

City of North Powder Council Meeting
June 1, 2020
7PM Wolf Creek Grange

Attendance: Mayor Mike Wisdom, Councilors Logan McCrae, Mike (Big Mike) Morse, David (Shorty) Schwehr, Jeff Grende, and Joyce Lawyer. City Recorder Beth Wendt, Librarian Maggie Guthrie, Public Works Director Rick Lawyer.

Others in attendance: Brett Moore, Tom Thomas, Vicki Townsend, Dennis & Maja Lefever, George Marsten.

Mayor Mike Wisdom called the meeting to order.

New Councilor Letter of Interest- Mayor Mike read three letters of interest for the empty Council position, vacated in May by Tanna Ingram. The three interested parties were Vicki Townsend, Dennis Lefever, and Tom Thomas. All three were interested in serving beyond the end of the term. Big Mike wanted to have a private vote. Beth noted that all votes must be done publicly. Tom and Vicki have both served on the Council in the past. Vicki felt there was a certain gratification in bringing the community together, seeing the results, and knowing she did her part. Dennis agreed there was gratification in helping people to move forward in life and wanted to help clean up the town and move forward. Tom said he loves the town and wants to do what he can. Mayor Mike asked for nominations. Shorty nominated Dennis Lefever. Joyce seconded the nomination. Logan nominated Vicki Townsend and Jeff seconded. Big Mike nominated Tom Thomas. Logan seconded. Shorty and Joyce were in favor of Dennis. Logan and Jeff were in favor of Vicki. Big Mike was in favor of Tom. As there was a tie between Dennis and Vicki, Mayor Mike asked for a revote. Joyce and Shorty were still in favor of Dennis and Logan and Jeff were still in favor of Vicki. Big Mike abstained. Vicki jumped in and added her support for Dennis. Mayor Mike cast the deciding vote in favor of Dennis Lefever. Shorty, Logan, and Dennis will all be up for reelection this fall. Beth issued the oath to swear Dennis in.

Public Comment-

Maggie wondered if having Dennis Lefever as a Council member would be a conflict of interest because his mother-in-law works part-time at the Library. Joyce thought not, as long as he is not her supervisor.

Agenda-

Mayor Mike asked for amendments to the Agenda. Logan asked to add a discussion of the purchase of the fire department building to New Business. Beth suggested we let Brett Moore have time during the Public Works report so he didn't have to stay to the end of the meeting. Jeff made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Big Mike seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes –

Mayor Mike asked for amendments to the minutes of the Council meeting on May 4, 2020 or the work session on May 23, 2020. Logan made a motion to accept the minutes from May 4th. Big Mike seconded. All were in favor. Shorty made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 23rd Work Session. Big Mike seconded. Motion carried with 5 in favor. Jeff abstained as he was not at the meeting.

Accounts Payables-

Beth had updated AP spreadsheets with changes highlighted. She reviewed the changes. The total AP came to \$11,582.66 (plus \$150 for refund to Susan Ferguson for Conditional Use Permit application). Wastewater Grant Draw #4 came to \$4706.17. Big Mike asked about Library charges to Amazon.com for the reading program. Maggie explained that she buys a lot of supplies for activities through Amazon, particularly now. So far she has 8 kids signed up. Joyce made motion to pay the bills. Big Mike seconded. All were in favor.

Library Report-

Maggie noted that with Tanna gone, we need a new liaison for the Library. Shorty volunteered to finish out the year. There were no objections.

Maggie noted that the Library Board wants to do a survey about the Library. The survey would ask things like what services people are aware of that the Library offers and what types of services or programs would they like to see offered.

Carolyn Flynn wants to set the Community Yard Sale in August. Maggie will talk some more with the board. Maggie would like to get some semi-permanent chalk paint for the sidewalk in front of Library. She wants to paint some games, like hopscotch, for kids. Shorty asked if it could be washed off with a power washer. Beth suggested we check with CIS regarding liability first.

Some libraries are working on phase 1 re-opening. La Grande is offering curbside service and Baker is doing 1 hour appointment times. Because of the 6' distancing, we are not able to do that, but Maggie hopes by July we can move forward by doing computer appointments and have Susie open the Library on Saturdays. Books will still have to be ordered on line.

Maggie sent in a price quote for reusable bags.

Public Works Report-

Rick noted that the Clean-Up day is coming up on June 13th. He suggested if possible, maybe we could set up at the re-cycle center. Shorty noted that we would need to post it at the shop. Beth said Union Sanitation is bringing 2 big dumpsters and a smaller one for metal. Rick thought B&K would have a dumpster for metal, too.

Rick reported that the annual maintenance on the generator (at the well) was done and the meters have been calibrated.

Water tests are coming up next week.

The lagoon is progressing. It is getting full. We have stopped going to the river so he hoped we would get more water because the retention time is almost zero. The aerator is working and it helps. Rick is still adding "bugs". Mayor Mike asked why the aerator was not being used before. Rick thought it might have been set too deep and picked up a lot of trash. Mayor Mike wondered if there would be an issue with moving on to irrigation. Rick didn't think so, but he will need at least a week to do the necessary maintenance. Right now the water level is high enough that he can't get to all of the manholes.

Rick is ready to start on the water line to the fire department. Baker City is going to help make the cut on the asbestos pipe so he is waiting on their schedule. They want at least a week's notice.

The guy wanting sewer and water lines along Second Street has been in contact and wants to get started on that fairly soon.

Mayor Mike asked about Stop signs that were vandalized. Rick said there were 8 that had been run over and damaged. We have 1 or 2 replacement signs on hand and Rick will see what needs to be replaced.

Mayor Mike took pictures of the downed signs and tire tread marks. He reported it to the Sheriff's department. We need to get an estimate of what it costs to replace the signs, including labor. Beth thought we should report it to CIS. Rick noted that ODOT will replace the sign at 2nd & F.

Jeff wondered if it would be possible to come up with a monthly schedule for Public Works projects. We have money budgeted for different things, like road repairs. He was concerned that if we don't have a schedule, some things won't get done. Rick felt there were too many unexpected things that come up, like the stop signs, to be able to stick to a schedule.

Brett Moore reported that the Wastewater Project was on schedule. The design should be done sometime in July or early August at the latest. The Wetland Delineation Report is done and has been sent to the State. They have 130 days to review and concur. The bio-solid removal at the primary cell at the lagoon is not currently in the project because when funding was established, there wasn't sufficient bio-solids according the last completed sludge survey. Brett noted that he has a Sonar system coming in for some other projects so we may be able to get in on that. We need to check with CDBG to see if we can adjust

some funds to pay for it. In order to provide some flexibility to the new system, Brett is looking at adding some pumps to allow water to move back from the evaporation pond to the lagoons for maintenance. Mayor Mike noted that we need to prolong the life of the sprinkler system until we are fully functioning with the evaporation pond. Jeff wondered if there were any problems with the tribes. Brett said the tribes and SHPO are being cautious when it comes to cultural resources because of the proximity to the river. They feel there could be historic use. A pedestrian survey was done on the site and nothing was found. However, SHPO still has some concerns. Nick is working with SHPO to get an agreement to monitor during construction instead of having to dig a bunch of holes. Even if we have to dig holes, we'll still have to have an archeologist on site during construction. The wetland will be lined and covered with about 12" of dirt. Beth noted that Nick will meet with someone from Fish and Wildlife to do the first of two surveys on Friday and do a second survey a week or two later. Brett added that Howells' Spectacular is a rare plant and is known to be in the area.

City Recorder Report-

Water overages in May were \$608.46.

Beth reminded everyone of the Special Council Meeting on June 22nd to adopt the budget.

There were no entries for the "If I Were Mayor" contest.

Beth noted that for the past several years we've had a porta-pottie in the park from June to October. She wondered if the Council would like to get one now. Traditionally we have them serviced bi-weekly during June and September but more often during July and August. Mayor Mike wondered if the use was enough to justify the expense. Beth thought people appreciated having them there. Jeff and Logan wanted to see them back. There were no objections.

Beth noted that the imaging belt on the copy machine was replaced. There was no charge for the part but there was a \$50 charge for the service call which was included in the accounts payables.

Beth reminded that it is time to start annual employee reviews. Shorty will do Public Works and the Library. Joyce will do City Recorder.

Mayor's Message- Mayor Mike had nothing.

New Business-

2020-2021 Revenue Sharing Resolution- Mayor Mike read Resolution #2020-R4, a resolution to receive State Revenues in 2020-2021. Logan made a motion to approve the resolution. Big Mike seconded. All were in favor.

Fire Department Building Purchase-

Logan noted the Rural Fire Department is hoping to be moved out of the fire department building within two to three months. They have no desire to keep their part of the building and would like to see the City get the building. They won't give it to the City but would like to see a proposal from the City within the next few months. If the City doesn't make a proposal, they have other private people/entities who would like to purchase the Rural Fire Department's part of the building. Logan volunteered to work with Beth to make up a fact sheet showing the size of the facility, renovation & purchase costs, where the money would come from, etc. The Library and City Hall are in bad disrepair and the fire department provides a great opportunity to replace them and get a conference room. If needed we may have room for a bay for the shop. Rick wondered if it would be high bid. Logan thought if it was done as an agreement between government entities, no. He felt it was a great place to start and worth exploring. Joyce was interested but wondered if the Rural Fire District was still willing to consider annexing the City into their district. Logan said it has been talked about. He understood it would have to go to the voters. But if there is a void in the amount of money coming in from taxes, they would have to contract with the City to fill the void so their revenue doesn't go down. The last time they really talked about it was when the School bond was just passed and there were water and sewer hikes. Joyce felt if they would invite the City in, if it passed we could use the money for other things, like law enforcement. Logan reiterated that we would have to

convince the City residents. Beth thought it had to go the vote of both the Rural Fire District and the City. Mayor Mike hoped the City would approach the decision from a position of strength and not necessarily just give in. He was under the impression that they are running out of money and he didn't want to see the City put in a position to appease any entity because of a situation they created. He wondered why they would be any more willing to annex the City now than when they first talked about it. He thought there was mention of the City still having to make up a short fall. Logan said the RFD Board's position was why would they annex if it means a reduction in revenue? Mayor Mike thought we needed an appraisal and we need to do some real scrutiny. Logan felt the Mayor's concerns were a bit unfounded. He didn't think they were in a particular financial crunch and don't particularly care who they sell to. He thought it could be a win-win situation for both parties. Mayor Mike wanted to be sure the City goes into this carefully and well prepared. Jeff wanted to see some true numbers. If it goes up for auction it could go for a lot less. Therefore, it should give the City a little bit of leverage. Logan thought we could kick it back to them for a number but didn't know what it would accomplish. Jeff agreed, but without an appraisal to look at we don't have anything to go by. Logan thought the RFD had an appraisal they would be willing to share. Jeff didn't know how fast the City wanted to move on this but he would like to meet with somebody from the Fire Department. Logan felt the City has an opportunity to have a nice City Hall and Library with a conference room. Mayor Mike wondered if we were talking about purchasing the building or are we talking about gathering information and basing a decision on that information. Logan's idea was to come up with a proposal that includes options for fixing the current building vs. purchasing and remodeling the fire department. He will get with Beth to put together some facts. Joyce interjected that she would like to see the City purchase a meter to put on the water line to the fire department. It would be cheaper to put it in now than at a later date.

Old Business-

Playground- George reported that we sent out 29 letters for sign sponsorships and donations. We got back 2 responses to sponsor signs, one with a check for \$1000 and a pledge from Miles for the same amount. George will submit applications for grants from Wildhorse and the Oregon Community Foundation. Joyce is working with the Burkle Foundation. We need at least one more major grant before we start construction. Wildhorse and Burkle will fund in time to start this year. The reason for the letters were mainly about signs is because one of the major requirements of the Wildhorse Grant is regarding education and the signs would take care of that. Joyce thought the Burkle Foundation would initially be a small donation. We can apply for a grant in August that funds in November. George has talked to several people who are really excited about the project.

City Clean-up Day- Mayor Mike wondered if there was an objection to moving the Clean Up stuff to the recycle site. Beth has a call into Les Schwab about tires. We can take batteries to WastePro in La Grande and Baker Sanitary. Mayor Mike talked to Seth Bingham about having the FFA group help collect stuff from people who can't haul stuff themselves. Trinity Nesser will take point as part of a project. The Mayor also talked to Erin Thompson to see if there was anybody from a youth group who would be interested in a Community Service project. The pickup day will be June 13th from 8AM to 4PM. There will be a nominal fee for dumping.

Wastewater Project – (Moved to Public Works)

RV/Mobile Home Ordinance- Mayor Mike noted that everyone had a copy of a draft RV/Mobile Home ordinance. Most cities start their ordinances with definitions so it is consistent throughout the ordinance. They have covered a lot of things that we don't such as tents or anything portable that could fall into the ordinance. He wondered if we wanted to include stock trailers that have living quarters. We also need to come up with a working definition of tiny homes because they have been determined that they could fall under an RV classification. Dennis noted that some tiny homes are put on a foundation. Mayor Mike

thought that removal of wheels should not necessarily resolve it of being classified as mobile. He thought the draft touched on all of the bullet points that were discussed in the work session. For example, the first line states that RV owners are encouraged to stay in an RV Park. We may want to word it so that the fee could be subject to review. Shorty thought the fee could be set by resolution. Mayor Mike went over some of the other high points and changes, including addressing visitors who return for a second visit, exceptions to extend a 14 day visit, lot hopping, making the property owner the responsible party, etc.. The Union County Justice Court only meets 2 Mondays a month so the Mayor was concerned about what happens between the time the citation is issued and the time they appear in court. Shorty said they could leave but they are still have to address the citation with the Court. Beth noted that we had a few responses to the RV survey. Most say to permit up to 3 months, a few said renew indefinitely and others said don't renew at all.

Ordinance Enforcement Report- Beth had nothing to report. Mayor Mike noted that we budgeted for \$2500 for ordinance enforcement. He didn't feel we could advertise for someone until we have an idea of what we can pay. Vicki Townsend didn't seem to be totally opposed to taking it on, but the Mayor wanted to be sure that whoever we get doesn't go without backup.

Council Comments-

Dennis thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to serve on the Council.

Joyce felt it would be to the City's advantage to put a meter on the water line that goes out to the new Fire Department because it would keep track of water being used. Shorty noted that we'll have a 10" main line that goes out there, but there will be a meter to the building for water that will be billed. If we get another meter he wondered if it would have to be electronic. Logan thought that would be a cost to the City. Rick estimated a 6" meter would cost around \$3000. Joyce reiterated that the City wouldn't be paid for the water through that meter, it is just a matter of keeping records. Logan asked if it was a requirement to keep track of all water used and if that is the case, we know that based on the wells. Rick said that is part of the problem. There is a difference between what goes through the meters and what goes through the hydrants. If we could get an estimate of how much water is used in fire trucks, it would help. Logan asked if it would be a tracking system for the City rather than a requirement of the State. Mayor Mike thought we had money in our budget to purchase a meter now if we want one. Jeff asked what the 1" meter was for. Rick explained that they only wanted a 1" meter for the kitchen and bathroom. Shorty wondered about the fire system. Rick said the inside fill station would be unmetered but a 6" meter at the hydrant would let us know the difference. Jeff thought we should have the 6" meter. Shorty agreed. Logan asked if \$3000 for a meter was affordable. He thought the Council agreed to meter the site water, for the bathrooms, sinks, lawns, etc., but not fire water. Shorty made a motion to allow Rick to purchase a manual read 6" meter for the water line and spend up to \$3000. Dennis seconded. Motion carried with 5 yes. Logan was opposed.

Big Mike made a motion to adjourn. Joyce seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder