

## **WESTFIR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday March 4, 2019**

**Westfir City Hall 5:30pm**

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Matt Meske called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Councilors D'Lynn Williams, Thalia Lerin, Randy Stark, and Edward Johnstone were present. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **MAYOR'S MINUTE:**

Mayor Matt Meske conveyed his gratitude that everyone was safe after the recent winter storm that caused widespread damage and power outages.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no citizen comments.

#### **COUNCILOR COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no Councilor comments.

#### **EMERGERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

Mayor Matt Meske began the conversation with the fact that fuel storage was one of the main issues the City faced during the power outage. Both the water and sewer plants run on generators and when the fuel ran low, there were challenges in restocking gas and diesel. Some suggestions that arose were purchasing a more powerful generator, using solar panels, and adding a holding tank for fuel. There was comment from Lisa Smith who lives outside of city limits about how she didn't feel safe during the winter storm. Conversation ensued about methods to address people's safety during emergencies. It was determined that the priority of the city government is to maintain infrastructure (water, sewer, and archives.) The consensus was that the safety and wellbeing of citizens rests in the hands of volunteers, including the Mayor and City Council. Dispensing important information such as resources and road conditions was another issue that residents expressed concern about. Suggestions on where to display such information included City Hall, the Office Bridge, and the Hemlock bridge. Again, there were discrepancies regarding who's responsibility it is to gather and dispense such information. The recommendation that continued to repeat itself was that citizens need to be prepared for themselves in the case of an emergency, then to check on neighbors and friends. It was determined that the City would gather and dispense information on emergency preparedness for residents.

#### **WATER BILLING ISSUE:**

Ryan Murdoff was unable to attend the meeting but did submit a letter regarding a broken water line that resulted in excess use for the month of February. This was the second break in the same line that he has experienced, which prompted Mayor Matt Meske to suggest he replace the line to avoid future issues. It was pointed out from his letter that the intention was to replace the line in the future, but in the meantime he was asking for leniency on his water bill. Councilor Randy Stark motioned to forgive \$100 on Ryan Murdoff's water account. Councilor Thalia Lerin seconded, and the motion carried.

**AYE: 4 NAY: 1 (Mayor Matt Meske) ABSENT: 0**

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK:**

Councilor D'Lynn Williams motioned to sponsor the Concerts in the Park in the amount of \$500. Councilor Randy Stark seconded, and the motion carried.

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0

**GATE INSTALLATION AT BOAT LAUNCH:**

Mayor Matt Meske presented information about two separate occurrences of RVs camping at the City owned boat launch on Westfir Rd. Although both were removed without incident, the cost that could be incurred by the City to remove such vehicles would range from \$250 - \$750. He suggested installing a gate similar to ones used by the USFS to keep vehicular traffic from the area during the off season. He stated that himself and resident Don Henderson would offer to volunteer installation labor. Melody Cornelius said that she would research gate costs and submit figures at the next meeting.

**ORDINANCE 141:**

The item was tabled for more discussion at a work session to be scheduled later this month. Resident and business owner Noah Sunflower introduced himself and referred to his response to the draft ordinance, in regard to the feline population and addressing it somehow in the ordinance. Council acknowledged his submission and will consider adding mandatory spay/neuter language in the ordinance.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

Councilor Randy Stark motioned to approve the minutes from February 4, 2019. Councilor D'Lynn Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0

**WATER / SEWER REPORT:**

Jackson Stone presented the water and sewer report. He said that he recorded two feet of snow and nine inched of rain for the month of February. Council thanked Jack and Larry Cornelius for their diligence through the power outage and keeping the water and sewer systems online without interruption. Jack stated that because of the road closure he was unable to submit a water sample to the DEQ which resulted in a violation which he will need to address. He will be restocking fuel next month for the generators and an increase in expenditures was necessary, to which Council agreed.

**POLICE / FIRE REPORT:**

Fire Chief Mike Hansen did not have a report to present but stated that there were over 100 emergency calls in the seven days during the winter storm. Of those, the department was unable to access two calls because of the snow. There was no police report.

**CITY RECORDER REPORT:**

Melody Cornelius did not have a report to present but discussed some items with Council. IGA reviews would need to be scheduled during the next work session to prepare for the budget meetings, which will begin in April. She said that she had a budget class the next day and a records retention class on Friday. Melody regretted to inform Council that the City was not awarded the grant for installing a "bike fix it station" at the Portal.

**CITY FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

Melody Cornelius submitted the bank statement, cash deposits, and expenditure sheet. She said that she had received an email from Banner Bank approving the City's loan request. She summarized the email and said she was expecting the application next month. Melody stated that she had still not received invoices from Oakridge to pay the fire, police and employee IGAs, so they rolled over once again from February to March. Councilor D'Lynn Williams motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$28,061.13. Councilor Thalia Lerin seconded, and the motion carried.

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0

**CITIZENS CONCERNS NOT ON AGENDA:**

Resident Noah Sunflower thanked the Council volunteers and staff for their service, especially during the emergency last week. Oakridge/Westfir Chamber of Commerce board member Lynda Kamerrer submitted a request for RTMP funds to help cover the expense of hiring and staffing an Executive Director. Councilor Randy Stark motioned to contribute \$1,000 toward funding the Executive Director position for the Chamber of Commerce. Councilor D'Lynn Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0

**COUNCILOR CONCERNS NOT ON AGENDA:**

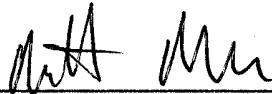
Mayor Matt Meske stated that the Oregon Department of Forestry was scheduled to evaluate the trees and brush to be removed from City Hall and the boat launch. He also expressed his interest in renting a chipper to address the downed debris around Westfir that resulted from the storm. He said that he would volunteer to run the equipment and Melody agreed to research cost and availability of chippers. Councilor Randy Stark inquired about the damage to local trails due to the snow and the City's interest in addressing it. Melody stated that the trail systems are part of the USFS and not the City's responsibility. She said that there were several volunteer groups that were organizing work parties in collaboration with the FS to address damage incurred on the trails.


**ADJOURN MEETING:**


Councilor Randy Stark motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilor D'Lynn Williams seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Matt Meske, Mayor

  
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ATTEST: Melody Cornelius, City Recorder

  
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DATE: 4/23/19