
City of Falls City
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
September 09, 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; William Sullivan, Community Development & Outreach Coordinator; Jamie Ward, City Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. Roll Call

Asst. Clerk Ward took roll call. Councilor David Radke was absent; Councilor Dennis Sickles arrived at 6:07PM

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 with changes to the next City Council Meeting date. Motion carried 4-0-0-2. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder

5. Announcements and Appointments

- a. William Sullivan was welcomed to Falls City Staff. City manager Corthell gave a brief explanation on the RARE program and how competitive that program can be. Mr. Sullivan will work with the City for eleven (11) months and with the aid of being awarded two Grants, The Ford Family Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 and the Pacific Power Grant in the amount of \$3000.00 the cost to the City is roughly \$10,000.00.

Mr. Sullivan gave a short introduction of his role as the new Community Development & Outreach Coordinator and what that job entails. Mr. Sullivan wanted to thank City Council, Mayor Gordon, City Manager Corthell and Falls City for all the effort it took to get him here.

There will be a welcome BBQ and surplus sale hosted by City Hall on Tuesday September 10, 2019.

Mayor Gordon wanted to mention that Pacific Power will be holding a housing and weatherization event at the Boondocks on Wednesday October 2, 2019 from 5:30-7:00PM. Pacific Power will be providing dinner for all who attend and wanted to say thank you to the Boondocks for hosting the event.

- b. Public Works Committee Application from Tracy Young

A motion was made by Councilor D. Sickles and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles that the Falls City Council grant its consent to appoint Tracy Young to the Public Works Committee.

Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

6. Community & Government Organizations

a. Falls City Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Don Poe wanted to update Council on the dead trees in the Fay Wilson Memorial Park. Poe stated that the fir trees looked fine but there are some maple and alder trees by the river that will need some attention soon.

City Manager Corthell wanted to add that the stop sign on Mitchell and N. Main St. will soon get a “pork chop” to alleviate that stop sign being hit so many times.

b. Polk County Sheriff’s Report

None

c. Falls City Fire Report

Falls City Fire Chief Bob Young wanted to let Council know where we stand with the new fire truck. Chief Young stated that he has been working closely with Dallas Fire on getting all the additional parts that are being added to it. Chief Young stated that he has received a lot of positive feedback from West Valley Fire and SW Fire on how wonderful the truck looks, they could not believe that we have kept the costs under one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00). He would also like to thank Kent and Tom with the Dallas Fire station for their help and support. Chief Young is excited to inform council that the Falls City Fire Department currently has seven (7) guys and gals certified in their 131-90 and are eager to take it out. Chief Young thanked Council and our former Mayor Terry Ungricht for all of the hard work on making this truck possible.

7. Reports

- a. **Mayor Gordon** read a staff report detailing the Falls City Pride 2019 Report Out. The report stated testimonials from local and out of town guests who attended the event. Mayor Gordon believes that the first City sanctioned Falls City Pride Event exceeded expectations on all fronts including turnout, volunteer participation, state wide media coverage, recognition from elected officials at all levels of government, money raised for student groups, vendor participation, sponsorships, economic impact, and overall community support and enthusiasm. Mayor Gordon wanted to specifically thank each and every one of the thirty-six (36) volunteers who donated a total of approximately two hundred and twenty four (224) hours of work to make Falls City Pride 2019 a success. Pride organizers believe total attendees for the August 17 event is estimated to be three hundred and twenty-six people (326). Mayor Gordon

David Radke-Absent

Dennis Sickles spoke on the annual SOLVe event on Saturday September 7, 2019. Councilor Sickles feels that it was a great turnout with the help of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as well as folks from Falls City. They started at the George Kitchen Park where volunteers noted how wonderful of a job our camp host is doing at keeping the park clean. They cleaned both sides of the falls, the Fay Wilson Memorial Park, and the stairs. Councilor Sickles stated that the stairs is where most of the litter was picked up. He thanked Domino’s pizza for donating five (5) pizzas and thanked City Staff for the support on making this a great event for everyone. Councilor Sickles wanted to let Council know that falls sports have started and would love to see everyone

come and show support. Tracy Young stated the new scoreboard is up and running. Councilor Sickles touched on the progress of the new gym being built at the grade school. Chief Young stated that they are pouring the concrete now and that as soon as everything is up we will need a significant amount of volunteers to help with the assembly of the floor. Councilor Sickles wanted to make sure that the community was going to be putting some volunteer teams together to help split up the work load.

Cliff Lauder wanted to say that he is working on the gym as a carpenter. He is working on the building with one other contractor. He also stated that the gym will be 80 by 100 feet; the building will be up in three to four weeks. He also stated that the grant only pays for the shell of the building and that we will need to find the funds to add all the other necessary items.

Tony Meier spoke about Pride and how he had a few people approach him about why the City would need to sanction the event, and also express concerns about strangers walking throughout their neighborhood. Councilor Meier stated his response was that when the City held the meeting covering the pride event that we had a full chamber and that there was not one negative thing said and that no one showed up in opposition of this event. He stated that he has informed those people to come to council meetings and speak how they feel.

Jennifer Drill read two (2) letters from community members that spoke in opposition of the Polk County Pride event see attached letters. (Exhibit A and B) Council Drill also wanted to add something to the agenda regarding the event sanctioning notice process, but she was unsure what exactly. City Manager Corthell stated that he would meet with her at a later time to address those concerns.

Lori Jean Sickles informed council that regardless of being closed for 5 hours during the Pride event the sales at the Boondocks were up over fifty percent (50%). She believes that it was a great, positive event for those who wanted to attend. Councilor L. Sickles also wanted to let council know that she was approached by Brian Dowell and him wanting to know if he could get approval to spray the dandelions at the cemeteries'. He wants to use a chemical called trimech. He stated that he would buy the product and wanted to know if council would consider allowing him to use it. Mr. Dowell also spoke with a community service crew and they said they would be more than willing to bring a crew out and volunteer. City Manager Corthell asked Councilor Sickles to forward on his contact information and he would be in touch with him.

b. Manager's Report

City Manager Corthell read his manager report updating Council members on the status of projects the City is currently working on. Corthell wanted to add that there is going to be a "Pork Chop" added at the intersection of Mitchell and N. Main St. That job will be completed in the next week.

8. Public Communications

None

9. Consent Agenda

A motion made by Councilor T. Meier and Seconded by Councilor L. Sickles to adopt the consent agenda.

Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

10. Public Comments

Joe Smith, Falls City Resident

Mr. Smith approached council about his concerns over excessive speeding. City Manager Corthell readdressed that we are doing everything we can as a city to look into this city wide problem

Joan Gordon, Falls City Resident

Ms. Gordon addressed Council specifically regarding the letters Councilor Drill read and wanted to share her opinions about the pride event. She hoped to convey that as a Christian woman it is ok to love everyone, she expressed her love and support of all LGBT and stated that we are all one.

Lili Bottcher, Falls City Resident

Mrs. Bottcher expressed how much fun she had at the 2019 Pride and her excitement for next year's event. Ms. Bottcher asked council if there was a shredding company that comes into town and if so could she shred some papers. Lynn Bailey stated that she could possibly partner up with the schools when they do their annual shred day.

Bob Young, Falls City Resident

Mr. Young wanted to address council as a community member and not the fire chief regarding his feelings on how being divided in our community is actually hurting us more than helping. He believes everyone should be kind and respectful to each other and that he feels that is what community is all about. His concern about pride is a safety concern. He feels that when we invite out of town that we should host events at a public place and not allowed to roam throughout neighborhoods. He would appreciate it everyone could treat each other with kindness and find a way to get along.

Mayor Gordons responded to Mr. Young stating that he feels the 2019 Pride Event was only held in public places and that he wanted to express how most people don't understand the inequalities LGBT people face and that Prides is a place where residents who choose to participate can come and show support and focus on common values and promote inclusion. Mayor Gordon stated that regardless if it continues to stat a city sanctioned event or not Falls City Pride will continue to happen.

Councilor Drill made a motion to respond to Mrs. Gordon's statement Councilor Meyer seconded. Motion passed 4-1-1-0 ayes; Dennis Sickles, Cliff Lauder, Tony Meier, Jennifer Drill nays; Lori Jean Sickles

Councilor Drill thanked Mrs. Gordon for her kind words and wanted to reiterate that she feels the letters were not coming from a place of personal attacks. Councilor Drill wanted to remind everyone that every citizen has the right to due process and that Council needs to serve citizens as a whole and not just focus on a certain group.

Martha Jarevoc, Falls City Resident

Ms. Jarevoc moved here in May and loves everything she has experienced in her time here. She felt that she would love to see Falls City feel proud of its Pride accomplishments and that in her we are moving forward. Ms. Jarevoc stated that she only heard of one

negative situation during the pride weekend and it was a situation with a Falls City resident who went up the George Kitchin Park and honked their vehicle horn at around two in the morning disturbing campers. She also stated that she feels events like this will help the City grow and that helps create a more positive revenue stream.

11. Citizen Committees

- a. Councilor Meier wanted to remind citizens that the Public Works Committee meetings are the fourth (4th) Thursday of every month and that they are addressing the concerns about excessive speeders on roads and possibly talking about solution suggestions.

12. New Business

- a. City Manager Corthell briefly went over his staff report and explained that as Grants get approved or denied we will see a few more of these throughout the fiscal year. He stated that he attempted to get as close to par as he could when setting the budget.

A motion was made by Councilor J. Drill and seconded by Councilor C. Lauder that the City of Falls City adopt RESOLUTION 24-2019 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FALLS CITY BUDGET. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

- b. The Annual goal setting meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00PM. The City will provide dinner.

13. Old Business

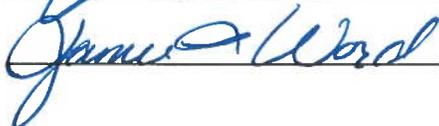
- a. City Manager Corthell briefly discussed some of the concerns with the City's previous and current Code Enforcement situations. Corthell stated that at the January 29, 2018 Goal setting session, Code Services was list as number four concern for Council. Corthell reminded Council of the City's previous code enforcement officer Lieutenant Birr's concerns are, safety, a lacking complaint driven system, and costs. Corthell proposed a pilot Program Proposal that could benefit the community without using extensive City resources. The five (5) step process starts with the Complaint intake, the Complaints are written and turned-in to City Hall by mail, email or in person (exception from disabilities that prevent written communication). The next step is City Staff Action, City staff mail or posts a Notification letter to alleged violator stating allegation and allowing for a thirty (30) day window to cure, submit a plan to cure within ninety (90) days or deny accusation. City Staff will then then investigate via viewing allegation. The third (3) steps is Citations, they will be issued for denials/failures to respond. Those citations will be issued by the Polk County Sherriff's Office. Court will be attended by the City Manager as representative for the City. After discussion council recommended on tabling the idea to do more research on the subject.
- b. City Manager Corthell discussed his Staff Report requesting a minor deviation from the City road design standards in relation to the Dutch Creek Bridge Project. The County is asking for the City's blessing to deviate from the original twenty-four (24) foot requirement in favor of twenty-two (22) foot two eleven (11) foot lanes. With two (2) foot gravel shoulders.

A motion was made by Councilor Drill and seconded by Councilor D. Sickles that the City of Falls City adopt RESOLUTION 23-2019 A RESOLUTION GRANTING A ROADWAY WIDTH DESIGN DEVIATION FOR THE DUTCH CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

c. Adjourn

A motion made by Councilor T. Meier and Seconded by Councilor L. Sickles to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Attested:  Mayor, Jeremy Gordon
 City Clerk, Jamie Ward

To Falls City Mayor and Council Members.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts with you, the elected servants of Falls City residents. We see the current level of partisan social activism emanating out of the City Hall as unacceptable and obvious. We first noticed it in the review comments from the June 19th Parks and Recreation Meeting, where those who differ in opinion are alluded to as 'violent and discriminatory toward LGBTQ people and allies'. This is not true in Falls City according to testimony from all attending the July 8 Council Meeting. Just the opposite was expressed. In the Falls City Newsletter of August, Falls City residents who can not support this event were also alluded to as 'prejudiced, detractors who don't know anything about Falls City'.

Again, this level of partisan social activism or messaging coming out of the City Hall is unacceptable and does not represent this entire community. It needs to stop.

The June 19th Parks and Recreation minutes Falls City Pride Event proposal also includes the language, under Item 2.2, as 'all-inclusive, community weekend event'. The Faith based community that believes in the One True God, that His Word is infallible, can not consent, give approval to, or be part of this event. Not and be in unity with Him and His Word. Not now, and not in the future. So we were not considered when you planned or voted for this as a community wide event. This was far from all-inclusive and did not meet that requirement.

Just to be clear, we believe that to elevate recognition of any one group of citizens based upon that groups identity is a colossal error ~ no matter who the group is, whether gay, straight, white, black, atheist, faith based, or whatever. Schisms invite division rather than unity. Always have, always will. This is why events like 'Let Freedom Ring' are accepted and successful ~ they bring every identity group equally together.

Community input was not sought by the Parks and Recreation Committee nor the Council from the greater Falls City Community outside of the organizing group. The Falls City Pride Event process received only the minimum required exposure to the entire community through meeting postings as required by law. Additionally, the Falls City Pride Event proposal states, under 2.4, that 'members of the Steering Committee that formed as a result of the Visioning Project have voiced support for and willingness to volunteer on behalf of Falls City Pride 2019'. When did this take place, who are the members, and where are the records? It seems that there was sufficient time to bring this to the whole Community but it wasn't.

According to good policy (and perhaps Oregon meeting laws) those Council members that were actively organizing this event prior to the Councils approval should have declared a potential or actual conflict of interest and possibly abstained from voting. Additionally, Oregon law requires that any Council member that stands to profit or gain should declare a conflict of interest and possibly abstain from voting.

Notes regarding the actual event:

This was billed as a 'unifying community event', and yet American flags which represent ALL members of the community were not flown but rather the semi-rainbow flags representing the LGBTQ community were raised.

How is this 'unifying' our community? Its not. Again, all testimony prior to the July Council vote declared that we had an accepting and unified community... and yet the Council did not accept that peace and unity and voted for division.

Parking in the City lot was not used. Instead, nearly two dozen cars were parked along Hopkins St. and Bridge St. (on both sides of the lower corner) causing potential safety issues for other drivers and for the visitors themselves. At least one person said they had notified the County Police to come ask them to relocate their cars. We don't know if that ever happened.

To restore faith in our local government in the area of Community or City Event approval, we recommend that Resolution 7-2019 be modified to include a one time citizens voting mailer that would include ALL current City and Community Events that have been approved to date by the Council. This mailer would describe each event and include a check box for 'Approve' and a check box for 'Disapprove' after each individual event listed. For events to be approved, a supermajority of 75% of community responses received back to the City as 'Approved' would be required. Further, each NEW City or Community event, from this point forward, would require a community mailer seeking to approve or disapprove the event by the same 75% supermajority of community response received by the City. This could easily be added to the existing Falls City mailings. In this way, we can be as certain as possible that the majority of the community supports these events.

Respectfully,
Ervin and Cynthia Bathke
Falls City Oregon Residents

To:
The Falls City, City Council

Exhibit B September 8, 2019

We are unable to attend tonight's (9th) meeting so this is being given to Councilwoman Jennifer Drill on our behalf.

We moved here from Dallas in 2001 (Feb) & love this town - it's beauty, peaceful life style & country living atmosphere. We, as a town, have weathered some storms (political etc.) & for the most part come thru them nicely (at least to the public! :))

In 2002, we, along with 2 other couples invested in & opened a free coffee house to serve our community. We served quality organic meals on Friday evenings, offered services to those in need: transportation during the week to Dr. or Dentist appointments, fixed their vehicles, cleaned their apartments, donated gas \$ as needed, as well as meeting many other needs. We were open 4-5 days/ evenings a week, serving families, widows, drug & alcohol addicts, ex-cons & the homeless. etc. This is just a caveat to our love & past care for the residents of our town... & to let you

get a glimpse of our hearts. We mean absolutely no animosity towards anyone by the following questions we have.

We did look at our Falls City Web pages to try to find answers, but couldn't find them, so we bring our questions to you.

- What is "sanctioning" a city with a label?
- What is the process for "sanctioning" or dedicating our town for anything?
- How many sanctions can there be?
- Why was our town "sanctioned" & then advertised (we heard it was national & international) as an "official Pride City"?
- How was such a serious issue not put to a vote to the people of our town since it is a well-known "hot" political topic?
- Many diverse people live in & love our town without putting their "labels" on it or requesting "sanctioning".
- Why would politically sensitive & divisive flags be flown where American flags are traditionally flown?
- What is the comparison ???

- Who paid for the flags? Our city budget? Taxes? Private Parties?
- If private parties seek on public flag holders? Are all flags welcome?
- Why would you, as the council want to create a divisive atmosphere here?
- Whose idea was this? Why?
- We believe anyone can petition City Hall & for the Council for special events - ones that meet city criteria, which we have trusted the council for.
- What is that criteria & where can it be found?
- Our form of Government was designed to function "of the people, by the people, & for the people" ... as a matter of democratic representative Government.
Not to create a divisive political atmosphere that serves a few, rather than all.
You as elected & appointed officials represent all the people, not just some of us.

In the past, we think a good job has been
basically done in focusing on serious
community needs:

food, housing, clothing, utilities,
sewers, street repairs, water supply,
beautification, etc.

He moved here, like we said, for a
quiet, gentle life of country living - not
big city events & dictates.

Please record this sanction or whatever
the process is to reverse that decision &
put it to a ^{city} vote, with full disclosure
on what "sanctioning" means, & its
ramifications, since this is a serious
national issue.

Sincerely,
Michael & Karen Fuller

515 E. Clark St.

 → Karen E. Fuller