

**BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

Mayor Sandy Toms called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Councilors Present: Brandon Hammond, David Jones, Katy Norton, Leslie Pierson, Roy Drago Jr., Sandy Toms

Councilors Absent: Art Kegler

Staff: Barry Beyeler – Community Development Director, Heather Baumgartner – City Recorder, Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police.

Audience: In person: Robert Echenrode Via Zoom ID: Wendy Neal, Jonathan Tallman, Terry Tallman, Torrie Griggs, JJ Van Swoll, Luis Campos, Paul Keefer, Alec, Lisa Mittlesdorf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

Councilor Jones moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 regular meeting.

Councilor Drago seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 6-0-1 absent

Moment of Silence for Art Kegler from 7:03 p.m. to 7:04 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The City Council Meeting was held via Zoom.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending August 31, 2020

Finance Director Barajas communicated that at the bottom of the report where it says cash reports the current interest rate on accounts has been added. The interest rates have been dropping due to COVID-19.

Councilor Drago moved to approve the Financial Report Ending August 31, 2020 as presented.

Councilor Jones seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Roll Call: Pierson – Yes, Jones – Yes, Norton – Yes, Drago – Yes, Hammond – Yes, Kegler – Absent, Toms – Yes

Motion passed. 6-0-1 absent

PREARRANGED PRESENTATION

Viviana Colin-Torres – Animal Shelter – Was not present for presentation

PREARRANGED PRESENTATION

Robert Echenrode – CEO Umatilla Electric Co-Op

Mr. Echenrode thanked the city council for allowing him to do a presentation today. He shared a map of where the transmission lines were at and explained what each line was for and their locations. He continued to explain that Boardman is growing and will reach capacity within 5 years. The transmission lines for a new substation run through 17 land owners' properties. 15 of

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those owners have granted easements to UEC. The substation is needed to support future growth in Boardman. The floor was opened up for questions.

Councilor Pierson asked what a particular section of the map was. Mr. Echenrode explained that it was the BPA/Boardman Substation which is a supply point for Umatilla Electric and Columbia Basin. It is also integrated into the BPA bulk energy system. The other section of the map that Councilor Pierson question was a BPA 69 KB line that serves Columbia Basin in Heppner. Councilor Pierson asked what the ramifications would be to run the lines in an alternative direction. Mr. Echenrode explained that it was not the preferred route due to it affecting a farming circle as well as running through wetlands.

Councilor Jones asked about running the transmission line across the wetlands. Mr. Echenrode explained that it may not be possible due to regulations and running the lines through wetlands would be more difficult.

Terry Tallman communicated that it was the first time that he had heard UEC wanted to extend all the way on the south side of the freeway. He continued by stating that during the time the Tallman's and UEC were negotiating, UEC had claimed they did not know what the power uses would be for. He continued by stating that now it suddenly becomes clear that there are many power uses for this transmission line. Mr. Echenrode responded that he wasn't sure what Mr. Tallman was asking and asked him to rephrase the question. Mr. Tallman declined. He continued by stating that the Tallman's had asked about using power from the proposed power line that runs across his property and they were told they could not. Mr. Tallman stated that everyone will be able to use the power line all the way to Love's Truck Stop. Mr. Echenrode responded that he wasn't sure if it would be used all the way to Love's Truck Stop. He continued by stating that it was a point of supply that could be used and extended closer to the city limits to afford a future substation for the city growth. If this line is not built and the city continues to grow, at some point within the next five years UEC would be asking again for a transmission line possibly from the Hwy 730 switch yard towards the west to meet the city needs. He continued by stating the current proposed line would meet the future needs of the city. Mr. Echenrode stated that the information is not new information and is filed with the PUC filing in March 2020. Mr. Tallman stated that his property is extremely valuable for the project to move forward. He feels his property value is not being recognized by UEC. He stated that \$111,000 is a low value that was offered and believes his property will be worth far more to the community. Mr. Echenrode stated that UEC will pay fair market value. Mr. Tallman continued with discussion in regard to condemnation.

Mayor Toms interjected and requested that Mr. Tallman and UEC discuss this situation in private. She explained that it was a presentation to explain where the transmission lines are proposed. Mr. Tallman argued that a public forum was the right place to discuss this situation. Mr. Tallman stated that the City of Boardman had said they would send a letter to PUC. He requested a copy of the letter that had been sent to PUC. Mayor Toms said that it was a public record, the PUC had a copy of that letter, and he could make a request for a copy of the letter. Mr. Tallman claimed he thought the City of Boardman would have sent them a copy of the letter.

City Manager Pettigrew requested the map be displayed again. She pointed out where the current lagoons were and where the new lagoon was going to be located.

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Councilor Jones asked if the gun range was going to be relocated? It is currently owned by the Port of Morrow and there has been discussion as to where a safe location would be. It is not high on the priority list at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Torrie Griggs – Boardman Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Griggs communicated that the first of four Fire GO Bond Facebook live events was on September 10, 2020 and the response has been positive. The next one is scheduled for September 24, 2020.

The candidate's forums for Morrow County, Mayor, and City Councilors are scheduled as follows:

Mayoral Candidates Forum – September 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

City Councilor Candidates Forum – September 30, 2020 6:00 p.m.

County Commission Candidates Forum – October 2, 2020 6:00 p.m.

County Justice of the Peace Candidates Forum – October 5, 2020 6:30 p.m.

County Treasurer Candidates Forum – October 7, 2020 6:00 p.m.

County Sheriff Candidates Forum – October 9, 2020 6:00 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce is working on creating a social media tribute to Art Kegler. The community will be invited to share pictures and special memories of Art. This is a way to recognize Art for all he has done in the community.

The Chamber of Commerce is working on creating a community Halloween event. The details are not available, but updates will be posted as they become available.

The roll out the “We’re in this Together” red ribbon project was a success. Several businesses participated and the video has reached other countries as well.

ACTION ITEMS

Ordinance 2-2020 – An Ordinance Adopting A Cross Connection Control Program of the City of Boardman and Repealing Ordinance No. 2-2001

City Manager Pettigrew communicated that this ordinance is not being presented at the right time. She referenced table 42 in the city council packet. City Manager Pettigrew explained that the city council had communicated to the voters that their taxes would not be raised right away. With the water bond passing, the enactment of this ordinance would raise costs even more. She recommended the ordinance be tabled for now. She communicated that the city does need to pass this eventually due to DEQ enforcing more of the rules, but now is not the right time. Councilor Jones agreed that the city should not be involved in this at this time. There are private individuals that do this testing as a living and it would be taking away from those businesses. Councilor Drago asked if there have been any past issues with the water tests. City Manager Pettigrew stated that there have not been any issues.

All were in favor to table the ordinance.

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Resolution 23-2020 – A Budget Resolution to Decrease Contingency and to Increase 2020-21 Expenditures for Capital Outlay.

Finance Director Barajas explained that moving these funds were to cover the expenses for the removal of trees from the city park due to the wind storm.

Councilor Drago moved to approve Resolution 23-2020 – A Budget Resolution to Decrease Contingency and to Increase 2020-21 Expenditures for Capital Outlay.

Councilor Pierson seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Roll Call: Pierson – Yes, Jones – Yes, Norton – Yes, Drago – Yes, Hammond – Yes, Kegler – Absent, Toms – Yes

Motion passed. 6-0-1 absent

Resolution 24-2020 – A Resolution Establishing the Receiving and Use of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Under the Federal Cares Act Provided to the City of Boardman, Oregon

City Manager Pettigrew explained that in order to receive the funding, a resolution has to be created to receive and spend the funds. She further explained that she is considering sending money to the Boardman Food Pantry and the Irrigon/Boardman Emergency Assistance.

Councilor Jones moved to approve Resolution 24-2020 – A Resolution Establishing the Receiving and Use of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Under the Federal Cares Act Provided to the City of Boardman, Oregon.

Councilor Norton seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Roll Call: Pierson – Yes, Jones – Yes, Norton – Yes, Drago – Yes, Hammond – Yes, Kegler – Absent, Toms – Yes

Motion passed. 6-0-1 absent

OTHER BUSINESS

August Building Department Permit Report

City Manager Pettigrew communicated that a total of 70 permits were sold in the month of August 2020. In Boardman, 28 total permits were sold with 3 of them being new home construction. In Morrow County, 20 total permits were sold with 1 of them being a new home construction. In Irrigon, 3 total permits were sold with 1 of them being a manufactured placement permit. There was a total of 19 electrical permits sold.

USS Oregon (SSN 793) Commissioning Committee Portland Council Navy League of the United States Letter to Mayor and City Council

City Recorder Baumgartner read the letter out loud.

Councilor Pierson moved to approve donating \$500 to the Commissioning Committee Portland Council Navy League of the United States.

Councilor Drago seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Roll Call: Pierson – Yes, Jones – Yes, Norton – Yes, Drago – Yes, Hammond – Lost Connection, Kegler – Absent, Toms – Yes

Motion passed. 5-0-2 absent

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REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION

Police Report

Chief Stokoe asked if there were any questions in regard to the report. There were no questions regarding the police report. He communicated that the numbers would not be accurate due to Butch being in and out of the office.

Mayor Toms communicated that the school district has been experiencing a higher level of thefts like catalytic converters. Chief Stokoe communicated that the Port of Morrow has also had thefts similar in nature.

Chief Stokoe communicated information in regard to the shooting range. Approximately two years ago, Umatilla Electric contacted the Boardman Police Department in regard to an individual who had used a high-powered rifle at the shooting range and hit a substation. There have been other individuals that are shooting equipment that belongs to the police. The radio tower for the 911 first responders had been hit and damaged. The radio technician was on that tower completing repairs and had bullets going by him. The current location of the shooting range will be closing permanently. The Port of Morrow is working to locate a safer location for a shooting range. Chief Edmonson and Representative Greg Smith had suggested converting one of the Army Depot igloos into an indoor shooting range for law enforcement. A new location for citizens is still being looked into. There were local large businesses that were willing to sponsor a shooting range, but their business attorneys advised against it. The current location for the shooting range was on the list to close due to the City of Boardman purchasing the property for the lagoon expansion.

JJ Van Swoll asked when the new radios will be in. New radios will be implemented in the next few weeks. Morrow County also needs new radios in the dispatch system. The new radios are the 700 MHz system that is encrypted. The purpose is to protect individual's private information. EMS and Fire will most likely follow suit.

Committee Report

None

City Manager Report

City Manager Pettigrew communicated that she had sent out the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) conference information. The conference is \$60 each and will be virtual. She underlined in red some areas in the conference that city councilors may be interested in. Councilor Drago indicated that he would not be able to get away from work to be able to attend. Mayor Toms would like to attend. Councilor Pierson would like to attend. Councilor Jones would like to attend. Councilor Norton communicated that she would need to look at her calendar to see if she could fit it into her schedule. City Manager Pettigrew communicated that she had attached the priority list that other cities and the LOC had decided on.

A map was included in the packet that shows where the US Navy is planning to move a road that currently runs through city owned property. The movement of this road would make the property more appealing when sold.

The Safe Routes to Schools grant application was submitted to the State of Oregon.

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Councilor Jones asked when the playgrounds would be open. City Manager Pettigrew said she would do the research to see what the State guidelines are currently. She communicated that Commissioner Lindsey allowed the pool to open. Councilor Jones communicated that he had heard through the grapevine that Governor Brown had said that playgrounds could be opened due to schools opening.

City Manager Pettigrew thanked everyone for attending the IAMP meeting the night before. She felt it went well and a lot of information was shared.

The Broadband contract has been received and the funding would be given to the city for broadband improvements.

Chamber Director Griggs sent information in regard to the Red Cross being overwhelmed with assisting fires. City Manager Pettigrew encouraged people to make a contribution.

Councilor Pierson asked for an update on census 2020. City Manager responded that the city was at 42-43%. She continued by communicating that a suggestion was to have someone sit outside the grocery store. She also suggested that the food banks should communicate to individuals coming to pick up boxes about the census and offer to assist them. Chamber Director Griggs communicated that census 2020 information had been sent out in Spanish and there has been a 3% increase in participation.

The reader board is not working. It is outdated and parts are unavailable to repair it. The city received a quote for a new double-sided reader board in the amount of \$33,000. City Manager Pettigrew asked if city council wanted to spend the money. Councilor Drago suggested moving the reader board to the south side of Boardman. It is currently on property that is not owned by the city. It is also obstructing sight at the stop sign of NW Boardman Avenue and Main Street.

Councilor Report

None

Mayor Report

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

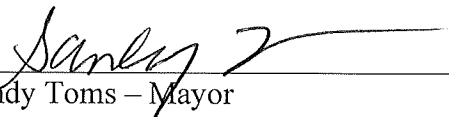
Mayor Toms Recessed the city council meeting at 8:57 p.m.

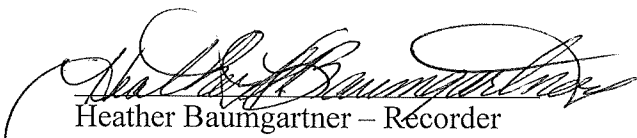
Mayor Toms called for an Executive Session According to ORS 192.660 (2)(e) Real Estate

Mayor Toms reconvened the city council meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Toms announced no decisions were made in the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.


Sandy Toms – Mayor


Heather Baumgartner – Recorder