

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 3, 2021

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

Councilors Present: Paul Beagle, Paul Keefer, Katy Norton, Leslie Pierson, Brenda Profitt and Isaac Williams (all in person)

Councilors Absent: Roy Drago, Jr. (excused)

Staff: Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Loren Dieter – Police Captain, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Barry Beyeler – Community Development Director and Toni Connell – Acting City Recorder (all in person)

Audience: Renee Maenle – Boardman Chamber of Commerce, Erika Lasater – Port of Morrow Communication Director, Kathy Street, Cornel and Mary Falland, Kevin Kennedy and Sandy Toms (all via Zoom)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

Councilor Pierson motioned to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

Councilor Profitt seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-0 with 1 absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Ending July 31, 2021

Not available at meeting time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Maenle – Boardman Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maenle communicated the upcoming events:

The Chamber will be hosting a townhall meeting with Representative Cliff Bentz on August 9th from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in the theater at the SAGE Center.

The Boardman Chamber Luncheon will be an in-person luncheon on August 25th from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at the Boardman Marina Park Pavilion. State Representative Greg Smith will be the speaker.

There is now an opportunity to be updated by the Chamber via text messages. Text Boardman Chamber of Commerce and enter 313131 to start receiving text messages.

The Chamber is partnering with the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit on August 19th and 20th and attendees can register at easternoregonsummit.com.

The Morrow County Harvest Festival will be back this year at the SAGE Center on October 2nd.

Boardman Firefighters will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the Fire Hall on August 28th from 8:00am to 11:00am. This is a free breakfast but donations are accepted.

Several businesses in our area are hiring and the job postings can be found on the chamber's website.

Ms. Maenle said for more information on any of these events, and other information around the community, to visit the Chambers website.

ACTION ITEMS

Update on Faler Road/SW Mt. Hood Avenue Intersection

Community Development Director Beyeler gave a report to the council. He stated there were cameras set up to see the traffic movement and traffic counters were put in place to count the number of cars going through the Faler Road/SW Mt. Hood intersection. There is an average of 251 cars a day each way in the intersection. He stated it is hard to warrant a four-way stop at this intersection based on these numbers when there are several other places around town to consider placing a four-way stop.

Faler Road is considered a minor collector road and needs to be able to maintain through traffic and not cause traffic to slow down or block traffic. When school is in session, there is more traffic going through this intersection to bypass the congestion at the schools so this intersection needs to be open as much as possible. He continued by saying there are other options being looked into to slow traffic in the area. Councilor Profitt asked when the counters and traffic study were completed. Community Development Director Beyeler stated the traffic counters were set up to cover all of Faler Road; one was set up from Wilson Road to Mt. Adams, the second one was set up right before the intersection of Mt. Hood and the third one was set right before the intersection of Faler Road and Mt. Adams for two days from July 19th to July 21st.

Councilor Beagle asked since this study was conducted when school was not in session if this would be revisited when school is in session. Community Development Director Beyeler stated yes, he wanted to get the base count first and again in a couple weeks after school is back in session.

Councilor Profitt asked Community Development Director Beyer to elaborate on what he was saying regarding slowing down traffic by putting in stop signs. He explained by putting in a four-way stop, it would start queuing traffic. He watched the video on SW Mt. Hood Avenue in front of the duplexes and the most he saw all day were three queued; one at the stop sign and two queued. By putting in a four-way stop would not make it more effective; it would cause cars to start backing up on Faler Road as well.

Mayor Keefer asked Community Development Director Beyeler if what he was saying is the negatives outweigh the positives. Community Development Director Beyeler relied, at this point, yes. Mayor Keefer thanked staff for getting right on this issue and reporting back so quickly to the council.

League of Oregon Cities Video

A training video from the League of Oregon Cities was played for the council on defining the roles, relationships and responsibilities of the mayor, council president, city council and city manager and on communication.

Mayor Keefer commented he had attended the mayor's conference and he feels what was discussed in the video just watched, the council strides to do and makes them a better council because of it.

REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION

Police Report

Captain Dieter gave the police report in Chief Stokoe's absence. He stated there wasn't anything out of the ordinary and asked if there were any questions in regard to the report submitted. Councilor Beagle asked what caused the jump in the total of misdemeanor and felony arrests. Captain Dieter replied he would have to check the stats to give an accurate answer. There were no other questions.

Building Department Report

City Manager Pettigrew gave a report on behalf of the building department. A total of 79 permits were sold in the month of July. City Manager Pettigrew pointed out to the council there is a total of twenty-one new homes constructed this year in the City of Boardman. In the past, it would take years to have twenty-one new homes constructed in Boardman. She also commented on the seven new homes constructed this year in Irrigon. Mayor Keefer stated when he was at the Mayor's Conference, he commented to other Mayor's regarding the growth in Boardman. There were no questions regarding the building report.

Public Works Department Report

City Manager Pettigrew gave a report on behalf of the public works department. A total of 975 meters were read in July. City Manager Pettigrew stated at the meeting with Michele Byrd, with the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program, she was pleased with the progress made in the back-flow program. Councilor Profitt stated she would like to see a monthly count of meter reads to the report.

City Manager

City Manager Pettigrew gave her report to the council. She told council she made an offer of employment for the City Recorder/HR position to Jenn Rollins. She has received signed Right of Way agreements from Randy and Kathy Yates, Fletcher Hobbs and Devin Oil and will go to the Glenn's and have Ed and Frances sign theirs. The bids for the Laurel Lane project will be open on Thursday, August 5th. The bids are for the east side only; if the west side is to be done at some point it would be a change order.

UEC sent out a postcard about "Public Safety Power Shutoff" if there is ever a need to shut power off to residences. City Manager Pettigrew spoke with Public Works Director Kennedy to verify if the city could handle the power being shut off and continue to supply residences with water. Public Works Director Kennedy believes there would not be an issue to continue supplying water to residences as the city has a big generator at the water building that could run all of the pumps in the water building and pumps at Collector 2 with no problem. There are also generators at the lift stations for sewer so the city can keep the basics going for residences if UEC had to take these steps. She told the council City Hall does not have a generator and is looking into getting a generator for backup.

City Manager Pettigrew is wanting to have short workshops to go over what the goals are for the city. She stated in her monthly meeting with Mayor Keefer he suggested having one in December. She told council there are so many things going on with decisions needing to be made and suggested coming in a couple hours before a council meeting to have these workshops. Mayor Keefer commented there would only be one topic to focus on at each workshop instead of numerous topics to address. Councilor Williams asked if December was the soonest to have a workshop. Mayor Keefer replied the only reason he suggested December was because school would be out but there are a lot of other opportunities where a workshop can be scheduled.

There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and told council to tell anyone who might be interested in submitting their letter of interest.

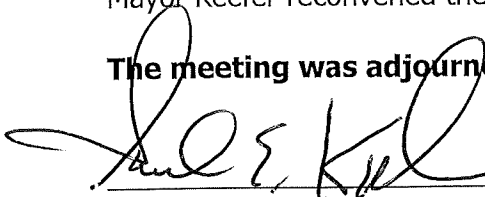
City Manager Pettigrew said since there has been discussion about restructuring System Development Charges and whether the city wants to add transportation or parks. She hired Carla McClain as a consultant for the city and had her put out a request for a proposal (RFP). The RFP was due by last Friday and there was only one bid, which wasn't a surprise since there is only one company in this area that has the expertise in this. Mayor Keefer commented he found out at the mayor's conference just how low our SDC's really are compared to other cities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Keefer announced the council will now be going into executive session to discuss ORS 192.660 (2)(i) – City Manager Evaluation and ORS 192.660 (2)(d) – Labor Negotiations and a decision was not anticipated following the Executive Sessions and recessed the regular meeting at 8:27pm.

Mayor Keefer reconvened the regular meeting at 9:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.



Paul Keefer – Mayor



Toni Connell – Acting City Recorder