

## **Commission Chairs' Meeting**

August 25, 2023

### In Attendance:

Mayor Craig Berdie

Interim City Manager Rick Sant

David Rivinist, Chair of Libraries Commission

Adam Altson, Chair of Parks and Commons Commission

Linn West, Chair of Public Works and Streets Commission

John Theilacker, Chair of Planning Commission

### Absent:

Tom Lauritzen, Chair of Finance Committee

### **Library:**

David R. said that site drilling took place around the first of August for the building addition. All appeared to go well. A report to the architect is expected to be returned any day now.

The Library Commission is about to present a potential Commissioner candidate to Council for an open seat.

David complimented Tracy, the Library administrator, as doing great work for the library.

### **Planning Commission:**

John T. asked how code enforcement was currently being handled by the City. Rick said that enforcement is driven by complaints only, except for obvious violations. Rick said he hoped that Jyl Fueling returns soon to resume the position of Code Enforcement Officer. John T. asked if the Planning Commission could get a monthly report of code violation complaints, resolutions, etc. John T. said that such information would be helpful to the Commission's work with Code provisions and amendments. John T. said that the reporting need not include business licenses, or weed abatement, but more so related to Title 9, Zoning and Land Use. John T. felt it could be readily added to the City Planner's monthly report on building activity. Rick said that such was reasonable request and he would see that it happened.

John T. informed both Rick and Mayor Birdie that the Planning Commission intends to present the recently completed Housing Implementation Plan and a report of recommendations for improving the City's housing situation, specifically in the areas of increasing housing diversity and affordability.

John T. informed both Rick and the Mayor that a meeting has been requested with Hui Rodomsky, DLCD Coastal Planning Manager and City Planner Guenther to discuss two DLCD

grant opportunities, the first being the housing implementation grant under State review, and the second being an open grant round for Technical Assistance.

John T. asked Rick if Neal was now the City's CIP coordinator? Rick said that Neal is "Holly", and is responsible for tracking grants, CIP projects, etc. He said we should plan to utilize Neal for any grant-related need.

### **Mayor Birdie:**

Next City Council work session, scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>, will focus on OR House Bill 3115, and the City's immediate need to adopt ordinance language addressing camping. According to the Mayor, this house bill requires all Oregon cities to have an ordinance regarding camping by July 1, 2023. Mayor Birdie asked if the PC had the capacity currently to develop such an ordinance. John T. said that it did, but requested that the City Planner be assigned to investigate and develop an appropriate response to this task, and the PC would be glad to work with her. The Mayor and Rick agreed to this approach.

City Council will start meeting twice a month in September; work session followed by regular meeting. One meeting per month was found to be equally burdensome on staff getting the packet out in time.

There will be a celebration for Joanne Kittel at the September Council meeting in light of her upcoming award from the National Association of State Park Directors.

The City's hiring consultant will extend the City Manager application period for an extra week. The consultant has reported receiving five strong applications thus far. The consultant will wean the number of candidates to 3 prior to City interviews, which will take place the second week of October.

### **Parks and Commons:**

North and south Sunset Parks are doing well, plants are healthy and final improvements are being made.

Adam A. asked Rick if he would send the Commission a monthly report on his activities, and Rick agreed.

Parks and Commons will be proposing to Council dedicating the stage at the Commons to Carl Miller, who died recently. December 4<sup>th</sup> will be a Celebration of (his) Life.

Mayor Birdie and Adam A. recently met with the designer of the Yachats Commons wetland area to discuss how the wetland can be restored. It is slowing filling in with silt, mud, and water loving plants, not all of which are native. The designer didn't have any particularly good ideas for solving what is a natural process. Adam will contact Pacific Habitat Services, the City's

wetlands inventory consultant, to schedule a site visit to see what ideas they might have to save the wetland.

### **Public Works and Streets:**

Linn W. reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is being paved today. All reports are that residents are pleased with the contractor. Storm drainage improvements will be flushed/cleaned out by the City once the contractor is done and gone.

Emergency preparedness. Ordered supplies have been received and loaded into the Connex.

Signage/stripping. Most striping is now completed. Linn wanted to meet with me at a couple locations just to confirm final striping improvements. Most of the needed signs are acquired, and that work will be on-going more slowly as City staff are available.

Linn reported that new Public Works crew members are being hired – potentially 3 new hires.

Negotiations with Southwest Lincoln County Water People Utilities District (SWLCWPUD) are on-going.

Water level is holding above critical level, which is surprisingly good news. Most likely due to health of forested watershed.

Storm Water Plan due in December.

Tom L. and Rick McL. looking at water rate changes for City. Will not affect residential dwellings. Discussing with PW & S Commission in September.