



City of Aumsville

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Aumsville City Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2016

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present were Mayor Harold White, Councilors Robert Baugh, Jr., Nico Casarez, Brian Czarnik, and Della Seney. Council absent were Councilors Trina Lee and Lorie Walters. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding) and Administrative Assistant Lora Hofmann (AA Hofmann) and Finance Officer Josh Hoyer (FO Hoyer) were also present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- September 7 through October 1, 2016 Check Registers
- September 12, 2016 ACC Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilor Casarez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Baugh seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Baugh, Casarez, Czarnik, Seney and Mayor White. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS: FO Hoyer explained the housekeeping resolution and gave the background of the Resolution that would allow the city to accept and appropriate the grant money this year.

Approval of Resolution No. 19-16: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON THE AUMSVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT CHECKING ACCOUNT (Housekeeping: lists the correct signers and supersedes Resolution No. 18-16) Councilor Baugh moved to approve Resolution 19-16. Councilor Seney seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Baugh, Casarez, Czarnik, Seney and Mayor White. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Resolution No. 20-16 APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CITY COUNTY INSURANCE SERVICES (CIS) SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANTS AND THE ASSOCIATED APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER AND SEWER FUNDS OF THE CITY DURING THE FY 2016-17 BUDGET YEAR. Councilor Seney made a motion to approve Resolution 20-16. Councilor Casarez seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Baugh, Casarez, Czarnik, Seney and Mayor White. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Schmitz' Monthly Report was noted and CA Harding gave a supplemental report on the Bike Safety Day at the grade school. They anticipated 30 and ended up with about 200 kids. Business people came outside to watch. He then gave a short report on "Coffee with a Cop."

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Director Oslie's Monthly Report – CA Harding added a bit more information about the radio meter readers and explained that they need to be traded out. He explained the cost and the city's possible request to trade them out all at once. It would make it possible for City Hall staff to read meters from City Hall. There is no financial request at this time. They will gather more information so the total cost will be apparent. Councilor Casarez said he is impressed with the stage that is being built in Porter Boone Park.

NEW BUSINESS: Review Annual Water and Sewer Rate Increase – CA Harding explained that there has been some investigation into some funding options and that there is a need to increase water rates to qualify for the grant portion of the financing. He is recommending that there be no increase, other than the scheduled annual increase that was authorized by a Resolution(sic) in 2010 (sic) (actually Ordinance 639 in 2015). Councilor Seney pointed out that the council had already discussed this at the budget meetings and instead of 3% for water and 3% for sewer, they decided to increase water by 4% and sewer by 2%. CA Harding will double check if there needs to be an official decision, or if it has already been documented in a previous meeting. There was discussion about the previous meeting when the loan and grant requirements were discussed and what the water rate will have to go to for the city to qualify for a grant. CA Harding talked about the forecasting model he is putting together. He said that there isn't a lot of general fund money to augment the cost of city water. Councilor Baugh said the city has been pursuing improvement projects to aging infrastructure because we are always told by the engineers that we could have failures or be unable to meet the demands of our population. He said so far we have not seen a failure and we get the projects completed, albeit not always on a particular schedule. CA Harding said council should set the priorities for these capital projects. He would like to sit down with council and talk about goals and priorities and set up a plan and timeline. Councilor Baugh said he appreciates that CA Harding is bringing a different perspective. CA Harding asked for clarification about the council's direction and the council wants him to pursue funding options, including a loan. Council indicated they do want to pursue funding options, but at the same time would like to be mindful of the impact of rate increases on the community. CA Harding said that Aumsville is one of two cities that qualify for CDBG grant money; perhaps we can apply for some projects as a loan and some projects as a grant opportunity.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Administrator Report – CA Harding is working on a financial report that can be given to council every month so they can have a good idea of where the revenue and expenditures are in comparison to what is budgeted and if the city needs is meeting expectations. Councilor Baugh asked if the financial report is available to the public and CA Harding said that it is public information.

CA Harding talked about the introductory meeting with Rep. Jodi Hack and her concern with mitigating local flooding issues. There was a brief, but productive meeting with US Rep Jeff Merkley. CA Harding has also been talking with Cherriots about the CARTS route changes. He met with the Cherriot's general manager about getting representation back on the special rural funding advisory committee. He said LOC was a great conference and he explained the notebook of breakout sessions he prepared and council's access to it. A joint House and Senate Transportation Committee met and the city submitted a letter of support for several of the legislative priorities of the League of Oregon Cities. We also provided an overview of our issue with the rail crossing and how this issue was preventing our economic development efforts; this was entered into the official record. There was a meeting with Independence leaders about

improving the city's IT. They have agreed to help assess the city's system because they have in house expertise that we do not have. There was a Memo of Understanding signed at the rate of \$60 per hour. They will explore and create a plan to improve our system and help us meet our records retention requirements, including the possibility of moving some information to a cloud base storage system. He shared that Jacquelyn Mair was finished with the city the previous Friday. Jacquelyn came through the JOBS PLUS program, which is a very minimal cost to the city. The City is evaluating the possibility of using this program again in the future.

CA Harding met with ODOT about the city's rail issue. CA Harding provided the ORS to council that deals with the apportionment of costs for the grade crossings. The ORS doesn't appear to support ODOT assertion that the city would be 100% responsible for the rail crossing, so he asked ODOT representative to address the issue of responsibility and authority. We are waiting for a response. CA Harding said ODOT explained if the city can provide a crossing order study, ODOT is willing to suspend the installation of the crossings until the rail becomes more active. It seems to be a good path to follow and the crossing can be removed from the TSP and drop the cost of the TSDC. Councilor Baugh said that there may be information from 2005. CA Harding asked ODOT for a list of what a crossing order encompasses and City Engineer Schuette has said he hasn't prepared a crossing order, but believes it can be done in-house. CA Harding asked if council wants him to pursue this. Council said that this is much better than what we have been dealing with. CA Harding wants to get ODOT to provide the authority they rely on to pass the cost of the crossing to Aumsville and to find out what is included in a crossing order. There was some discussion of the lack of value to Aumsville to bring the active rail back. CA Harding would like to come up with a way to put the cost off for another 20 years at least. CA Harding said that he doesn't think either of the crossings meet the criteria to be considered "unsafe." CA Harding would like to pursue ODOT's waiver of crossing protection at this time. Council said they would like CA Harding to pursue this. CA Harding will not pursue the crossing order until he has the letter of intent from ODOT that they will suspend the rail protection when the crossing orders are complete and outlining who would be responsible, and at what contribution levels.

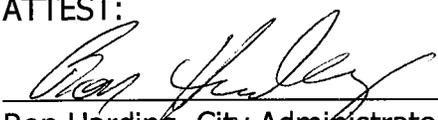
CA Harding said the city has a complaint about a damaged tree on private property. In reading the entire ordinance covering this as a nuisance, CA Harding interprets the ordinance to give the city authority when the tree is a danger to the public on public property, not private property. CA Harding asked the council if that interpretation is consistent with their intent for this ordinance. Council indicated they felt this was the appropriate interpretation. CA Harding said he would note this section and, when appropriate, bring this forward to clean up the verbiage in the ordinance to make it clearer to the public.

CA Harding presented a new agenda format and asked council is it can be tried. Consensus was to go forward with new agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: at 8:10 PM without objection.


Harold L. White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Ron Harding, City Administrator