

**MILL CITY
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

Mayor Kirsch opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the flag salute. Councilors present were Janet Zeyen-Hall, Brett Katlong, Tony Trout, and Steve Winn. Dawn Plotts arrived at 6:35 p.m. Staff members in attendance were City Recorder, Stacie Cook, City Clerk, Tree Fredrickson and City Attorney Jim McGehee.

Citizens in Attendance were Ann Carey and Roel Lundquist.

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Mayor Kirsch stated that anyone who felt they may have a potential conflict with anything on tonight's agenda may say so at this time or at any time during tonight's meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Winn requested that item b; Approval of Accounts Payable, be pulled for discussion.

Councilor Winn asked for clarification on payments to Dogwood Canyon Services, DEQ and Phoenix Fire. Mrs. Cook explained that Dogwood Canyon Services is the company that FEMA hired to mow the grass at the SE Fairview Street trailer site. The City pays this invoice and is reimbursed by FEMA. DEQ is the annual fee for the City's sewer compliance permit and Phoenix Fire is a fire suppression company that worked on the new school; they overpaid on a permit and requested that reimbursement be held until the project was complete in order to cover any additional permits that may have been needed.

Councilor Trout moved and was seconded by **Councilor Winn**, to approve items a; Approval of Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting of July 13, 2021, b; Approval of Accounts Payable, and c; Approval of 2% COLA for All Permanent City Employees as Adopted in the 2021/2022 FY Budget. Mrs. Fredrickson polled the Council. The motion passed unanimously, (5:0).

Councilor Dawn Plotts arrived and took her seat.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: None.

PETITION ID #2021-01 QUALIFICATION FOR BALLOT: The petition, which asks for a repeal to the ban on marijuana sales, manufacturing, production, etc. in Mill City has qualified to be placed on the ballot. Mrs. Cook will submit the appropriate paperwork to the Linn County Clerk's Office, who in turn will notify Marion County to have the measure included on the November ballot.

Mayor Kirsch said that there is a potential opportunity to increase the city tax on marijuana sales. Mrs. Cook said that she has looked into this, however, she has not received notification that it has moved forward at the state level. Councilor Zeyen-Hall said that she believes that it has gone through and if so, will provide the information to Mrs. Cook.

Mayor Kirsch asked if a proposed tax needs to be placed on the ballot. City Attorney Jim McGehee said that he will research this as this is the first he has heard of the potential for an increase to the percentage.

Councilor Plotts said that she thought this measure would only allow the sale of marijuana. Mrs. Cook said that the repeal on the ban was for everything; sales, manufacturing, and production, that was in the original measure.

PUBLIC WORKS STAFFING UPDATE/REQUEST TO ADVERTISE TEMP P/T: Public Works Maintenance Worker Jerry Curtis is on leave for an undetermined period of time. Due to his absence, the City will need a part-time employee to assist with public works duties. Mrs. Cook requested authorization to place an immediate advertisement for a part-time position.

Council consensus to advertise for a temporary part-time person with pay set between \$16/Hr-\$19/Hr depending on qualifications and experience.

RV SITE LEASE: Mrs. Cook said that the RV site lease ends in December and asked whether the Council would like to consider requesting an extension of the lease. If the decision is to let the lease expire, the City needs to provide as much notification to those residing at the site as possible so that they can begin looking for new accommodations.

Councilor Katlong said he does not agree with extending the lease as it will be a year by December 3, 2021, giving people ample time to seek other places to live.

Mr. McGehee asked if there are people still living in travel trailers parked on private property, noting that these should be terminated at the same time as the RV park. Mrs. Cook said that the language for the private property allows for two additional six-month extensions to be requested.

Mrs. Cook said that if the Council does not intend to renew the lease, letters will be sent out immediately advising those at the RV site of the lease agreement termination date; December 3, 2021 and the requirement to be fully vacated by then. Mr. McGehee requested that letters be sent both certified and regular mail.

Councilor Katlong moved and was seconded by **Councilor Zeyen-Hall**, Not to Extend the Lease Agreement for the RV Site. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

BEACHIE CREEK FIRE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY: The one-year anniversary of the Beachie Creek wildfire is less than two months away. Marion County stated that they are hoping to have each community affected by the fire participate in some kind of event marking the disaster.

Mayor Kirsch said that he spoke with Marion County Commissioner Danielle Bethel during a local event and was informed that consultants were hired to gather information from local officials on what worked and didn't work during the emergency including notification, response, etc.

Marion County hopes to commemorate the wildfire with events throughout the communities of the canyon. Mayor Kirsch said that he was asked for ideas for the commemoration and suggested Lynda Harrington as a great resource to help organize something for Mill City's participation, adding that this would be a good time to highlight the new improvements to the railroad bridge and NE Wall Street.

Mrs. Cook said the Mill City Falls Park plaza and overlook and NE Wall Street project will be under construction and suggested another area to hold this event.

Councilor Winn suggested the local fire department be included.

MISC. CITY RECORDER ITEMS:

Finance Clerk Review: Finance Clerk Lacy Classen has completed a full year of employment with the City. Mrs. Cook said that she has completed Mrs. Classen's annual evaluation and is recommending a one-step salary increase.

Councilor Katlong moved and was seconded by **Councilor Trout** to Approve a One-Step Salary Increase From Step 1, \$17.20/Hr to Step 2, \$17.88/Hr of the Salary Scale for Lacy Classen. The motion passed unanimously, (6:0).

Railroad Bridge – National Historic Register: Mrs. Cook said that the City has received notification that the Railroad Bridge has been placed on the National Historic Register. This was a mitigation requirement in order to modify the materials used during the rehab process.

Mrs. Cook said that the state has created a Wildfire Programs Advisory Council to respond to the 2020 wildfires. The LOC is asking for two representatives from each City to participate on the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. This committee will require a 2-year commitment with consistent attendance.

The LOC suggested three options for selecting representatives, including an option to have LOC act as the City's representative. Council consensus to select LOC staff to represent the City.

Mayor Kirsch said that he received an email from Ann Carey expressing concerns with the sewer capacity study and the Engineer's report that were presented at the last NSSA town hall meeting. Mayor Kirsch read Mrs. Carey's email into the minutes.

Mayor Kirsch said that the Sewer Master Plan will soon be formally considered by the NSSA Board, however, this is only the first step in starting a sewer project.

Mrs. Carey, SW 1st Avenue, explained that Peter Olson of Keller Associates stated that Mill City is at capacity with the sewer and exceeded capacity after the fires. Mrs. Carey asked how the City will address future development and the condition of the current sewer plant in the interim planning stage for the sewer district.

Mayor Kirsch said that are many variables to the master plan; the type of system that would be best, whether to build another sewer processing plant and where. With prospective development coming to the area, Mayor Kirsch said this plan would help with capacity issues. Census numbers show that Mill City is projected to grow substantially in the next five to ten years and the City needs to be prepared.

Mayor Kirsch said that Marion County has preliminary plans to build a low to medium income housing development on the northwest side of Mill City. This would be a boon to the community as this type of housing is needed in the Canyon. Marion County is aware of the importance of the City's sewer to this development and is keeping it at the forefront of the planning.

Councilor Trout said that he appreciates Councilor Plotts and the Canyon Catalyst crew for all of the hard work they have done in the parks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Stacie Cook, MMC
City Recorder

Tim Kirsch
Mayor