



# CITY OF LYONS

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## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2020

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions meetings are being held electronically according to the Governor's Executive Order #20-16. This meeting was held In-Person and via Zoom.*

**Council Present In-Person & Zoom:** Mayor Lloyd Valentine,

**Council Present In-Person:** Councilors Mike Wagner, Troy Donohue, Jessica Ritchie

**Council Present via Zoom:** Councilor Mark Orr

**Council Absent:** none

**Employees Present:** City Recorder Micki Valentine in-person & Zoom, Richard Berkey and Darrell Ritchie in-person

**Public Present:** no public present

**Opened w/pledge:** @ 6:30 pm by Mayor Lloyd Valentine

### **Additions to Agenda/Conflict of Interest/Ex-Parte/Bias:**

Mayor Valentine declared a conflict of interest for the City Recorder Annual Employment Review and asks Councilor/Pro Tem Jessica Ritchie to lead that portion of the meeting.

**Presentations:** none

**Consent Agenda:** Minutes June 23, 2020 and bills paid June 24 – July 28, 2020. *Councilor Wagner motioned to approve minutes and bills paid – Councilor Donohue seconds – motion carried with all in favor – none opposed.*

**Public Comment:** We did not receive any public comments via email. Darrell Ritchie is upset about the eagle tree being cut down. Councilor Donohue agreed. Mr. Ritchie also expressed that he is mowing where he was instructed to do so when he was hired – he does not know the reason why some areas are mowed versus other areas not being mowed. Councilor Wagner asks what caused him to come to the meeting tonight to share this information. He replied that when he was mowing by the bridge, ran mower over the edge, and someone asked him why he mows it. He doesn't know the reason why Front Street is mowed. Councilor Orr told him that he is doing a great job and should talk to his supervisor when people question what he is doing, and that the likely reason is that it prevents a fire hazard and if he didn't do it no one else would. Councilor Ritchie asks Mr. Ritchie about the dog issue at Freres Park. Mr. Ritchie didn't see any issues with the dogs – they are well trained. Councilor Donohue confirms. Mr. Ritchie leaves the meeting.

**Sheriff's Report:** Sgt Klein states that he can assist us with the dog leash issue by checking with the animal control officers. He gives his report providing information for the past three

months. Councilor Wagner asks about their staffing. They have two more spots to fill so it's good. They are following COVID rules.

- **No Camping Ordinance** – Sgt Klein did not have information for tonight - he sent it to Officer Duncan and will check in the morning. Sgt. Klein exits the meeting. Council tables until next meeting.

### **Correspondence**

- None

### **New Business**

- Resolution 552-2020 Safe Routes to School authorizing the Mayor to submit a grant application for a sidewalk along 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Grant will cover 80% and ODOT will cover the 20% cash match. The city will be responsible for any overage. ODOT will provide an estimate. Councilor Donohue asks about the water lines and suggests we contact the water district. There is an alternative planning grant that we could pursue instead of or if this construction grant doesn't go through then try again later. Councilor Donohue asks about the water district repairing sidewalks after repairing water lines – they do. Councilor Wagner would like us to work with the water district. Council would like to keep going with what we're doing. *Councilor Wagner motions to approve – Councilor Donohue seconds – all in favor – none opposed.*
- Resolution 553-2020 Referring City Charter to the November 3, 2020 election. Councilor Wagner confirms that the language is current and gives us the most flexibility as advised – yes. He would like a statement that can easily be shared to explain it. *Councilor Donohue motions to approve Resolution 553-2020 – Mike seconds – Carried with all in favor – none opposed.*
- Dog Training – Three complaints off-leash, noise, disturbing wildlife. Information from Brian with Linn County Parks says that a person could train dogs in the unleashed areas of their parks. Councilors Donohue and Ritchie state that the City code states “under the control of the owner” not the same as leashed. Councilor Donohue said the noise with the whistle is minimal. One idea to consider is requiring a city permit to allow dog training at the park. Councilor Donohue suggests placing the flyer on our website.
- Dead Tree – The tree was taken down due to safety reasons. It was done under controlled circumstances so people in the area that may be fishing or practicing their rowing skills would not be injured when it fell.
- CIS Health Renewal – Received the Request for Coverage the day it was due. Did not receive the initial notice – contacted CIS – it may be an email issue. The city is paying 90% of premium and employee pays 10%. Only one employee is covered. The city recorder is not covered due to having insurance through spouse.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Attorney's response to COVID reopening and insurance coverage. The attorney said as long as we are following the guidelines – putting up the social distancing signs, putting up sneeze guards, wearing face coverings, encouraging the public to wear face coverings, we should have little risk for someone suing us. CIS will not cover claims related to COVID but would assist with attorney fees. The other alternative would be to shut the parks, library, and port-a-pots back down. Three bulletin boards will be placed at Freres Park to place the signs on.
- League of Oregon Cities Survey – council agreed to items J, M U and W.

**Librarian Report** – Brenda is not present. Written report was provided for council review.

### **City Recorder Report**

- Public Works
  - City property on 7<sup>th</sup> Street is overgrown with scotch broom and neighbor is complaining. Richard is working on getting a quote to have it cleared. R&R \$16,000 to clear lot. ALM quote is a six foot strip to be mulched. Concern that any disturbance of the soil would make situation worse. They are also getting quotes for spraying. Councilor Donohue asks about the ten dead trees. To cut is \$4,500 for all ten. Need to find out if the property can be sold.
  - Richard repaired deadbolt at the library and working on painting the curbs.
  - Striped parking spaces and painted curbs at city hall and cleaned the electronic readerboard.
  - Darrell is mowing.
- Cemetery
  - Two headstones placed at the cemetery
  - NS Paving has been working on the driveway – equipment still out there.
- Parks
  - Playground equipment has been opened with signs posted.
  - Dead tree cut down at Freres Park.
- Library
  - Library is open
  - Brenda went to the school and distributed Summer Reading materials.
- Streets
  - Working with ODOT on the sidewalk grant.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Street repair is done.
  - There have been several inquiries for the property on 18<sup>th</sup> Street from potential buyers. No cars in at least a week. The fields have been mowed. More garbage removed – getting cleaned up.
- Office
  - 2 building permits: one for a new home in Timberview and the other for a shop; no mechanical/plumbing permits
  - COVID claims are not covered but there is \$250,000 defense coverage if the city is sued.
  - Planning Commission held a hearing to consider a partition application for Jeff Peters which was approved. They also approved a setback variance for John & Shannon Waddle to reduce the side setback so that they could replace their current garage with a bigger one which will place it within the 5-foot setback. The Notice of Decision and minutes of the meeting are provided.
  - Reminder of the upcoming election in November. The mayor's position and two councilor positions are open for election. The charter will also be on the ballot.
  - City wide garage sale is August 15<sup>th</sup>, two people have signed up.
  - Complaint: Someone living in an RV with parking issue – did not observe a parking issue and the property owner stated that the RV was recently purchased and it would be moved. Complaint regarding a dumpster – was cleaned up right away after contact made. 18<sup>th</sup> Street – receiver has a court date however it appears that everyone is gone.

- Newspaper article was provided to council regarding the sale of the site on the south side of the railroad tracks off of 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Linn County property records online have not been updated yet to show that sale.
- Linn County Road Department stopped in today and gave us a notice that they would be doing sealcoating on Lyons-Mill City Drive August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. They do have a sign posted that the work is expected August 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**City Record Annual Employment Review** – Due to conflict of interest, Mayor Valentine hands the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Ritchie. *(Councilor Ritchie steps out of the meeting.)*

Councilor Donohue asked about the spraying at Freres Park for the lilly pads. Micki responds that they did it about two years ago and did receive another grant to do it again this year, however not sure if they have been out yet to spray.

*(Councilor Ritchie returns to meeting.)*

Councilors should have received a copy of the employee’s self-questionnaire. Micki has reviewed the job description and doesn’t see a need to change anything. Councilor Ritchie goes through each question. Compensation is considered – 2% raise is budgeted and is 41 cents. Discussion about healthcare. Council and Micki agreed to the 2% increase as budgeted.

Mayor Valentine takes over the meeting.

There were no questions on the financial report or bank reports. The LGIP interest rate dropped to 1% earnings effective July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Commissioner Report/Councilor Questions/Comments**

- Cemetery: Mayor Valentine reports that he went to the cemetery to see the work on the driveway and said that it looks good. Councilor Wagner asked about pavement – no pavement just gravel. He also asked about parking and headstones. Darrell limbed up the trees along the west side and we will get that cleaned up then place a small hedge or something else to protect the headstones. The cemetery is closed at dusk however we don’t have gates to close it off.
- Police/Safety: Councilor Orr – Please don’t defund the police.
- Building Improvements: Councilor Wagner comments on the library in Monroe. He suggests we contact them how they funded it. They have a high school and had banners up for seniors. They had a lot of pride in their city. Discussion about our library, property at corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Main and 1313 Main Street.
- No additional comments.

Requests for Future

- None

**Next Meeting** – The next city council meeting scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> will not work so it is changed to August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Adjourned @ 8:40 pm

Transcribed by Micki Valentine  
MV