

**BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Mayor Paul Keefer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

Councilors Present: Leslie Pierson, Paul Beagle, Katy Norton, Isaac Williams, Brenda Profitt, Paul Keefer and Roy Drago, Jr. (via Zoom)

Councilors Absent: None

Staff: Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police, Toni Connell – Acting Recorder and Barry Beyeler – Community Development Director (via Zoom)

Audience: Sergeant Rick Jackson and Sergeant Placido Lopez – BENT. Torrie Griggs – Boardman Chamber of Commerce, Ed Glenn, Jackie McCauley, Ethan Salata, Joe Taylor, and David Norton (all via Zoom)

REQUEST FOR AMENDED AGENDA

Chief Stokoe requested a change to the agenda under Pre-arranged Presentations to allow two guests to talk to the council about the narcotics team and would introduce them at that time. Mayor Keefer agreed to Chief Stokoe's request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

Councilor Beagle moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 regular meeting as presented.

Councilor Pierson seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 7-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting

Councilor Profitt moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

Councilor Norton seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Motion passed. 7-0

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ending January 31, 2021

City Manager Pettigrew addressed the council regarding the staff's ability to get all the reports into the original packet when sent out. She stated it is very rare to receive the city's bank statement by the second day of the month and asked the council to have patience with the staff. She explained because the city's meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, there have been times where the meetings have been moved in order to meet such an early deadline in the month. Staff can send out the basic packet but there may be extra things sent out at the last minute. Councilor Beagle asked about having the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month to allow staff the opportunity to have all the reports in the packet. City Manager Pettigrew explained it is in the Charter to have the meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. Councilor Beagle asked if the council could override the rule. City Manager Pettigrew explained the council can change the council rules, but not the Charter. She explained further there have been times where the meetings were moved because it was a holiday but not permanently. Councilor Beagle suggested the council considers doing this in those instances to give staff time to put everything together and give the council time to review.

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City Manager Pettigrew went over the financial report with the council. Mayor Keefer asked if anyone had any questions regarding the financials and there were none. He commented there was a discussion at the workshop on Saturday whether to approve or not approve the financials. He did some research and found out if it is not an audited report, the council should not be approving financials. He explained to the council moving forward when the council receives the financial report from staff, if there are any questions the council will talk about it, then the financial report will be placed on file for review by an auditor. Mayor Keefer explained this report is not a complete final financial report until it is audited. Once the financials are audited then the council will move to approve the financials. Councilor Beagle asked how will this impact the city if the council does not approve the financials until the city gets an audited report. Mayor Keefer stated it would be like any other report and should not be voted on until the council has an audited report.

City Manager Pettigrew reviewed the balances on all bank accounts and said staff is comfortable in providing these figures to the council. She suggested changing the motion to "Approving the financials presented by the finance director" to prove they were reviewed by the council, although not audited yet. She pointed out at the bottom of the financial report shows the total amount in the city's bank accounts and the Government Pool where everyone keeps their money and that total should agree with the total ending fund balance. Councilor Beagle was concerned the city would be held liable and wanted to make sure by not approving the financials at the council meetings it wouldn't put the city at risk. Mayor Keefer stated the financial report is now put on file for review until the audit.

PREARRANGED PRESENTATION

Chief Stokoe asked Sergeant Rick Jackson from the Pendleton Police Department and Sergeant Placido Lopez from the Oregon State Police, both sergeants for the BENT Team. The BENT Team stands for Blue Mountain Narcotics Enforcement Team. Chief Stokoe stated the BENT Team operates pretty quietly and not working for pats on the back. Sergeant Jackson introduced himself and Sergeant Lopez and stated Chief Stokoe asked for them to come and talk with the council about the BENT Team. A Power Point presentation was presented explaining the BENT Team is a multi-agency task force made up of Federal, State, County and City law enforcement agencies. Slides included pictures of narcotics, cash and guns seized during drug raids, statistics of various drugs being used in the area with an increase of fentanyl. Sergeant Jackson talked about press releases sent out by the United States Attorney's Office on a couple of cases in Boardman. After the presentation, Chief Stokoe thanked Sergeant Jackson and Sergeant Lopez for taking the time to talk with the council and the council also thanked them for the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Torrie Griggs – Boardman Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Griggs communicated the upcoming events:

Every Wednesday morning at 7:30am there is a Zoom meeting with Senator Hansel and Representative Levy in regards to what is going on in the session in Salem. There are a lot of concerning bills being discussed and this gives the opportunity to ask any questions. Citizens can call or email Representative Smith with questions or concerns also.

AARP is providing tax aid, by appointment only, at the Port of Morrow every Friday.

The third series of the virtual "Lunch and Learn with Cathi Hight" will be on February 25th at 12pm.

The topic will be "Five Stages of Stress, Avoiding Burnout".

Chamber Luncheon on February 17th from 12pm to 1pm will be virtual with Kaley Davis from Workforce Development as speaker discussing website resources, the 2021 Career Connect in April and other work source information.

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Frostbite Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for March 27th with registration at 7:30am and tee off time will start at 8:30am. They are accepting eighteen teams and there are only five spots left. The proceeds from this event will go towards the Chamber's Scholarships to Riverside High School students. The Awards Banquet is set for March 6th and will be virtual via Zoom and a Chamber Live link as well. Watch for updates as the chamber finishes planning the event.

April 28th is the Chamber's Career Connect which is a Umatilla Morrow Regional Virtual Job Fair partnership with Oregon State University, Port of Morrow and the Boardman Chamber. This is the job fair usually held in March but moved to April due to the change in risk levels. The job fair will be a complete virtual platform this year with students meeting in the morning with colleges and businesses around the area. In the afternoon will be opened up to the public where they can talk directly to industries currently hiring.

Ms. Griggs states there are scholarships and grant opportunities across Morrow County and is trying to create a list for students to find these scholarships and grants.

The Boardman Chamber had two new members join, CAT and Alto Columbia formally known as Pacific Ethanol.

Ms. Griggs said for more information on any of these events and other information around the community to visit their website.

Mr. Ed Glenn – Citizen

Mr. Ed Glenn commented on the discussion earlier regarding the financial report and felt he may have a solution for the council. The motion could be "Received Subject to Subsequent Audit" and would make it available for the public.

Mr. Glenn also commented on the minutes being available sooner to the public and published as part of the packet by being marked "Draft Subject to Council Approval".

Mr. Glenn wanted to discuss access to Hobo Pond for the public to use for a children's pond. He indicated there are two streets in the West Urban Renewal Agency backed up to the National Wildlife property and, with their approval, could build a trail from those streets to the pond.

Mr. Glenn also wanted to ask the council if there is any truth to a rumor about the Port planning to construct a pipeline from Boardman to Ordnance Depot for delivery of water. City Manager Pettigrew stated she was not aware of any plans for a pipeline. She said Hobo Pond was looked at about 20-30 years ago and could be looked at again as a project. Mayor Keefer commented he appreciated Mr. Glenn's suggestions and input regarding the verbiage for the audit and will definitely look into it.

ACTION ITEMS

City Manager Pettigrew stated there are no actions items at this time but may have some which will require a special meeting on February 16th. There may be a resolution for the bond and the CREZ Board is requesting a signed Inter Governmental Agreement. This meeting will need to be advertised and would be a short meeting unless the council would be interested in watching part of the new council training offered by the League of Oregon Cities. The training is about an hour long but could be split up in two or three segments and believes it would be very beneficial and informative for the council to watch. It discusses the Charter and the responsibilities and duties of being a councilor. City Manager Pettigrew stated she would add this training to the agenda for the February 16th.

REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION

Police Report

Chief Stokoe wanted to let the council know this month's report is an unaudited report and the numbers can and do change. Chief Stokoe asked if there were any questions in regard to the report submitted. Councilor Beagle asked if the chief could divulge if any of the felony reports or arrests were

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drug related. Chief Stokoe stated he could not say yes or no because the primary charge may not have been drug related but could have lead to another charge. Councilor Beagle asked about the sixteen "Unclassified" reports and what they entailed. Chief Stokoe replied this field is for non-crime responses ranging from a divorced husband and wife who has a child and an officer may be called to be there when the transfer of the child takes place. A lot of civil cases also fall into the "Unclassified" report. Basically, anything not falling into the normal burglaries, robberies or DUI's would be listed under "Unclassified". Councilor Beagle asked what the acronym "OIA" stood for. Chief Stokoe explained this stood for Officer Initiated Activity which is when an officer may be driving around and see something, they need to take action on.

Chief Stokoe wanted to add there have been calls in reference to a loud noise sounding like gunfire happening during the day and night. This noise is a propane bird control cannon that sets off a small explosion to scare off the birds. Lamb Weston has been using this technique for several months to control the bird problem. Lamb Weston is in the industrial area even though they are within the city limits. They're trying to work with Lamb Weston and the residents complaining about the noise to come to some kind of resolution. Today, Lamb Weston found out the cannon was turned and instead of facing away from the city, it is now in the direction of the city. This may be the reason everyone is now hearing the noise. Chief Stokoe said Lamb Weston is working on different avenues to see if they can turn down how random the cannon goes off and is trying to find a resolution to this issue and still abide by their federal regulations.

Chief Stokoe stated the department had two officers on light duty and at one point the department was down three or four officers at a time and still was able to provide 24/7 coverage. This made the other officers pick up extra work. Officers are dealing with COVID and Chief Stokoe feels police are public enemy number one in a lot of people's eyes; they are feeling the stress. Chief went on to say the bills on the legislator's tables are extensive and a lot of the bills talk about qualified immunity. He strongly urged for the council to reach out to their representatives, if they want to continue to keep good qualified police officers, and explain to them the problem with removing qualified immunity. If they take away qualified immunity everyone in the police department will walk away because it wouldn't be worth it for them to stay in this career. Chief Stokoe explained what qualified immunity meant. The courts have ruled if an officer acts in good faith by following state and federal law and they do so ethically, the state attorney can protect them in a civil lawsuit. If qualified immunity is removed, this means an officer will have to pay for their own attorney and can be sued in civil court. Councilor Beagle asked Chief Stokoe on behalf of the council to let his officers know the council appreciates each and every day they show up to work to protect them, their families and their interests. Chief Stokoe said he would convey that. He encouraged the council to let the officers know in person.

Building Department Report

City Manager Pettigrew gave the report on behalf of the building department. She reported there were fifty-one permits sold in the month of January with one new house in each jurisdiction.

Public Works Department Report

City Manager Pettigrew gave the report on behalf of the public works department. She explained she was wanting to provide the council with reports from each department to give them an idea of what each department is doing throughout month. She reported public works has been busy doing locates of the water & sewer lines prior to anyone digging, two new water meters were installed for new service and 947 water meters were read for the month of January. Reporting how many meters are being read will give the council an idea of how much Boardman is growing.

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System Development Charges (SDC)

Mayor Keefer explained the SDC report gives an outline of what was discussed at the workshop on Saturday. The report showed the amounts the contractor would pay and what the city would waive. Mayor Keefer asked the council to review this report for any changes, questions or ideas they could share because action would probably be taken with passing a resolution at the March council meeting. Community Development Director Beyeler made a suggestion if the council had anything they would like to see changed based on this report and the staff report, the council could bring it up at the meeting on the 16th so the resolution would be ready for the March council meeting to be voted on. City Manager Pettigrew commented the next report in the packet was created by Community Development Director Beyeler several years ago but the graphs attached are still the same. This would be something to review if the council wanted to consider a transportation SDC. Mayor Keefer asked Community Development Director Beyeler if he had any comments regarding the staff report. Community Development Director Beyeler commented there was a potential funding source listed on the staff report as a source of income for transportation and it is the gas tax. Since the city didn't not pursue a gas tax prior to the deadline, it is no longer available for the city. There was a law passed, which he wasn't sure which law it was, and only the cities to who had gas taxes prior to the passage of the law will be able to use that funding source. Mayor Keefer asked if the transient room tax has ever been increased over the last sixteen to twenty years and City Manager explained it is still five percent. Mayor Keefer believes this is something to be addressed.

City Manager Report

City Manager Pettigrew told the council the Transportation Department NIACC is having a workshop today and another on Thursday trying to decide some of their long-range plans because ODOT's funding is changing. She explained there was a lot more funding available for public transportation. She added if anyone wants to be on a committee, the Loop, which is Morrow County's public transportation, is always looking for people in Morrow County. Or if anyone has time and would like to drive, the Loop is always needing drivers to take people to and from doctor appointments. There is a little compensation for their time in doing so.

Chamber Director Griggs added a last-minute comment stating she received an email at 7pm from the company installing the new city reader board being placed in front of NAPA. They will be doing the installation tomorrow. City Manager Pettigrew was glad to hear this because there have been so many times the city wanted to provide the community information regarding COVID and were not able to because the old reader board hasn't been working since the wind storm in May.

Councilor Report

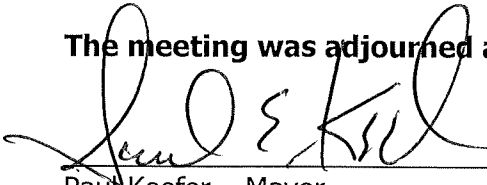
Councilor Drago wanted to comment on the new disc golf course at the marina. He drives by it every day and sees people playing it which makes him happy to see. He was wondering if the chamber had any information on the layout, hole locations and pars for people when playing. Chamber Director Griggs explained there is an app call Udisk and on the app is the map with distances of all the holes. They are currently working with Dynamic Disk out of Kansas to design a map and each hole will have a sign giving the distances, and course layout. There will also be an information board in the parking lot at Sailboard Beach. Councilor Drago asked if there would be a printable layout for people to print off. Ms. Griggs said they are currently working on being able to place information at the park office where campers check-in to have on hand. Councilor Drago asked if there a way to put it on the City of Boardman or Chamber website for people to be able to print it off themselves and not have to go to the park office to pick it up. Chamber Director Griggs stated they are currently working on creating a link on the Chamber website under the BCDA tab for more information on any BCDA projects.

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Mayor Report

Mayor Keefer wanted to thank the staff for translating the public notices to Spanish. This was something not done in the past and was very dear to his heart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm



Paul Keefer – Mayor

Toni Connell – Acting Recorder