



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING September 10th, 2019

Council Present:

Brad Smith
Barbara Northington
Sue Holliday
Melissa Pettyjohn

Public in Attendance

City Manager/Recorder Raamin Burrell
Minutes taken and recorded by Raamin Burrell

Meeting called to order by Mayor Smith at 6:00 p.m.

Open Floor: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud and called for open floor items.

City Manager Burrell added an item to open floor. There is a Change Order for the Wastewater Facility Project that will adjust some of the cost projections within the project. City Manager Burrell submitted a proposed copy of Change Order #2 which is not yet approved by all parties. It was explained that this change order involves the type and cost of fencing that will surround the lagoons. Since the part of the bid that involves the fence was not originally awarded, the contractor is not locked into the price submitted when the contract was awarded to them. As we are still having a conversation as to who will do the work and the type of fencing that will actually go u, this is just an ask for the Council's permission to have Mayor Smith sign Change Order #2 should that it be finalized prior to the next Council meeting. Mayor Smith called for a motion.

-Councilor Holliday made the motion, Councilor Northington seconded it. All in favor, motion passed to approve and sign Change Order #2 if it's finalized prior to the next Council meeting.

Councilor Pettyjohn brought up the fact that there have been many complaints about the property that was formally owned by Virginia Boswell and is now owned by Silvies to be used as temporary housing for their employees. There's been a lot of noise, suspicious people, blocking the alley, and suspicion of theft. There was also a rumor of them catching the place on fire and not reporting it. She'd like to have a nuisance complaint sent to Silvies in regards to all of these factors. Also, a couple of phone calls placed to Scott Campbell in regards to this. City Manager Burrell stated that the neighbors are welcome to contact either the Sheriff or Oregon State Police in regards to

noise complaints and any other suspicious activities. There's also a suspicion that there are drug issues involved with the property. While there have been theft reports in town, there are others in town that it could also be attributed to.

Approval of August 13th, 2019 Minutes: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud and asked for any corrections or changes. Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve and sign the minutes.

-Councilor Northington made the motion, Councilor Holliday seconded it. All in favor, motion passed to approve and sign the minutes.

Schedule Review and Award of Shirrtail Creek Subdivision Sewer Project: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud. City Manager Burrell explained that the submission date for the bids was set for the next Tuesday, September 17th so we need to set a time for a special meeting either after 2 pm that day or the next day. The Council conversed on who would be in town. Mayor Smith said he could make it by 4 pm; Councilors Northington and Holiday also committed to that time.

Review of Air BNB and Transient Taxes: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud. Councilor Northington wanted to bring this to the Council's attention. If the goal is to bring in families, then the idea would be to look at limiting the number of short-term rentals available in Seneca. The idea is to look ahead to what the City's goals are as far as type of housing. She also cited the regulations established in other towns as including the requirement for a business license, that it be the owner's permanent residence, inspections of the property prior to renting, etc. It was also noted that with short-term rentals there was an increase in crime, trash, and other unfavorable social factors. Mayor Smith asked what John Day does. City Manager Burrell stated that the County via the Chamber handles all the transient and lodging taxes for the County. The County charges 8% on top of the 1.8% charged by the State of Oregon. This applies to any type of short-term rentals. The County doesn't require a business license, but it does require registration with the County. Councilor Northington cited other issues with a high quantity of these rentals and would like to see the Council set a limit on the number of short-term rentals allowed in city limits. This subject was submitted for consideration and to be brought up at a later meeting.

Fundraiser: City Donated Yard Sale Information: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud. City Manager Burrell stated this was just information for the Council as to what we were still looking for as far as donations and that if anyone would like to come and participate, helpers are always welcome. Councilor Northington and Suzie Hood have done a lot of the work in gathering interest and items for the sale and it's much appreciated.

Fundraiser: Spaghetti Dinner with Silent Auction: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud. Mayor Smith asked when and where it would be held? It was decided to have it at the School Gym, most likely the week before Thanksgiving and on a



Friday. Mayor Smith thought we'd get more people on Friday evening than the rest of the week or weekend. There was a conversation about school sports schedules and other organizations doing various fundraising events. Councilor Holliday volunteered to help whenever it was set and Councilor Northington said she would try to be here, but she had a family event that may keep her until the end of the year.

Executive Session: Personnel: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud. Mayor Smith called the meeting into executive session at 6:35 pm and released the meeting from executive session at 6:45 pm.

Bills Before Council/Signatures: Mayor Smith read the agenda item aloud and called for a motion to pay the bills. The extra signatures required pertain to the Wastewater Facility Plan and have already been approved by Council.

-Councilor Northington made the motion, Councilor Pettyjohn seconded it. All in favor, motion passed, bills signed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Attest: _____


Mayor