

**Regular Council Meeting
August 15, 2023**

Members present were Mayor Trish Callahan, Council Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Alvin Thompson, Councilor Keith Gilliam and Councilor Peggy Davis-Gilliam.

Absent was President Stacy Equitz and Councilor Paul Price.

Staff attended was City Recorder Lori Paxton, Treasurer Katie Misfeldt and Public Works Operator Chris Bray.

Audience was Mark Rohde, Ric Walch, AOC Security Dennis and Franchesca Ford along with Security Officer Brian Mattlock.

Vice President Oden made a motion to open the meeting at 7:05 pm. Councilor Davis- Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Pledge of Alliegance

Previous Minutes: Vice President Oden made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Treasurer Misfeldt said we did not get the survey together about the PO box issue, but we will put one together in August and mail it out with the water bills in September.

Bills: Vice President Oden made a motion to approve the bills. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Business from the Audience: Ric Walch from Medford Fabrication and also a member of the Southern Oregon Railroad Society gave a verbal update on the railroad project for Butte Falls. He said the funding is in place and they are ready to start laying track. He wanted to know if the council had any issues with the project since it was approved 5 years ago as some of the councilors were not on the council at that time. Mayor Callahan asked Mr. Walch if they had done any recent surveys of the residents living in the area? Mr. Walch said no, but in the past there was no objections.

Mayor Callahan said this has already be approved with the Forest Commission and they will work directly with us now. It will be up to the council to deal with any pushback from the residents that have an issue with the project.

Mr. Walch reported that they have submitted mutliple fire plans for the project to the needed agencies and the railroad society will be responsible for any liabilities and cost that may occurr. **The Council gave their consensus to move forward with the project.**

Resolution #607.1: Updating the Public Safety Fee resolution. **Vice President Oden made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution #607.1. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Draft Ordinance #349: A proposed ordinance regulating camping on town property or private property. Franchesca Ford said since they have been patrolling the team has found places where people are camping, whether in tents, rvs or vehicles, and it has been on community forest property and private property. **Vice President Oden made a motion to place Ordinance #349 on the agenda for the next regular council meeting for adoption. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Department Reports: Butte Falls Community Forest: Treasurer Misfeldt said the council needs to approve the appointment of Janice Schultz as the Forest Recreation Commissioner. **Councilor Davis-Gilliam made a motion to approve Janice Schultz as the Forest Recreation Commissioner. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

See attached monthly report from Mike Smeltz.

Administration: Treasurer Misfeldt gave an update on the renovations of city hall's restroom. She explained that she gave approval for the contractor to order flooring for all of city hall, but didn't realize she and the contractor were talking about two different things. The flooring has been ordered and shipped, so it can't be canceled now. She respectfully requests the council to approve the purchase of the new flooring, cost is \$4,000 and said we have the money to cover it. City Recorder Paxton said it would be a good thing to replace the carpet because there is mold growing under the file cabinets by the treasurer's desk. **Councilor Gilliam made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the floors for city hall. Vice President Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

City Recorder Paxton asked the council if they would consider raising the base usage amount of water per customer. Right now the base is 20,000 gallons and any after that the cost is .38 cents per thousand. If the base was raised by 10,000 or 20,000 it would go a long way for residents to keep their lawns green. Since we are now labeled as a Fire Wise community it would behoove us to try and keep things green in town. Brief discussion ensued. **Vice President Oden made a motion to raise the base water usage to 30,000 per month. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.** City Recorder Paxton said she would start this with the next billing cycle on the first of September and have the resolution to amend at the September council meeting.

Security Services Report: Franchesca Ford gave a verbal update on the calls they have been receiving in the last month. She introduced Brian Mattlock and said he recently finished training and will be the daytime patrol here.

Dennis Ford said they have been in touch the the sheriff's department on a number of things and one important item is working out a way for us to write traffic tickets for our court. He also said they have an email address people can use to report issues if they don't want to call their dispatch number.

Councilor Gilliam said the sheriff deputies will now start patrolling the falls area on the weekends and in town, due to the fact we have a security team. Dennis said the sheriff department and Oregon State Police will start using our police office as a sub station.

Treasurer Misfeldt suggested using our city hall contractor to check out the problems with the kitchen sink at the office. **Council gave their consensus for Marc Spaeth Contracting to check out the issues with the floor at the police office.**

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

PWO Bray said the plumbing at the police station will have to be re-done. He said whoever hooked it up did not do it right and it's all messed up. Most likely that is why the toilets don't work.

Bray said he picked up the new to us truck and it runs really well.

Mayor Callahan said we have begun advertising for a third person to work in public works. She said we need someone to learn the ropes and possibly take over for when Chris or Mike retire.

Mayor's Report: A copy of this report is available at city hall upon request.

Councilor Davis-Gilliam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.