



Minutes of the Molalla City Council Regular Meeting

Molalla Adult Community Center
315 Kennel Ave., Molalla, OR 97038
September 23, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

The Molalla City Council Meeting of September 23, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Keith Swigart at 7:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Keith Swigart – Present
Council President Leota Childress – Present
Councilor Elizabeth Klein – Present
Councilor DeLise Palumbo – Present
Councilor Terry Shankle – Present
Councilor Jody Newland - Present
Councilor Crystal Robles - Present

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Dan Huff, City Manager - Present
Christie DeSantis, City Recorder - Present
Gerald Fisher, Public Works Director - Present
Chaunee Seifried, Finance Director - Present

3. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, CEREMONIES

Ken Fetters, Culture and Arts Committee Chair – Mr. Fetters shared an update with Council, highlighting the accomplishments of the CAC since the onset of COVID-19. He explained that it has been difficult to meet, however the group is still very active. Thanks to Dave Jackson Photography, several videos have been made and shared. Topics include cardboard castle competitions, gardening, tour of the Dibble House, and the Rodeo Walk of Fame. Other items that have been created during COVID-19 are the resurrection of The Bulletin, and Pianos in the Park.

The First Responder piano has been assigned to the Long Park Gazebo. The gazebo needs some work done, as well as to be painted. The Culture and Art Committee spoke with Mitch Magenheimer about helping with the paint. Mr. Magenheimer stated that he and the Rotary Club would provide the labor, if the City would be willing to provide paint. Mr. Fetters has offered the City his contractor discount. He requested up to \$500 from Council, to paint the gazebo.

Discussion took place and Council decided that they would approve funds contingent upon seeing and approving the design/colors.

A motion was made by Councilor Klein, to approve up to \$500 for paint to the Culture and Arts Committee, for the purpose of painting the gazebo in Long Park. Councilor Shankle seconded. Vote passed 7-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Citizens are allowed up to 3 minutes to present information relevant to the City but not listed as an item on the agenda. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the City Recorder. The City Council does not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the City Manager. Complaints shall first be addressed at the department level prior to addressing the City Council.)

Scott Keyser, Molalla resident, complimented many people in the Molalla area for their hard work during the wildfires. He then read a text from his phone that he stated was from Mayor Swigart. He read ‘Good morning council. I asked Dan to include that our Police Department have 24 hour patrols to discourage any looting. Looting has been a problem everywhere there is a complete evacuation. I do not know if they are patrolling or not, but it can’t hurt to put it out there.’ Mr. Keyser then exited the room.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approved as presented.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Klein to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council President Childress. Vote passed 7-0.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution 2020-20: Authorizing an Emergency Business Assistance Grant Program to Support Local Business Impacted by COVID-19 and the Governor’s Executive Order 20-12

The City of Molalla has applied for funds from the State of Oregon from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Grant). We have been approved and want to invest \$100,000 into small businesses in our community. This funding opportunity requires fast tracking in hopes of distributing funds to business owners by early October. As a reminder, this money will not be coming from our local citizens but from the State of Oregon CRF Grant funds.

After reviewing materials, Councilors decided that they would like less restrictions to business owners so that more may be eligible to apply. There are other loans and applications available offering assistance. This grant offers up to \$5,000 to businesses. The amount awarded will depend on how many businesses apply. Council would like nonprofits to be able to apply, as well as small business owners with less than ten employees. Finance Director Seifried clarified changes with Councilors and noted the amendments needed.

Due to the nature of the Resolution, and that they are small business owners; Councilors Robles, Klein, and Childress all recused themselves from voting.

A motion was made by Councilor Palumbo to approve Resolution No. 2020-20 as amended, seconded by Councilor Newland. Vote passed 4-0, with Mayor Swigart, Councilor Newland, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Shankle voting aye.

- B. Resolution 2020-21: Declaring a Local State of Emergency Due to the Beachie Creek and Riverside Wildfires

During the evacuation of the City, on September 10, 2020 the Mayor signed a Declaration of Emergency. Due to disbursements of Councilors, a meeting could not be organized. Resolution 2020-21 ratifies the Mayor’s declaration of last week. This Emergency Declaration will ensure emergency funding for not only city facilities and efforts, but our community as well.

Even though the City of Molalla seems to have escaped harm’s way we have proposed October 14, 2020 as the end date to this emergency due to the ongoing firefighting in our area.

A motion was made by Councilor Newland to approve Resolution 2020-21, seconded by Councilor Robles. Vote passed 7-0.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Urban Renewal Update

City Manager Huff reported that we have finished our funding cycle, it was processed on Thursday and Friday of the evacuation. Mr. Huff and Ms. Seifried finalized paperwork that week, otherwise it would be pushed out for two more months. The City was able to lock in the lower interest rate.

Mr. Huff and our Economic Development Consultant presented the public building project for a new Police Department to Clackamas County Board of Commissioners this week. The City of Molalla will be placed on their October agenda. Mr. Huff plans to meet with the School District and Fire Department, which are also part of our taxing district. Once that process is complete, a final plan will be presented to Council. This will most likely take place in November.

B. Conflagration Update

Mr. Huff addressed the issue of citizens wanting more information during the fires and evacuation. He explained that Molalla is not the lead agency in a situation such as this, however he commended our Fire Department for all the hard work and communication they were able to provide. *(written comment included in these meeting minutes)*

10. REPORTS

A. City Manager and Staff

City Recorder DeSantis requested that Council look at their November calendars and consider a meeting date change. November 11th is Veteran's Day and City Hall will be closed. November 23rd is the day before Thanksgiving and Council does not typically meet. Ms. DeSantis requested that Council meet on November 18th, in order to accommodate a meeting for that month. Council members agreed to the change.

Finance Director Seifried gave an update on the CRF (Covid Relief Fund) Grant. We have received \$115,000 to date, which has covered supplies needed during Covid. The City has applied for an additional \$121,000 which includes \$100,00 for the Emergency Business Assistance Grant. The total amount that we have available is \$328,000, which leaves us with a remaining \$90,000 through the month of December.

Public Works Director Fisher shared:

- Tractor Supply Store has been issued all permits and will be opening on Friday.
- Cascade Center's preconstruction meeting will take place this week, with plans to permit construction beginning. In addition, plans are almost complete for signalized intersection.
- He now has a map that can be shared with the Chamber of Commerce that shows the striping areas where parking will be removed on Main street.
- The Public Works Ops report is dedicated to work done during the fire. Employees were reporting to work during the fire, as far away as Lincoln City. The Wastewater Treatment Plant created 5.7 million gallons of treated effluent to fight fires., which is allowed through ORS. The Water Treatment Plant drew almost 2 million gallons of water a day. Normal activity is 1.6 million per day, and the highest draw was 2.7 million gallons during the fire.
- DEQ and USGS is working with us to take samples of the Molalla River during the rain event this evening. Agencies want to sample the river before, during and after the rain, to get a sense of what will be coming down during the winter. Crews will work through the night to take and provide samples to DEQ and USGS. Fifty six percent of our water shed was in the burn zone. We are still tracking emergency management costs.
- Smoke and ash will continue to be an issue in our area for some time to come. The Water Treatment Plant is working diligently to provide clean water.

City Manager Huff provided a handout from DEQ that has the State regulations on ash. *(attached to these meeting minutes)*

B. Mayor

Mayor Swigart publicly apologized to Councilor Palumbo for siting her at a previous meeting. He reviewed Charter language and found that publicly criticizing another Councilor applies to during meetings.

Mr. Swigart thanked everyone that helped to save the town during the fire and evacuation period. He thanked the City Staff, including the Police Department and Fire Department. He thanked the citizens of Molalla that stepped into help fight fires.

C. City Councilors

Councilor Robles echoed her thanks for the community effort that took place during the fires. She gave her appreciation to all involved in saving our town.

Councilor Shankle offered her thanks to the City and community. She also brought up Halloween. Councilor Shankle feels that our kids need something to look forward to, so the Chamber is hosting a Trunk or Treat event. This event will be on October 31st at the High School from 4:00-7:00pm.

Councilor Palumbo mentioned her pride in our town. She reminded the community of our Share the Love event, as well as Molalla winning an award for being one of the nicest towns to live in. She expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved.

Councilor Klein thanked the families of the first responders, for supporting the people that saved our town.

Council President Childress thanked City Manager Huff directly, for his leadership and direction during the fire. She also commended the City staff for their loyalty to the city during the fire.

Councilor Newland shared that she felt that the community of Molalla goes further than our 97038-zip code, and that the pioneer spirit of Oregon is alive and well. She feels that people from all over have proven that in the past several days. She offered high praise to the Fire and Police Department and City Staff, and hopes that we can all come together to debrief, so if there is another emergency in the future, we'll be able to handle even better.

8 ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council President Childress to adjourn at 8:36pm, seconded by Councilor Klein. Vote passed 7-0.


Keith Swigart, Mayor


Date

ATTEST:


Christie DeSantis, City Recorder