

**CITY OF UMATILLA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
August 04, 2020**

**1) MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Dedrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2) ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Michael Roxbury, Leslie Smith, Ashley Wheeler, Josy Chavez, Roak TenEyck

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mary Dedrick

**3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Roak TenEyck moved to approve 4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Ashley Wheeler seconded the motion. Voted: 5 - 0. Motion carried.

**5) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**6) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was presented.

**7) CONSENT AGENDA**

7.1 RESOLUTION NO. 63-2020 - A Resolution confirming that a portion of a proposed trail would be located within the right of way of Powerline Road and that the City shall keep the trail function separated from the roadway should the roadway need to be widened or altered for a term of no less than 25 years.

Roak TenEyck moved to approve Resolution No. 63-2020 - A Resolution confirming that a portion of a proposed trail would be located within the right of way of Powerline Road and that the City shall keep the trail function separated from the roadway should the roadway need to be widened or altered for a term of no less than 25 years.. Ashley Wheeler seconded the motion. Voted: 5 - 0. Motion carried.

7.2 Paid Invoices

Councilor TenEyck asked about item 854, Gordon's Electric Inc. Staff explained that it was to repair damages from the lightning storm. We needed to repair services for the golf well. The storm had knocked power out at the Marina and the shortage killed the power at the well.

Councilor TenEyck asked about item 394, City County Insurance Services. Staff explained it was for our property/auto comprehensive. The majority going to water/sewers/streets. It was the annual premium and we took advantage of the discounted provided by the company by paying ahead.

Councilor TenEyck asked about item 2244, Trojan UV, Inc. Staff explained this was the last step our waste water went through before the water goes back into the Columbia River. The City of Umatilla hadn't had a compliance issue since 2001. UV is the last step before it goes back into the water, the bank was damaged during the storm, and they are very expensive to replace. If we were to experience that type of damage again, we would be able to go a quarter or 2 before redoing the system. It is all computer operating, and processor operated. The system is extremely expensive to replace.

Councilor TenEyck asked about item 398, City of Hermiston - Building Dept. He wanted to know much longer we would be paying those types of fees. Staff explained we were actively recruiting an electrical inspector. We had made an offer to someone from Berkeley, CA, but that individual used it as leverage to stay. Manager Stockdale had a meeting with Hermiston the following day, and they would be discussing and reviewing the IGA. Manager Stockdale hoped to have the electrical inspector position back out for recruiting by the end of the week. They hoped to have the position filled soon.

Councilor TenEyck asked about item 487, Crystal Clear Ice. He stated he was recently down at the Marina and bought a bag of ice. There was water pouring out of the corner. He was questioning the efficiency of the compressor or evaporator. He was concerned it was not working properly. Manager Stockdale stated staff would follow up on it.

Councilor TenEyck inquired about item 2148, Talos Engineering, Inc. He stated that 12.5K seemed excessive to conduct troubleshooting storm damage. Staff explained it was for the programming. In emergency situations, the City had to pay for mileage, time, and traveling expensive from Portland. Staff has been searching for a closer outfit to service the City, but because it was such a specialized field, we are usually forking out about \$250-400 per hour. PP&L had to change 7 transformers in Umatilla after the storm. It took up a lot of time trying to ensure we had power to all our services.

Councilor TenEyck inquired about item 2647, Pinnock. Staff explained he removed and replaced the flooring at the Marina office. It was a lot cheaper to have him do it than a contractor.

The City had spent almost \$900K in one month out of a \$35 million budget. That's a testament to how fast the City was growing.

Councilor Roxbury wanted to know if we were grounded in certain places. The Radio District paid an astronomical amount to ensure everything was grounded for the radios, including R56 grounding specs. Did the City have something like this in place? Staff explained that we were looking at an unprecedented 25-50 year storm. No matter the amount of defense we had, if it hits in the right spot, it didn't matter what we had. The lightning was 9-12 feet deep when it hit the ground.

Roak TenEyck moved to approve July Paid Invoices and June Court Report. . Leslie Smith seconded the motion. Voted: 5 - 0. Motion carried.

7.3 Court Report - June

**8) NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Resolution No. 06-2021 - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to amend the Greater Umatilla Enterprise Zone boundary. The amendment would add Umatilla County as a new cosponsor and expand the enterprise zone to include all land zone for commercial or industrial use within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Roak TenEyck moved to approve Resolution No. 06-2021 - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to amend the Greater Umatilla Enterprise Zone boundary. The amendment would add Umatilla County as a new cosponsor and expand the enterprise zone to include all land zone for commercial or industrial use within the Urban Growth Boundary. . Ashley Wheeler seconded the motion. Voted: 5 - 0. Motion carried.

8.2 Resolution No. 07-2021 - A Resolution Authorizing a Loan from the Special Public Works Fund by Entering into a Financing Contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority

Michael Roxbury moved to approve Resolution No. 07-2021 - A Resolution Authorizing a Loan from the Special Public Works Fund by Entering into a Financing Contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority. Ashley Wheeler seconded the motion. Voted: 5 - 0. Motion carried.

8.3 Resolution No. 08-2021 - A resolution authorizing the Finance & Administrative Services Director to sign infrastructure contract 4519-DR-OR with the State of Oregon Office of Emergency Management

**9) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment presented.

## 10) DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 10.1 Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Concept Discussion

Staff explained how we needed to increase water capacity to the South Hill area with 2 24-inch main water lines. The new pedestrian bridge should become more used. It should include recreational features and have some pop outs.

Finance & Administrative Services Director Ince stated anything that is considered an enhancement would be out of the City's pocket.

Public Works Director Coleman stated that this bridge would be hanging for 10 years, the decision was the City Council's to make. Staff wanted to make sure they were included in the decision making process. Any amenities added to the bridge the City would have to cover.

Councilor TenEyck stated we needed to hit 3 major bells, longevity, functionality, and aesthetics. The bridge needed to look like it belonged in Umatilla. We needed to add another bridge to our repertoire. Maybe make it a destination thing like a photoshoot of the bridges. We needed to measure twice and cut once. We don't want to rush it and look back and wish we would have taken more time.

Councilor Smith stated she liked Figure 6 that was presented as an attachment.

Manager Stockdale stated we didn't bring the Cadillac version bridges. FEMA would be picking up 70 -75% of the cost. Bridges draw tourism and enhance communities. This bridge needed to stand the test of time. He believed we were doing a good job of walking a fine balance. This was a great way to add pride to community. This bridge coupled with updating the boat ramp and fishing area along with land purchases next to the Community Center or Police Department to add no motorized vehicle in the not to far future a hub for the community in the recreational aspect.

Councilor Roxbury stated that we couldn't rebuild the Cathedral of Notre Dame today. We would be in our community the rest of our lives. Don't go with the lowest option and stick to the utilitarian. This needed to be something we were proud of. We have one chance to get it right.

Manager Stockdale agreed and emphasized that utility lines would be underneath the new bridge and out of sight.

### 10.2 COVID-19 Update, response discussion (including City Hall and other physical office open/close), and staffing

Manager Stockdale would be updating on four different things today.

1. Relief Funds are coming our way
2. Office Hours for the 3 weeks and rest of year
3. Library Functions
4. County/State Relationship

Relief Funds - CARES Act to trickle down to City. We would be getting up to \$220K. The funds can be used for 2 things. Cover city expenses associated with COVID19. Cost for staff to work remotely that included technology, computers, office supplies, and cell stipends. This would all be used to carry city operations. The rest can be used to do economic development or capital improvement or to help local businesses.

County gets \$1.3mil. They can share those funds. If they do, it would increase the City available funds to to \$1.7mil. Umatilla County and Cities help out our local businesses impacted by COVID19 with more than a dollar for dollar match for economic development. We can set aside about \$90K to continue city operations and \$130K to support business and community. We needed a unified and uniform procedure and process . We anticipate having about \$170 to City of Umatilla. The program was designed for businesses with 50 or less employees and who hadn't received Federal CARES Act. The County wanted to be equitable for all cities. They are ironing out final details. Applications should be available soon.

We had heard from several business have heard they don't want a handout. This is not a handout, this was their tax dollars at work. We don't know how long it will last. Businesses needed to use them and take advantage of it.

City Hall & Office Hours - Our offices were closed to public, but we are fully operational and staff is here. Our ability to predict or forecast is broken. There were 3 things going on. We had a telephone game conundrum. We get information handed to us, and by the time we are sending it out, it's changed at federal level. We are not in a good environment. We need to create a standardized environment for the rest of the year and adjust in December or January. He was proposing Monday - Thursday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and closed on Friday. We need to ensure we have the ability to have resources available to carry out our work at home. We would reduce from 45 at City Hall to 20 hours. This would mean that our in person level of service would be reduced.

Public Works Director Coleman is the oldest at City Hall. We have a lot of single moms, single dads, and coparenting structures set up at City Hall. We need to pool resources to meet the expectations that are happening in the real world.

Councilor Roxbury stated he wasn't an alarmist, but that things were getting out of hand. He agreed with Manager Stockdale. He needed to do 100% of whatever Manager Stockdale needed to do that limited the potential of things getting worse.

If we can do it from home, do it. Get it done. The ordeal was getting worse by the day. 100% of whatever it's going to take to not get completely out of hand.

Public Works Director Coleman stated toilets needed to flush and water needed to be drinkable, those things were important. Essential personnel are essential. The folks down at Public Works Shop will be at work 40 hours because they have to be.

Mayor Dedrick stated she had recently had a conversation with Superintendent Sipe. We have to work with kids and get them what they need to get them educated. Kids can't fall behind. They are also stressed out.

Council Smith stated she came from a nursing background. If you can do your job from home and work all 40 hours, do it.

Councilor Chavez stated she was glad they are doing that. As a single mom, it had been hard for her, too. She was jealous of Public Works Director Coleman, because it had been hard for her. She endured 2 months of distant learning and she was ready for kid to go back.

Library - The library's level of services were reduced. Staff was being reduced. During this last 4.5 months we have done a lot of bridge gap projects. Everything that possibly could be cleaned out, was cleaned out. Everything has been surplus, donated, removed and remodeled. All these projects were to keep staff busy. We needed to do it and it was a good opportunity to do that. The projects were done and gone. All the e-books and e-cards are done. We needed to terminate 2 part-time employees. There was no more work available to them. We will need to furlough one employee. The other employee would work on delivery services. We need to start implementing furlough from library. It is not good stewardship of fiscal policy to keep that many people on staff with the level of services being drastically reduced.

Councilor Roxbury wanted to know that if when all this is over, were we going to bring people back? He doesn't want to ax anyone either. He wanted people to get their jobs back when everything goes back to normal.

Manager Stockdale stated he didn't know what will public libraries look like post COVID-19. In December or January staff will look around to see where they are at. Staff was not trying to unfund the library positions. The pendulum could swing another way.

Manager Stockdale stated the State of Oregon is communicating with the County daily. The County is communicating with the City almost daily. There have been countless hours of coordination. He is convinced they are doing what they believe is best. All agencies are working really hard and communicating often. Decisions are being made on the side of caution and public health and safety. It was our

public duty and civic duty to set a good example to support this effort. We don't need to agree with everything. There is a lot of different people and smart people working on how to best handle this and we would keep doing our part.

### 10.3 LGGP Grant Budget Update

#### 11) **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

Mayor Dedrick thanked all the staff. None of us really know what staffs going through, and she appreciated all their hard work.

#### 12) **COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION**

Councilor TenEyck - Be safe and as crazy as it is, look for the sanity. Keep it in the cue. Stay grounded. Hopefully, it's not political movement. One day we will say "remember when." We must keep our wits about us. Be smart. B safe, God bless.

Councilor Wheeler - Appreciated discussion we were able to have. She looks forward to continue to move forward even through this pandemic. Excited to work with staff and council on upcoming projects.

Councilor Smith - sent many thanks to the Hall staff and to Council for putting up with her. She wanted to let everyone know that the Museum would host their wine and cheese fundraiser. They will do it next year.

Councilor Roxbury - was not one who is prone to use that phrase - but we have never had a better City Manager than David Stockdale. He was concerned. when he realized that almost all of staff could be his children because of their age. He had known Paul Chalmers his whole years as Fire Chief and he had never heard Mr. Chalmers talk the way that he had tonight and he knows it was of David Stockdale. That is a seachange he had been waiting for. It was hard to believe where we are at now to where we started. We are killing it.

#### 13) **ADJOURN**

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Mary Dedrick, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Nanci Sandoval, City Recorder

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