

**Regular Council Meeting
September 19, 2023**

Members present were Mayor Trish Callahan, President Stacy Equitz, Vice President Delena Oden, Councilor Keith Gilliam, Councilor Peggy Davis-Gilliam and Councilor Paul Price. Councilor Alvin Thompson was absent.

Staff present was Public Works Operator Chris Bray, Treasurer Katie Misfeldt, City Recorder Lori Paxton, Forest Commission Manager Mike Smeltz and AOC Security Francesca Ford.

Audience in attendance was Ed Peeples, Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts and Nick Rodgers.

Councilor Price made a motion to open the meeting at 7:00 pm. Vice President Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Pledge of Alliance

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

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

Business from the Audience: Nick Rodgers told the council of the history behind the open range laws and the ranchers in regards to the fence around the town. He proposed to the council that the town pay for the materials and they, ranchers, will supply the labor and equipment. Mayor Callahan asked him to get a written estimate for the next council meeting. Nick said he would help public works clean out the cattle guards.

Old Business: Ordinance #349 Camping inside city limits and on Community Forest Land. This ordinance has been posted for 30 days prior to this meeting. **Vice President Oden made a motion to read Ordinance #349 by title, 3 times. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Mayor Callahan read the ordinance title 3 times to the council. **President Equitz made a motion to adopt Ordinance #349. Vice President Oden seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

New Business: Resolution #370a.29: amending the water and sewer rate schedule to reflect the raise in gallons used, from 20,000 to 30,000 with no rate change. **President Oden made a motion to adopt Resolution #370a.29.** A question was raised regarding the RV dumping station section and the cost of \$2 each, what was that for? City Recorder Paxton said she thinks it is an error and shouldn't be there. A brief discussion on the cost of dumping gray water and waste water, and should the council lower the price. City Recorder Paxton said the previous mayor, Ron Ormond, set those prices with the intention of not having too many customers use it, since our sewer plant is so small. The council decided to table this resolution for next month until they can get more information. **Vice President Oden withdrew her motion. Motion died.**

BF Community Forest Garden: Mike Smeltz, BF Community Forest Manager, said the commission is requesting the Community Forest Garden's name be changed to say “Community Food Forest” and have it inserted into the Forest Plan. **President Equitz made a motion to approve the name change to Food Forest and establish it in the BF Community Forest Plan. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

Department Reports

BF Community Forest Commission: Mike announced there is a public meeting scheduled for October 26th at the community hall from 4-8pm. This is a joint meeting with the BF Community Forest Commission and the BLM Recreation Trail System. He said our vision is to have potable water and electricity at the falls in the future, along with hiking and biking trails.

Mike reported on the process of removing some trees and under-story by the water bottling building. He said we are almost finished, just have a few other areas. We should get about \$20,000 in processed timber, but the real value is the environmental impact towards being fire resilient.

Mike said we need to get the Advanced FEMA grant closed out and once that is done we will receive our grant money

Sonja Goddess has been hired by the BF Forest Commission to be their Forest Consultant, Mike said. She will start working for us on October 8th and hope to have her attend the October council meeting.

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

Treasurer Misfeldt said she received two bids for a new fence around the toddlers playground in the park. First bid is \$8,891 for a chain link fence by Quality Fence Company, and \$2,000 more for iron and second bid is \$7,500 for chain link from Marc Spaeth Construction. Spaeth did not give an iron fence bid. Vice President Oden inquired about grants for the fence and council decided to hold the bids until they can get further information.

A lengthy discussion was held about the vandalism that has been an ongoing issue in the playground. Vandals are removing the metal stakes that hold the equipment in the ground, which makes it unsafe for the kids. The council made a consensus to remove the equipment until it can be cemented in the ground.

Mayor Callahan said the equipment is not really made for a public playground, it is more suitable for someone's backyard. We need to check on grants for industrial playground equipment.

AOC Security: Francesca Ford verbally gave her monthly report to the council. She said the arson at the falls is under investigation with the Oregon State Police and is still an open case.

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

Mayor Callahan said we have one application who has applied for the part time position and asked PW Operator Chris Bray, Mike Smeltz and Vice President Oden if would be on the hiring board for September 28th at 6p. They all agreed.

Councilor Reports: Councilor Davis-Gilliam asked public works if they could create an area in the park this year for a Christmas tree lighting event. PWO Bray said he would check into it.

Councilor Gilliam said it went very well this summer as he and Councilor Davis-Gilliam acted as a day use area host at the falls. We received a lot of visitors from out of town. Mayor Callahan said between the them, our security and herself we are making sure the gate to the falls is locked every night.

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

Public Comments: Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts introduced herself and said she is going to try and start coming to more of our monthly meeting from now on.

President Equitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.