
City of Falls City
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 08, 2020 6:00 PM
Meeting Location: 320 N Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344

Council Present: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Dennis Sickles, T.J. Bailey

Staff Present: Mac Corthell, City Manager; Jamie Ward, City Clerk; Jon Creekmore, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Clerk Ward took roll call. Councilor Cliff Lauder was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gordon led the pledge.

3. Motion to adopt the entire Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor T. Meier and seconded by Councilor T. Bailey to adopt the entire agenda. Motion carried 4-1-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Dennis Sickles, T.J. Bailey. Nay: Nay

A motion was made by Councilor J. Drill to amend the first motion and table New Business item b-Resolution 24-2020, a Resolution directing City Council Training by the City Attorney, to the October 12, 2020 Meeting. Motion did not receive a second. Motion Failed

4. New Business

a. Resolution 23-2020 Employment Contract for City Manager Pro-Tem David Clyne.

Mayor Gordon opened the floor to David Clyne who gave a brief introduction on himself and his previous working experiences.

Mr. Clyne has lived and worked as a City Manager in various locations for over thirty (30) years, but most of his career was spent with the City of Independence. Mr. Clyne stated that small towns are near and dear to his heart and has been a frequent customer of the Breadboard here in Falls City.

Mayor Gordon wanted to make sure that Mr. Clyne knew that Council was here for him as he is for us.

All Council was in favor of the Resolution and excited to work with Mr. Clyne.

A motion made by Councilor T. Bailey and Seconded by Councilor T. Meier to move that the City Council of Falls City adopt Resolution 23-2020 A RESOLUTION, EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR CITY MANAGER PRO-TEM DAVID CLYNE. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Dennis Sickles, T.J. Bailey

b. Resolution 24-2020, Directing City Council Training by the City Attorney.

A motion made by Councilor T. Bailey and Seconded by Councilor D. Sickles to move that the City Council of Falls City adopt Resolution 24-2020 A RESOLUTION, DIRECTING CITY COUNCIL

TRAINING BY THE CITY ATTORNEY. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Dennis Sickles, T.J. Bailey.

Councilor T. Bailey read his Agenda Report (see exhibit A).

Councilor J. Drill asked what City Attorney training would look like and how much it would cost. Councilor T. Bailey stated the cost is stated in the Agenda Report and should cost approximately one thousand (\$1000.00) dollars.

Councilor J. Drill asked if Councilor T. Bailey investigated any other training options.

Councilor T. Bailey stated that he had not and preferred our City Attorney host the training because he is educated in the Falls City Charter. Bailey stated he is hopeful that the Attorney will help Council go through and dissect what Council is sworn by, so that each Council will know their roles.

Councilor T Meier added that he believes that other trainings are good as well because they can educate Council to on things that are happening that are not included in the Falls City Charter.

c. Direct Connect Banner

The Direct-Connect bus serving Falls City was forced to cease service due to COVID-19. The service will resume service this month and the County (who funds the bulk of the service) has asked if a banner can be hung in Falls City to notify citizens the bus will resume service.

Councilor J. Drill asked how long the banner would be hung up for.

City Manager Corthell said that he did not hear of an end date but could not imagine it be up for more than a month or two.

A motion made by Councilor D. Sickles and Seconded by Councilor T. Bailey to move that the City Council of Falls City authorize HANGING OF THE DIRECRT CONNECT BANNER. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, T.J. Bailey

Councilor T. Bailey wanted to add that he has been working with around nine (9) youths on the skate park. Bailey added that to apply for some of the grants they are looking into one of the requirements are that they need a name for the park. Bailey wanted Council to know that they have chosen the name "Rivers Edge Skate Park".

Mayor Gordon wanted to share that his thoughts are with all the first responders battling the fires across the State.

Public Works Director Jon Creekmore who also is Assistant Chief on Falls City's Volunteer Fire Department added that the new brush rig is already helping on the Blue Ridge fire and that all three of the Fire Trucks are filled and ready to go

should an emergency arise. All three (3) Fire Trucks together hold a total of twenty-seven hundred (2700) gallons of water.

5. Adjourn

No Motion Made

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

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

AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY COUNCILOR, TJ BAILEY VIA CITY MANAGER, MAC CORTHELL
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 24-20, COUNCIL TRAINING
DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

SUMMARY

A resolution to direct council training at the City Attorney's Earliest Convenience.

BACKGROUND

Since late January I have had the honor and privilege of representing our community as a city council member. Since being sworn in I have done my best to represent our city in a professional role while making decisions that best meet the needs of all of our citizens. I understand that I am just one voice and our council works best when we work and act as a body. Unfortunately, there are a select few council members, based on their actions that do not feel the same. These council members have demonstrated that they are above the rules of our charter and are entitled to cross over into the area of inappropriate attempts to influence staff's administrative responsibilities. This greatly concerns me.

Another concern is that a select few council members do not fully understand or respect the "council/manager form of government". In short, council members decide "WHAT" needs to be in policy and goals based on our community's needs and values, whereas the city manager and staff determine "HOW" to implement the policies and goals and deliver day-to-day services due to their experience and training. The select few council members who attempt to influence or direct staff outside a public forum as to how to implement or deliver day-to-day services makes it extremely difficult if not impossible for them to fulfill their responsibilities. This is a clear violation of our charter rules.

While being elected to a city council, and in my case voted in by the council, is an honor bestowed upon us by the voters, a select few of us do not keep that "honor" in perspective. Citizens elected the council and trust that judgments made represent the interests in community decision-making. They **DID NOT** elect us because they felt we were personally deserving of *special rights or privileges*. Unfortunately, there are some council members who feel they are entitled to such special rights and privileges. Those council members expect the city manager and staff to assist them in ways outside their formal role on the city council. In order for our city to run effectively, this false notion from certain council members needs to stop immediately.

Additionally, I believe that one of the least favorite tasks for a city manager is to tell an individual council member or the council as a whole something they don't want to hear. We will never be well served by a manager who will not tell us when something is not appropriate or cannot be achieved simply to avoid appearing uncooperative. It is

very helpful for certain council members to understand that the manager has a professional obligation to give council advice contrary to what one would like to hear when he/she is required to do so. The city manager and staff are required to faithfully carry out the direction of the city council, regardless if particular council members did or did not recommend it and regardless if some council members oppose it. Council members should not misrepresent the truth or side with community members to save face when decisions are made that they disagree with nor should they cry foul when decisions are not in their favor.

In closing, I have touched briefly on a few, not all, of the ethical violations I have seen by a few council members in my short time on council. It is time to hold council members accountable for their behavior. If we continue to choose to ignore the blatant disregard to our charter rules we risk never hiring a qualified city manager and shedding the negative perception of our city from neighboring communities that still haunt us today. Due to the actions of a few, we have an unstable council/manager relationship that could have led to more serious negative consequences besides losing an outstanding individual who has done so much for our city. We need to understand that our actions greatly impact not only the council but the citizens we swore to represent. City managers in Falls City historically don't last long and it's time to break the pattern of dysfunction so we can thrive as a city while building a positive reputation as a place to live, work and play. Our service on council is a unique honor, not a privilege. We must conduct ourselves in a manner that when our time on council is over we can look back with pride, not only for what we accomplished, but also the way in which we conducted ourselves.

The first step in having a professional functioning council is making sure all council members know their role and abide by the rules of our charter which is one of our goals for council. Therefore, I make a motion to schedule trainings on roles, rules and responsibilities of our elected council as soon as possible.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

- Council Training Adopted as Council Goal #4 for 2020-2021

ALTERNATIVES/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Council Training was budgeted under Professional Services in the General Fund: Administrative. Approximate cost \$1,000.

STAFF RECCOMENDATION

Adopt.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 24-2020, Directing Council Training by the City Attorney.

PROPOSED MOTION

I move that the Falls City Council adopt Resolution 24-2020, DIRECTING CITY COUNCIL TRAINING BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.