde, and Marc & Shone Ellis.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Previous Minutes: Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the 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:** Angela Wells requested permission to hold a softball tournament at the high school ball field on the same day as the fireman's bbq and also possibly on Labor Day weekend. She said she would like to start having street dances and other events to bring revenue and people to the town, and the money earned would go to the fire department. The gave their consensus for the softball tournaments and street dances.

**Emergency Communication Services of Oregon Contract (ECSO): Vice President Oden made a motion to approve the contract for the fiscal year. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**Resolution #370.a28:** Amendment to resolution to raise the cost of the sewer operation and maintenance by \$2 per month. This would bring the total for sewer to \$46.25 per month. Treasurer Misfeldt said it was approved by the budget committee and also by the council when the budget was adopted. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to approve the amendment to Resolution #370.a.28. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**Water & Sewer Billing Policy:** City Recorder Paxton said this policy and application for service reflects the change to the sewer rate. **Councilor Price made a motion to approve the billing policy. Councilor Thompson seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**Water & Sewer Application for Service: Councilor Price made a motion to approve the billing policy. Councilor Thompson seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**Ordinance #346:** First draft of a tree ordinance for Butte Falls. Acting President Callahan said Mike Smeltz is our tree guy, so we will need to form a tree committee to over see it.

Vice President Oden said she had some issues with the ordinance as it was written. She listed each section she had concerns with. City Recorder Paxton said she would redraft the ordinance with the changes for the next council meeting.

Marc Ellis said there needs to be some guidelines made for this ordinance. The reason for the ordinance in the first place was to stop all of the tree removal inside the town. We don't want someone taking a tree down just because it bothers someones view, for example.

Acting Mayor Callahan asked Mr. Ellis if he would help draft some guidelines and also be on the tree committee with Mr. Smeltz. He said he would help with the guidelines and agreed to be on the committee.

**Councilor Price made a motion to table the ordinance until September council meeting. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**BF Police Dept:** Acting Mayor Callahan said we received a letter from the school district that says they are in favor of us establishing a contract with the Jackson County Sheriff's office for their service. She said she also received quotes from the sheriff for a 40 hour per week and a 30 hours per week deputy. The cost for a 30 hour part time deputy would be \$157,053 for the first year, second year is \$173,275 and the third year would be \$198,749. They do not want to do a one year contract, they only want three years and we would most likely have to disband our police department. We don't have that kind of money in our budget to support this. Callahan said our own municipal judge thinks they are charging us double for what service we would get. He and I talked about hiring a part time retired officer from California. He said there is a magazine we could advertise in, so I asked him to go ahead and do it to see if we would get any response.

Marc Ellis suggested combining the police officer position with the code enforcement position. This way they could handle traffic and city ordinances and pass criminal offenses to the county. You could also offer a benefit package. Acting Mayor Callahan said a retired officer from California already has health insurance, so that is a plus. She said the sheriff's department also wants us to send traffic tickets to central point, instead of our court.

After more discussion, the council consented to pursue combining the two positions.

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

**Community Forest Commission:** A copy of this report is available at city hall upon request. Forest Manager Smeltz reported Biomass will be doing a major news documentary on our community forest in the near future. We are getting good publicity on the work we are doing.

Acting Mayor Callahan said Shone Ellis has been nominated to join the commission. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to accept Shone Ellis to the Forest Commission. Vice President Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

**Resignation:** City Recorder Paxton read a letter of resignation from Mayor Linda Spencer, who has to resign due to medical reasons. **Councilor Price made a motion to accept the resignation. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.** The council thanked Linda for her service to this community, which has been substantial and wished her well.

**Mayor's Report:** A copy of this report is available at city hall upon request. Acting Mayor Callahan also submitted a letter acknowledging her stepping into the official mayor's position and vowed to continue the work that Mayor Spencer started with the community forest program and government agencies she worked closely with and keeping our town a fire wise community. A copy of this letter is available at city hall upon request.

Vice President Oden questioned the reason we are paying the cemetery sexton a stipend when she is out on medical leave. Treasurer Misfeldt said she usually works way more hours than we can pay her for, but offered to check into it. Oden said the cemetery is in need of cleaning and asked if that was part of the sexton's job. Councilor Thompson did not like the line of questioning coming from Vice President Oden and got upset and left the meeting at 8:42 pm.

Acting Mayor Callahan said she would make sure all councilors get a copy of the cemetery policy. We have to be fair for all employees and Councilor Thompson was out of line.

**Councilor Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.