

**Regular Council Meeting
October 17, 2023**

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

Staff present was City Recorder Lori Paxton, Mike Smeltz, AOC Security Francesca Ford and PC Chair Roger Hayden.

Audience in attendance was Mark Rohde and Mandy Davis.

President Equitz made a motion to open the meeting at 7:00 pm. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Old Business: Resolution #370a.29 – This is an amendment to the water and sewer billing policy. **President Equitz made a motion to approve Resolution #370a.29. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.**

New Business: Sewer Ordinance #184.5 – This is an amendment to the sewer ordinance that regulates all hookups in town. **President Equitz made a motion to read it three times by title. Councilor Price seconded. All ayes motion carried.** Mayor Callahan read ordinance by title, three time. **Councilor Price made a motion to post the ordinance for 30 days. President Equitz seconded. All aye motion carried.** This will be brought back for adoption on November 21, 2023.

Department Reports: BF Community Forest – Forest Manager Mike Smeltz gave a verbal report to the council. The following is a brief synopsis of what he said.

- 2 units above town by the water tank and 1 unit at the falls area have been logged bringing the total board feet to 69.04. total price \$51,083.15. The net revenue to the community forest fund is \$19,530.35.
- Our Community Forest Plan was reviewed and approved on the national level by the US Forest Service and the state of Oregon level by the Oregon Forest Commission, and then approved by the city council a few years ago. The Feds have ranked our plan at 6th in the nation for best small town timber plans. There is no need for any further reviews. So far to have received about \$2 million in grant money that we are responsible for.
- Shady Cove Friends of the Forest love our forest plan. They have some different issues than we do, but they want to try and do the same thing in Shady Cove.
- On the 26th of this month, at the community hall, we will be holding a public meeting for the

BLM and Community Forest Trail System. The meeting runs from 4-8pm.

- We have acquired the dump trailer and the chipper is in the process of being manufactured for us.

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

Cemetery: President Equitz voiced her concern about the condition of our cemetery. She said there are tree limbs that need to be cleaned up and wondered about who can do it. Mayor Callahan said she would check into it.

Fire: Mayor Callahan referenced the letter the council received last month from Fire Chief Jeff Gorman. She said he will be at the November council meeting to discuss it.

Security: Francesca Ford gave a verbal report to the council of the on-going issues happening in town.

- 27 open cases of abandoned vehicles
- 5 RVs that are occupied.
- One report of a dog at large.
- Officers doing their regular patrols: playground equipment, cemetery, falls area, the town, lock park restrooms, and lock falls gate at night.

Burning Ordinance – She said they would like to revise this ordinance where it talks about the number of warnings to give out of illegal burning. The best would be 'at officer's discretion' instead of first, second or third warnings. Mayor Callahan said we can review a few other ordinances at the same time that might help the security in their dealings with the public.

Ford said they are having some issues with people not wanting to call to voice their complaints. The best way to take care of a problem is by letting the security team know what is going on.

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

Mayor Callahan voiced her concerns about the new playground equipment in the toddlers play area in the park. The latest report is someone found one of the metal stakes that holds the equipment on the ground was found pulled out, and buried in the dirt with the sharp, metal prongs sticking out. This is a major accident waiting to happen to one of the kids. President Equitz said she thought we decided to remove the equipment last month because of these kind of concerns. City Recorder Paxton said the council discussed it but never made a motion on it.

Mayor Callahan said Don and Cory Hamann donated all the new equipment, which we are extremely grateful, but we do have a very serious problem with vandalism. We need to think of the safety of the children. President Equitz said we need to get them cemented in the ground, especially since we can't afford to buy industrial equipment. A brief discussion followed.

President Equitz made a motion to remove all of the new playground equipment until we can get them cemented in. Councilor Davis-Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried. President Equitz said she will speak to Cory about it.

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

Mayor Callahan informed the council that there will be a luncheon hosted by Rogue Community Health in November at the Ashland Hills Hotel on the 9th at noon. She asked if any of the councilors would like to attend and Councilor Price, Councilor Gilliam and Councilor Davis-Gilliam said they

would like to go.

Mayor Callahan reported she has finished the pre-application FEMA grant for the 5 generators we would like to acquire and sent it off. Now we wait.

Mayor Callahan said she is starting up the Hazard Mitigation Committee that the council started a few years back. Vice President Oden was the head of it then. She asked for volunteers and President Equitz said she would.

Councilor Price made a motion to adjourn the minutes at 7:56 pm. Councilor Gilliam seconded. All ayes motion carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.