

City of Falls City
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2019 6:00 PM
Meeting Location: 320 N Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344

Council Present: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

Staff Present: Mac Corthell, City Manager; Jamie Ward, Assistant City Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

2. Roll Call

Asst. Clerk Ward took roll call.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gordon led the pledge.

4. Motion to adopt the entire Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Meier and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles to adopt the entire agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0. Ayes: Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

5. Announcements

- a. Utility Payments can now be made using Credit cards online or at City Hall. City Manager Corthell stated that we have already seen an increase in usage and believes it will be a huge help to our community.
- b. City Manager Corthell presented Amara Houghtaling and Wyatt Weems with a picture and letter of recommendation for their hard work with the Intern program. Ms. Houghtaling arrived at 6:40 pm. Mr. Weems was not in attendance.

Appointments

- a. City Council Appointment
Council accepted applications for those running for the vacant council seat; Mayor Gordon asked applicants to sit in the two chairs in front of Council and explained the interview process for the Vacant Council seat. Two applications were submitted. Ms. Bailey arrived at 4:50 pm. Councilor Drill phoned Mr. Radke who later arrived at 5:07 pm. Council was delayed.
- b. Interview of Council Candidate
The interview was held in "Candidate forum" fashion. The Candidates were asked a variety of preselected questions in random order.

City Council Interview Questions

- 1) Why do you want to be a City of Falls City Councilor?

Lynn Sampson Bailey- Said she's been with the school district twelve (12) years and it has driven her down this path.

David Radke- Said he moved here over three (3) years ago and wants to stay here. He would like to get more involved with the community. He then referred to two quotes from his father: "Never judge a book by its cover" and "watch your back".

2) What do you believe, in your back round training and experience qualifies you to help govern the affairs of a city of 1000 people?

David Radke- Your only as good as your last gig. He needed to change his business from a B & B to a boarding house and move on. He said he has experience managing over 250 people.

Lynn Sampson Bailey- A long experience in marketing and public relations has given her a great skill set for shaping deep roots, relationships and trust. She has a strong footing within the community.

3) What experience related to city government would you bring to the Councilor Position.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Is a member of the school board, Budget committee and working closely with the RDI project. She would like to get kids involved in local government at a younger age. She works with a kids' focus group with RDI and wants to address their worries about our community. They feel there are not enough houses and jobs.

David Radke- Said he doesn't really have any experience but wants to go after Al Harrington for money from his "grow" operation on the hill.

4) What do you believe are the major issues, priorities, needs and concerns of particular importance to the city and how would out address them?

David Radke- Responded the sewer system needs updated and in compliance needs to be a priority and tied in somehow. He added his street is much quieter now.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Agrees with Dave on the updating the sewer and compliance but also feels that she would like a better City image, more economic devolvement and wants to look into how we become more self-sustaining, drive people in and wants kids to be proud to live here.

5) To the best of your knowledge, describe the functions of City Council versus the functions of City's appointed administration?

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- City council makes decisions as a whole, Jeremy is the face of the council.

David Radke- City administrations are employees while Council is volunteer.

6) What can the City do to help local businesses address their major concerns?

David Radke- He stated he wasn't sure what they need. He went to the Valley of the Giants. He can't believe people don't know where it is. He feels we need to do more promoting.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- felt having the existing businesses work on what the city looks like and having an open, transparent process for that.

7) What are your ideas for improving the livability for the citizens of Falls City?

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- said she would like to see more housing options for all levels of income, increased family based activities and hopes for hiking trails in the future to improve quality of life.

David Radke- stated he would invest in better housing options.

8) What do you feel is the biggest strength of the community?

David Radke- He feels it is a hidden gem with so many good people in it.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Said it is the people who live here. She said seeing the seeing the community turnout for the RDI process was amazing and she enjoys seeing how the community came together.

9) Do you have the available time to perform the duties of a City Councilor such as attend multiple meetings per month?

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Replied yes and doesn't have any conflicts. She also would like to be a model of community service to her children.

David Radke- Said he was usually in bed by 8 pm and doesn't have anything else to do.

10) One indicator of an effective municipal government is the ability of elected officials to place the well-being of the community above their own. If you were selected, how would you engage the community to serve in their interests and what if the community vision contradicts with your own?

David Radke- Said he would get them involved and show up.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Would ask questions, listen and is guided. She added transparency and consistency are key.

Councilor questions:

11) How would you respond to people being negative about Falls City?

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- She said she takes those comments personally and would challenge them. She would invite them into the community and show them. If they still believe something is lacking she would challenge them to change it.

David Radke- He feels heated with negative comments. His would tell them they were wrong, show them the beauty in the river as well as the people. He added that he would like to see more people from California show interest in Falls City. He would like to see them want to build houses here.

12) How would you get something done on Council and would you quit if you couldn't?

David Radke- Said he would get frustrated and find out why then be more driven but not quit.

Lynn Sampson-Bailey- Responded that she would be driven by her stubborn nature to try harder. She would use her grit to learn how and grow. Quitting would not be an option.

After brief discussion each Council member voted for their top candidate. Mr. Radke received three votes (Councilors Drill, Lauder, and Meier) and Ms. Sampson-Bailey received two votes (Councilors L. Sickles and D. Sickles). Mr. Radke was sworn in by City Manager Corthell at 5:56 pm.

Councilor D. Sickles excused himself from the remainder of the meeting and left at 5:56 pm. Council took a recess at this time and reconvened at 6:00 pm.

6. Communications

- a. Jim Graham gave a U.S. Census presentation explaining the upcoming 2020 Census and what the City can do to help ensure everyone is counted. He said many people tend to shy away from being counted in the census and talked about ways to ease those household's minds. Mr. Graham reminded those present that federal funding is granted using Census calculations. The higher the population, the better for our community. Flyers were distributed to post advertising Census workers needed. He requested Council to adopt a proclamation at the July meeting to secure the City's help in the 2020 count.

There were no comments on departmental reports.

7. Communications

None

8. Consent Agenda

A motion made by Councilor T. Meier and Seconded by Councilor D. Sickles to adopt the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

9. Public Comments

None

10. Citizen Committees

Mayor Gordon resigned from the Public works Committee as of May 23, 2019

11. Budget Hearing

Mayor Gordon opened the Budget Hearing at 6:50 pm.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Gordon closed the Budget Hearing at 6:51 pm.

A motion made by Councilor D. Sickles and Seconded by Councilor L. Sickles that the City Council of the City of Falls City adopt RESOLUTION 17-2019, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS, LEVYING TAXES AND ELECTING TO RECEIVE STATE REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020. Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

Council recessed at 7:09 pm. Council reconvened at 7:11 pm.

12. Old Business

MWVCOG – CDBG Contract Amendment

A motion was made by Councilor T. Meier and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles that the City of Falls City amend the contract with MWVCOG – CDBG An amendment to add an additional \$5,000.00 to the Mid- Willamette Valley Council of Governments CDBG administration contract.

Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

13. Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm and closed at 8:33 pm.

The regular Council meeting re-opened at 8:34 pm. After extensive deliberation a motion was made by Councilor D. Radke and seconded by Councilor T. Meier to vote on the amended price of the wastewater pond location with a cap to not exceed \$175,000. Motion carried. 5-1-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke, Nays: Jennifer Drill

14. Reports

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Corthell addressed council about a spending freeze till the end of the fiscal year. He brought up many concerns he has that need to start being addressed now. Those being

Lack of Organization, Lack of understanding Job descriptions, a high employee turnover rate, and not enough money being brought in from franchise funding. Council decided to do multiple work sessions over the next three months in order to have a better understanding of what we need and what we can do to accomplish it. Council will meet the forth Monday of each month until September.

b. Mayor and Council Reports

Mayor Gordon wanted to let everyone know that Polk County is in the process of appealing the Cherriots board of director's decision to not continue funding of Polk County direct connect program.

Councilor C. Lauder made the suggestion that the City develop some camping spots open for public use at the George Kitchin Memorial Park ideally before the end of the summer. Councilor L. Sickles stated that there was already camping allowed up there but they needed to check in with City Hall.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Attested:  _____ Mayor, Jeremy Gordon
 _____ City Clerk, Jamie Ward