

MINUTES

RIVERGROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

STANDING ITEMS

1. Call to order and attendance: (Mayor Williams) The Mayor asked for a roll call at 7:02. All councilors were present: Mayor Williams, Councilors Ruble, Tuttle, Pierce and J. Williams. A quorum was declared.

Guests: Carolyn Bahrman, ???

2. Review and Approval of minutes from previous meetings. (City Manager) The City Manager had not completed the August 10th minutes, so that was postponed until next month. **[OPEN]**
3. Review and approval of City financials. (Councilor J. Williams) Councilor Jeff Williams had reviewed the financials for August and ~~approved them~~ recommended they be approved. He did question the use of a debit card to pay two ongoing items (he mentioned ZOOM) and the City Manager explained that this was required if we wanted to use that service.

Mayor Williams made a motion to approve the August financials. Seconded: Councilor J Williams. The vote was 5-0. **[closed]**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Susie Lahsene ~~A clarifying question: asked about the~~ wanted clarify the petition submitted last month regarding the boat ramp. The purpose of this petition was to better manage the traffic in the area. She is hearing ~~a focus~~ discussion focusing on the use of the river and says that this ~~isn't~~ wasn't the purpose—the purpose is was to address ~~manage~~ managing the access to the river..

FINISHED BUSINESS

1. Planning Commission Vacancy: (City Manager) This has been filled by Lisa Merlo Flores, who has been on the Planning Commission previously. Jacob McKay said he would like to stay on another term. That is perfectly fine with the City Manager and she would like to see him stay. **[closed]**
2. Candidates for City Council: (City Manager) The four candidates who qualified to be on the ballot are: Bill Tuttle, Brenda Ruble, Susie Lahsene and Chris Barhyte. The top three vote-getters will be on Council next year, with the top two having 4-year term and the next having a 2-year term. **[closed]**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **CANAL ACRES DEVELOPMENT:** (Mayor Williams) ~~There is no~~ No mitigation plan for lots 2 and 3 could be found. There is an approved development and mitigation plan for lot 4 but no building has taken place. **[closed]**
2. **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AUDIT PROPOSAL:** (City Manager) The CM spoke to our accountants, Tabor Accounting, ~~which who does not do~~ perform audits. Then she spoke to Roy Rogers and he ~~was~~ seemed excellent. He explained there are two kinds of audits: a municipal audit and a fraud audit, when someone has taken money. Since in Rivergrove's case, there was only a small fund discrepancy, he recommended that it wasn't worth having a fraud audit if Rivergrove was not intending (or not able) to go after the person who took the money. He charges 18K-20K for a fraud audit, and municipal audits cost \$7-9K. In short, he recommended that we do nothing, and simply live with the discrepancies now that we have straightened the current books.

Then, she talked to Rick Proulx, who was recommended by Norm Donohoe, from our budget committee. His fraud audits cost \$20K-24K and municipal audits ~~are~~ cost \$8K-10K. He too suggested that unless significant money was missing, we should not consider an audit.

Councilor Tuttle stated that we should consider not having an audit but simply cite the two conversations.

Mayor Williams said that it was ~~this was~~ his understanding that we were overdue for an audit and asked the CM to address this. She said that to the best of her understanding, the city had never had an audit. Former CM Rich Refvem had asked Council for one when he took over, but Council didn't vote to do so. (The CM confirmed this with him.) A municipal audit is not required unless a city's expenditures are over \$150K and Rivergrove's are not.

Mayor Williams stated that our expenditures are very low. But if you smell a fish, it is appropriate to find out where the smell is coming from.

Council President Ruble stated that It was her understanding that an audit was needed because the books couldn't be balanced, but since then, the CM was able to work with them.

The City Manager stated that the problem is that Quicken's general fund is not able to reconcile to the bank's general account. ~~Mayor Williams: 20 years and no audit is scary. City Manager:~~ She can ask Kristen at Tabor Accounting for help. She agreed that it may not need a full audit, but simply a reconciliation of that one account. **[OPEN]**

3. **PAVING OF CHILDS WEST OF 65TH:** (Mayor Williams) The Mayor has spoken to WA County who could give no promises now because they have a lot going on. The CM stated that we may have enough money left over after Jeff's project to fill a few potholes.

Councilor Williams felt that it was not fair to let Rivergrove have to pay for the whole road when the population on Rivergrove's side is so much less than Tualatin's.

The CM stated that the City Attorney, Bill Kabeiseman, researched Childs Rd west of 65th and found that the situation was very clear—it's ours to maintain.

Mayor Williams stated that WA County mentioned that Metro would pave our road and give us sidewalks if we'd okay the bridge over the river at 65th. He told them it was a non-starter.

Carolyn Bahrman reminded the City of the Small Cities grant for this.

The CM noted that we should wait to see what monies we may have left over after the speed sign project is completed. Then the item can come back to Council for further deliberations.

[OPEN for future agenda]

4. **BOAT RAMP STUDY** (Councilors Pierce and Ruble) Councilor Pierce stated that he and Councilor Ruble contacted all the pertinent agencies and have not had and response. They will continue to contact all agencies and ferret out facts regarding ramp uses.

The Mayor asked if Councilor Pierce had gone through the CM to ask the City Attorney to clarify his statements regarding the boat ramp? Councilor Pierce said he didn't think it was in his purview, that only the Mayor wanted to contact the City Attorney. **[OPEN]**

5. **Review of Proposal for Administrative Rules – Resolution 264 - 2019** (City Manager) Councilor Pierce said that, in his opinion, the document previously to be considered ~~it need~~ needed a fair amount of work. The Council agreed to not consider the item at this meeting, and possibly address it at a future meeting. The Mayor asked Councilors to review and send comments to CM who will send them to Councilor Tuttle.**[OPEN]**

COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **Mayor's Report:** We need to ask how we can get emergency notifications out immediately. Councilor Ruble said Lisa Merlo Flores said she was interested in working on emergency notifications. The CM stated that she's now on the Planning Commission and is building a new house and garage, so that may have changed. Mayor Williams said that there is no city that is as small as Rivergrove, but when people step up, we have to be careful not to ask too much of the volunteers.

Mayor Williams said that River Grove Elementary's BLM sign was desecrated.

Mayor Williams said that 46 trees will be removed by the Lake Oswego Corporation to work on the canal. Nothing will be staged in Rivergrove and no one will be blocked. They are looking to repair the canal and will remove the dredged material off the site. Councilor Pierce noted the materials dredged out sometimes has heavy metals or other toxins.

Mayor Williams accepted a speaking engagement Oct 14, He asked if everyone was in agreement. Everybody was.

Mayor Williams has been asked to attend an LOC /NLC /MMC and Oregon Mayors Association meeting. ~~have all~~ All have reached out asking for Rivergrove's support.

2. **Councilor J Williams:** The City has contracted with Beacon Electric for the radar signs. And they have forwarded the paperwork to the County. We are waiting for the County now but they are working from home.

Councilor Williams would like to see those who have downed trees be asked to submit tree cutting application forms. The CM assured him they would be.

3. **Councilor Pierce:** Councilor Pierce: Sept 4, Bartlett Tree finished some cleanup work at Lloyd Minor Park (some tree stumps that had to be removed) and on Sept 18th they will be finishing the job. He tried to reach Beaverlake Nursery for the trees they'll be using for the mitigation plan. He has not been able to reach them—they are in the Level 3 Fire Evacuation Zone. He hopes they're still in business and will continue to follow this.

He also has continued to monitor the spruce tree that was the subject of a complaint about vagrants urinating. He still has seen no sign of this. On Labor Day he went to Brown's Ferry Park and to the Tualatin Community Park Boat Ramp to monitor both of those facilities. Both were in high use. He did not see social distancing or the wearing of masks. People were being respectful and keeping some distance. No one was supervising and everyone was having fun—at least until the smoke blew in.

Because of the current fire concern, Councilor Pierce suggested ~~would suggest~~ we check with TVF&R to make sure we have no concerns before Bartlett begins the stump removals.

Councilor Tuttle asked about the citizen who suggested a Porta Potty in the park ~~and suggested not this year but perhaps next.~~ Councilor Pierce: ~~He~~ He said he had already spoken to the Mayor, Councilors and the CM and to the individual who had contacted the city and had told him that Council was not in favor of the idea.

4. **Councilor Ruble:** Councilor Ruble: ~~First,~~ said she went to Cook Park to see the situation on the holiday weekend. It was packed! No signs, no social distancing.

~~Also,~~ she then asked if anyone had heard of the I-205 toll bridges that was being proposed?

Mayor Williams: It hasn't been approved.

Councilor Ruble said she had been to a presentation by ODOT. Their preferred options are to toll booths—one at Stafford and one at Abernathy. When she complained that this would increase the traffic along Childs, they argued that it would decrease it. There is currently no stipulation that the money earned by the road would stay with the road. And ODOT has not even approached Rivergrove about this. Mayor Williams stated that Metro wants this, but 20 out of the 24 Metro mayors do not. The mayors are in an uproar! The only mayors who are saying

yes are those who are directly in line to make money for their cities. Right now they're just talking about it. Councilor Ruble said It sounded like a done deal at the meeting she went to.

As for the giving program, she has reached out to the fire hit areas.

5. **Councilor Tuttle:** Councilor Tuttle stated that the subcommittee for the new development code has finished and at some time it will be available for public comment. The CM stated she just sent it to the website person who will post it on the website.

Councilor Tuttle moved to adjourn; Councilor Pierce seconded

Passed 5/0

Meeting ended 8:35 pm