



CITY OF LYONS

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2022

This meeting was held In-Person and available via Zoom.

Council Present: Councilors Jessica Ritchie, Mike Wagner, Diane Hyde, Mayor Lloyd Valentine

Council Absent: Troy Donohue-excused

Employees Present: Librarian Brenda Harris, PW Richard Berkey, City Manager Micki Valentine (in-person & Zoom)

Public Present in-person: Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan, Mark Orr, Mel Hanna

Public Present via Zoom: "Mark Orr"- Barbara Orr, "Rachel S.", Jen Jacobsen

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

Roll Call taken

Announcements (Additions to Agenda/Conflict of Interest/Ex-Parte/Bias): Mayor Valentine declared conflict of interest on the Payroll item due to family relationship.

Presentations: none

Public Forum:

(Councilor Wagner arrives)

Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan invited to provide answers to questions from the public regarding public safety and crime prevention. Provides update on what's going on with the Sheriff's office. Goals: hiring & retention; employee wellness-peer support; & district attorney's office – mental health services. Measure 110 explained – Don't have to see a judge – only 19 people in the state have used it - offenders are offered treatment or go to court. Measure 1510 - Headlight bill explained – police can't pull-over just for minor things like a taillight out. They use those opportunities to look for drunk drivers or other violations. Need probable cause then can ticket for the headlight.

- First Question: The 27 hours includes things like extra presence, extra traffic enforcement, problem areas, monthly reports, assigned deputy takes the time to become familiar and knowledgeable with the area. Provides and explains Calls for Service report.
- Second Question: Response time to Lyons is 42 minutes on average, although that is misleading due to some calls require DHS contact – a detective may have to respond instead of a deputy. Mill City contracts 300 hours and response time is 21 minutes. They have someone in the city more often. An officer is assigned to us – splits hours with Scio. Every 100 hours they will assign a deputy – Mill City has three officers assigned. \$200,000 Jefferson's cost in Marion County. Councilor Ritchie asks what good does the 27 hours do – they don't have enough officers – rules in place don't help the people. Sheriff Duncan responds that police presence does deter crime and they are going to

continue to do what they can to help people. Arresting drug users and taking them to jail does deter other crimes such as theft while they are going through the process and gives them opportunity to recovery services.

- Third Question: Jail overrides have been reduced due to covid but are increasing. She explained the jail situation and separation of the jail population. With covid restrictions loosening they are starting to hold more criminals. Jail holds 231 – today’s capacity is limited to 151 (*due to covid restrictions*). Currently only high-level offenders are in the jail. Getting back to normal. They have to get back to normal staffing levels, as well. The Sheriff’s duties are determined by Oregon state statute. The jail is included in the Sheriff’s budget. Public attendee - Mark Orr requests that council increase the hours.
- Fourth Question: What can we do – Sheriff Duncan says to call in crime. They can’t help if they don’t know about it. Look out for each other, get to know your neighbors, and if something doesn’t look right call it in.
- Councilor Wagner asks about experience to be the sheriff and it would be difficult for a patrol deputy to do that job. Her 14 years of supervision experience coming through the ranks have prepared her to be the sheriff. They are working on multiple ways of educating the public.
- Councilor Wagner asks if we wanted to buy more hours do they have it? Sheriff Duncan responds that depends on what that looks like and what the other contracts look like. They probably could if it were a handful of hours but if you’re talking about going up to 72 hours that would currently be a hard task to accomplish but in a year they may be able to make that happen but doesn’t want to promise in case they are not able to fulfill it.

Sheriff’s Report: Report is provided – not reviewed.

Public Comment: Mark Orr speaks about a letter received in response to his concerns about safety issues and private matters. The three-minute mark was reached – he asked for another minute – Mayor Valentine allowed him another one minute to finish. Time was called again and he attempt to continue – Mayor Valentine told him his time was up.

Consent Agenda: Council Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022 and Bills Paid February 23, 2022 – March 22, 2022. *Councilor Hyde motioned to approve – Councilor Ritchie second – all in favor – none opposed – approved.*

Public Hearings: Mayor Valentine opened (7:30pm) the public hearing for Supplemental Budget adoption. Explanation for Resolution 570-2022 is to move and appropriate American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds from Reserved for Future Use, in the amount of \$131,473, to an expenditure line item to pay for upcoming ARP projects. Councilor Wagner shared comments he received concerning using the money to reduce property taxes and explained that it was not an allowed use of the funds. Also, that we are using it for one-time expenditures that we would likely not get done otherwise. Councilor Hyde also said there was a comment at the Neighborhood Watch meeting that we should increase police coverage. In response, the funds are a one-time funding opportunity. Mayor Valentine asks for comments or questions. Comment from Councilor Wagner clarifying the amount. The public was given opportunity to ask questions however no public members present had comments or questions. *Wagner motioned to adopt – Hyde second – all in favor – none opposed – approved.* Mayor Valentine closes the hearing at this time. (7:35 pm)

(Sheriff Duncan leaves the meeting.)

Unfinished Business:

- Freres Park Update – CXT has notified us that the cost for the vault toilet may be increased soon. Confirmed with the State that there is a contract available for it. Will be applying for Linn County Environmental Health approval. Still waiting for information from the architect. Fish will be delivered on the 31st of the month. Councilor Wagner recommends give a PO to lock-in the quote for the toilet. Waiting for response from Dave and the architect. Council would prefer to go with most indestructible & durable materials-concrete-metal roof for the shelter and picnic tables. Style to match toilet.
- Quotes received from SCTC and Security Alarm for new camera system. Will obtain one more quote for the library. Will obtain quotes for city hall. Councilor Wagner notes that it is likely better to use a local company for quicker service when needed. Suggested to use ARP funds to cover the cost.
- Salem Seal Coating project – notice received that price is likely to be higher due to rising cost of fuel and materials.
- Budget Talks – Streetlights tabled. Payroll items were reviewed. Request for pay raise in the amount of 6% to be effective July 1st for non-minimum wage employees. Employees whose wage is based on minimum wage will receive a raise based on the Oregon Minimum Wage rate effective July 1st. The February 2022 rate of inflation is 7.9%. *Councilor Ritchie motioned to approve the 6% pay raise and 2% annual increase – Councilor Wagner seconded – motion carried with all in favor – carried – approved.* Mayor Pro Tem Ritchie noted, for the record, that Mayor Valentine abstained from all discussion and abstained from the vote.
- Resolution 569-2022 A Resolution Amending the Employee Handbook and Rescinding Prior Versions was reviewed. Council has had opportunity to review. The employees present have had an opportunity to review. *Councilor Hyde motioned to adopt Resolution 569-2022 Amending the Employee Handbook and Rescinding Prior Versions – Councilor Ritchie seconded – all in favor – none opposed – carried – approved.*
- Update on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning grant progress. The draft report has been prepared with several projects identified. Projects were prioritized that would complete the sidewalk from Main Street to the school. Pre-application has been submitted for the SRTS Construction grant.

New Business:

- None

Correspondence:

- PacifiCorp is filing for rate increases, which could be as much as 14.3% overall.
- Local Government Law Group has notified us of rate increases effective July 1st.
- Oregon Government Ethics Annual Statement Reminder – council was reminded to complete the annual report.

Librarian Report: Librarian Harris provided her monthly report. Received books for distribution to children. CCRLS distribution for next year. She has applied for the Youth Benefit Golf Tournament grant and was notified that the library will receive the grant. She will attend the award ceremony in April to accept it.

City Manager Report: CM Valentine gives report. Will be meeting with CIS on March 28th for best practices survey. Safety inspections and meeting will be done in the coming month. LGIP interest rate increased from 0.45% to 0.55%. Haven't received any scholarship applications yet –

deadline is April 15th. City-wide Clean-up is May 7th, Budget Committee meeting is May 17th, November election reminder. M. Valentine will be taking a vacation day Friday, March 25th. The office will be closed. May election – office will be open 7am – 8pm on May 17th. Election officials will pick up ballots several times a day and the Linn County Sheriff's deputy will make the final pick up on the last day. Complaint report reviewed – progress update on 9th Street. Parking issues – one car had to be towed from City Hall parking lot. The one at the library was removed before the 72 hours was up. Councilor Hyde asked about trees she had available.

Planning Commission Report: Nothing to report.

Financial Reports: No questions were asked.

Commissioner Report/Councilor Questions/Comments:

- Cemetery: none
- Transportation/Parks: none
- Police/Safety: Councilor Hyde provides an update on the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Library: none
- Building Improvements: none

Requests – Councilor Requests/Future Agenda Items/Announcements: Councilor Wagner was expecting more people to attend the meeting to hear from Sheriff Duncan.

Next Meeting: The next regular City Council Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The Budget Committee meeting is May 17, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

Adjourned @ 8:38 pm

Transcribed by Micki Valentine
MV