

North Powder City Council Meeting
July 10, 2023
7 PM City Hall

Attendance: Mayor John Frieboes, Councilors Vicki Townsend, Jeff Grende, Justin Wright, Lindsey Thompson, and Logan McCrae. City Recorder Beth Wendt, Public Works Director Rick Lawyer. Others: Lance Dixon, Shorty Schwehr, Barbara Weeks, Susanne Watkins, Nick Ducote, Wynn & Jeff Nielsen, Karlie Martin, Sharon Sosa, Linda Dixon, Steve Vincent, Dave Hoene, Alan Brown, Clay McEnroe, Christina Smith. Kathy Dozhier, Marcia Maddox, & Arvin Martin arrived late.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor John Frieboes. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. For the record, John asked if anyone had a personal recording device to disclose. Jeff Nielsen did.

Public Comment- None

Agenda- Vicki made a motion to accept the agenda. Logan seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes- John asked for amendments to the minutes from the June 5th Council meeting and Special meeting on June 19th. Logan moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on June 5th. Vicki seconded. Motion carried with 4 in favor. Justin abstained as he was absent.

Vicki made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 19th special meeting. Logan seconded. Motion carried with 3 in favor. Lindsey and Justin abstained as they were absent.

Library Report- Beth read a letter of resignation from Maggie Guthrie, effective as of August 31st. Jeff moved to accept the resignation. Justin seconded. All were in favor. Beth will advertise for a replacement.

Public Works- Rick reported that the wastewater project at the lagoons was going really well. The bentonite for the pond is starting to come in. A change order has been submitted for some work next to the Café. There is a section of pipe over a clean-out that is missing and it would be a good place to add a manhole. There is also about 250' of concrete pipe that should be cleaned and have a camera run through it to check the integrity to see how much of it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced. Water use has gone up from about 56,000 gallons per day to over 200,000 gallons per day. Rick will try to get to hydrant flushing by the end of July but it may be the first part of August. The VAC truck is in Haines being looked at. There are a couple of bad sensors and a high pressure leak that they are trying to pin down. Rick & David have been working on mowing & trimming. Alleys are supposed to be maintained by property owners but the City tries to help as we can.

Ordinance Enforcement- We received a Nuisance Complaint from Barry Princevalle about a barrel and trailers in the alley. The complaint has been turned over to Shawn.

New Business:

Council Letter of Interest- Beth read letters of interest to fill Council Position #2 from Jeff Nielsen, Randy Aldrich, and Clifford Fox. Jeff was the only applicant in attendance. John asked for questions from the council. Vicki felt it was hard to ask questions if the candidates were not present. Lindsey wondered if a decision had to be made now. There is nothing in the Charter about a deadline. Jeff G. felt that Jeff N. attends meetings all the time and that goes a long way in his favor. However, there was some hesitation based on conflicts in the past and he didn't want to deal with a constant battle. Lindsey suggested a special meeting with the interested parties to give them the opportunity to show what they can bring to the Council. The balance of the 4 year term is about 3 ½ years. Linda interjected that just because there is a conflict doesn't mean the person wouldn't be a good fill for the position. Barbara didn't think it was fair to ask questions of Jeff N. without the other 2 parties. John agreed we should have a special meeting. Jeff N. thought it was redundant for him to talk when nobody else was here but said he cares about the town and

has worked hard in the community and has connected with people. He shouldn't have to explain what he does. His feels North Powder has a lot of potential and can do better than we've been doing. Vicki wanted to know why he wanted to serve and what his goals are. Jeff N. said his goal is to move the city forward and make people feel like they are a part of the city. He has a lot to offer. Instead of being put on the spot, he would like to have written questions. A special meeting was set for Tuesday, July 18th at 7PM to interview the applicants. Each councilor will come up with two questions that can be presented to the applicants ahead of time.

School District 8J Alley Use Request- There is an alley that runs through the elementary playground between the building and the playground equipment. Lance said the School District isn't asking for an abatement but would like to be able to enclose the playground. Two possible options were presented. One would be to fence the entire area around the playground and across the alley to the corners of the elementary building. All of the water meters would be outside of the fenced area. Gates could be opened when school is not in session. The other option was to run a fence on each side of the alley with gates that when opened would create a chute for kids to go back and forth. When the gates are closed, the alley would be open. Lance was concerned that the gates would get opened, but not closed. Logan proposed to allow the fence at both ends. Jeff was concerned about liability to the City. Beth noted that there are utility lines in that alley. Justin commented that the gates could be closed during school hours only. Logan suggested we talk to our attorney about the liability. Dave Hoene thought there was no net worth to the City and suggested abandoning the alley but retaining a utility easement. Beth reminded that the utilities service more than just the school and abandoning the alley is not a part of this decision. Lance reiterated that he just wants to keep the kids safe. A decision was tabled until we can talk to our attorney about liability for fencing off the alley.

OLCC License Change of Ownership- CJ's Country Store has applied for a Change of Ownership for their liquor license. Clay McEnroe purchased CJ's. There were no comments regarding the liquor license change. Jeff moved to approve liquor license application for change of ownership. Vicki seconded. All were in favor.

Library CDBG Public Hearing Notice- Beth read the public notice stating that the City intends to apply for a 2023 Community Development Block Grant for a city library addition at 340 E Street. There were no questions or comments regarding the intent to apply for the grant.

Overcrest Request- Beth noted that City Hall was contacted by a group called Overcrest about possibly renting the old City Hall office for an afternoon on Thursday, October 12th. Overcrest is a nationwide event featuring a rally across Oregon. John suggested we give them the Grange's contact information. It is a better spot and better suited for what they want. The Council agreed. If the Grange can't accommodate them, the City will do something.

Amendment to ODOE Agreement- The City has had an agreement with Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) since July 2019 to reimburse the City for any expenses incurred while dealing with applications from ODOE. It may come into play again with the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission line application. Logan made a motion to accept the amended agreement with the Oregon Department of Energy. Jeff seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business:

Avista Franchise Agreement- Council all had copies of proposed Ordinance #2023-01 and extras were available to the public. Steve Vincent, from Avista, noted that the changes in the agreement would protect the City's liability and interests as well as Avista's. Changes were mainly verbiage for clarifications such as adding the word "public" to identify right-of-ways and easements and allowing inspection of records at the local office as opposed to going to Spokane. The intent to compete clause was removed and the franchise fee was increased from 3% to 5%. Steve noted that after the 2nd reading of the Ordinance, Avista has 30

days to accept the agreement which would make it effective in October. The additional franchise fee will show up on North Powder customer's November billing. The franchise fees are paid quarterly. Fees are 5% of Avista's gross revenues from the City of North Powder. The first reading of Ordinance 2023-01 was done by title only as per City Charter Section 32.3. The second reading will be August 7, 2023.

Wastewater Update- Nick noted that everything seemed to be going well. Saunders is preparing their next pay request.

City Hall/Library Update- Logan noted there were a couple of minor changes to the plans for the division wall between the meeting room and library to accommodate a shared restroom. It shouldn't affect the cost. Plans need to be firmed up for the restroom so we can move forward with the meeting room. Beth reported that we had the feasibility study from Pinnacle Architecture for the basic plan and cost estimate for the library that we need for the CDBG application. It's a basic plan, not a final design. We still need to address some things like a Conditional Use Permit and parking. The estimated cost is \$1,107,060. Nick added that we are looking at applying for a single grant for over \$1,000,000. With the feasibility study and estimate we are ready to start the intake form so we can submit an application in September.

SCA Grant- The 2024 SCA grant is due the end of July. John will work on getting some numbers for the grant application.

Accounts Payable-The Council received updated spreadsheets for the wastewater project which included a payment request from Saunders Company for \$203,903.25. The total grant bills came to \$235,785.10. There were two changes to regular bills for June 2023 which came to \$24,204.40. The third spread sheet was for bills that need to be paid by the end of the month but are on the 2023-2024 fiscal budget. Those bills came to \$32,590.07, which included the purchase stamps before postage rates went up. Justin wondered what Grumpy's did to the VAC Truck. John said they tried to trouble shoot some things but there were a lot of issues and they gave up on it. Logan made a motion to pay all the bills. Vicki seconded. All were in favor. Beth will transfer funds from the LGIP account to cover the bills.

Huckleberry Report- Lindsey commented that they are still looking for volunteers to help with sidewalk clean-up and weed eating leading up to the Huckleberry Festival and clean-up afterward. Lindsey asked for Council permission for a volunteer to dig out and refill the volleyball pit in the future. Huckleberry meetings will be every Wednesday at 6PM at the Grange. John asked if they had talked to the County about using prisoners. Lindsey thought their schedule was already full but Shiloe was going to reach out to the probation department.

Recorder Report- Beth attended the CIS Insurance training on June 26th. It was very informative and benefits renewals are open until July 21th.

Beth has been working on the Worker's Comp Audit Report that is due July 15th.

Water overages were over \$2000 in June.

We received a check from Union County in the amount of \$1010.06 for Clean-Up Day. We turned in expenses for over \$2000. The bill from Union Sanitation was over \$1200 for the dumpsters and we included some of Rick's and David's time. We also received \$138 from B&K for scrap metal.

Hopefully, the 5th Street Paving Project will be done before the end of July so that we can apply for another SCA grant.

Mayor's Message- John talked with Heather Phillips about a rehabilitation program with the prison in Baker to see if they would be interested in doing some weed eating, sweeping, etc. It will require contracts. Beth suggested we verify that our insurance is okay with that.

The County has a tourism grant that could be used for enhancing Main Street. The application is due the end of the week. John suggested we apply for a grant to get started on adding street lights on the north side of 2nd Street, starting at E Street and continuing to A Street. The conduit is already in place. The Council was okay with submitting the application.

Council Comments- Justin commented that the Huckleberry signs look good. John noted that Ruth designed them and we got a grant from the Union Co. Chamber of Commerce to pay for them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Wendt
City Recorder

Attest: