

City of Prairie City
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1.

2.

April 12th, 2017, 6:00pm

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4.

5. Attended: Jim Hamsher, Mayor

6. Carole Garrison, Councilor

7. Dottie Miller, Councilor

8. Georgia Patterson, Councilor

9. Joe Phippen, Councilor

10. Frank Primozić, Councilor

11. Taci Philbrook, City Recorder

12. Lyn McDonald, City Clerk

13. Carlos Bortell, resident

14. Luann Bortell, resident

15. Heidi Cearns, resident

16. Michael Cearns, resident

17. Dennis Lynch, resident

18. Ted Williams, Grant County Emergency Coordinator

19. Dan Becker, resident

20. Chris Camarena, Public Works Director

21.

22. The Mayor opened the regular meeting at 6:00pm. Roll Call was taken. All

23. councilors present, except Councilor Church who was excused.

24.

25. The minutes of the March 8th regular meeting were considered. **MSP: To**

26. approve the minutes as is. Councilor Garrison/ Councilor

27. Primozić. All members voted in favor. The minutes of the March 22nd

28. Supplemental Budget Hearing were considered. MSP: To approve the minutes

29. as is. Councilor Garrison/ Councilor Patterson. All members voted in favor.

30.

31. The Mayor recognized Dennis Lynch who has come before the council to discuss

32. garbage in trucks, and buildings in the city right of way(R.O.W.). He had

33. questions about; future water shortages and how they are getting fixed; does the

34. city follow its own zoning rules; if a citizen reports a problem who determines if

35. the violation is really a violation, and who lets the citizen know the results of the

36. investigation; is it true law enforcement has refused to enforce city ordinances;

37. and, is there anything in the works to improve our community beyond basic

38. necessities?

39.

40. Dennis also complimented the city maintenance department for their efforts in the
41. approved appearance of our two city parks. He stated he would also like to see
42. the city wide clean up day reinstated (see attached).

43.

44. Mayor Hamsher began answering Dennis's questions by explaining there is a city
45. wide clean up day planned for this spring. He further explained we can now
46. pump 300+ gpm versus the 50 gpm we were pumping last summer. Mayor
47. Hamsher let Dennis know he is looking further into Grants at a state level so we
48. don't have to raise the usage rates to fix our water issues. When Dennis
49. commented about the taste of the water Councilor Patterson explained that
50. lowering the pump should improve the taste and production.

51.

52. The mayor explained all citizen complaints are handled case by case, and the
53. police not enforcing ordinances was just a bad rumor. Mr. Lynch would like to
54. see more enforcement through citations. There was some conversation amongst
55. the councilors about the written complaints coming before the council then the
56. council deciding a plan of action. There was some discussion about time
57. constraints by doing it that way. Councilor Garrison would appreciate an
58. unlicensed vehicle on 13th St. in the city R.O.W. be addressed. The city recorder
59. explained a letter has been sent to the 13th St. resident, and to the 12th St. resident
60. with garbage in their truck parked in the city R.O.W.

61.

62. The mayor began a conversation with the council about narrowing the ROW. By
63. doing that the property owners will be responsible for manicuring the grass and
64. trees in the R.O.W. He duly noted there is wood piled and rigs parked in the
65. R.O.W.'s. There are also rigs parked by fire hydrants in the city's R.O.W.
66. Although, there is not an ordinance about parking in the R.O.W. there is one for
67. vegetation, and garbage in the ROW.

68.

69. The Mayor recognized Prairie City resident, Loren E. Bebb. Loren has submitted
70. for consideration a Type II Conditional Use Application to erect a U.S. Cellular
71. Tower on his property at 10th & McHaley otherwise known as 13-33-11 BC Lot
72. 500 16 Lot. It is zoned R-2. Councilor Garrison asked permission to tour the
73. proposed site. Loren gave permission to all the councilors to do a site visit at their
74. own convenience. City Clerk, Lyn McDonald, outlined the procedure to acquire a
75. conditional use permit. She also confirmed that up to this point all steps had been
76. correctly taken to file for the permit. Lyn has set the hearing date for May 17th,
77. 6:00 pm here at city hall in the council chambers. While discussing the design of
78. the tower, Loren said he *could* request the tower look like a 200 ft. tree. There
79. was some discussion about height but it was decided that discussion could wait
80. until the hearing on the 17th of May.

81.

82. **Emergency Response Team:** Councilor Miller gave a brief history of how the
83. emergency management response team came to be, and the teams purpose.

84. Councilor Phippen added he is asking for names of wheel chair, or bedridden
85. residents for him to contact about assisting them through an evacuation should
86. one happen. Dottie then introduced Ted Williams.

87.

88. Ted Williams, the Emergency Coordinator for Grant County thanked the city for
89. being diligent, and proactive with its emergency planning and in its planning for
90. the 2017 Solar Eclipse. He reminded the council he is always looking for
91. volunteers.

92.

93. Ted spoke of the county's limited resources in an emergency situation.

94. He further explained; city governments need to take ownership of emergencies,
95. they need to set up command posts, train volunteers, and work in conjunction with
96. the county when responding to fire, or flood emergencies. Ted recommended
97. I.C.S. courses that are offered online, and are free to city government people. The
98. courses take three to four hours and are easy.

99.

100. Ted commended Prairie City as the only city in Grant County creating an,
101. Emergency Operations Plan.

102.

103. **Public Works:** (no written report submitted) Chris reported Tom was back
104. to work on light duty.

105.

106. Chris is looking at purchasing a Tommy Lift to install in the back of the red
107. Ford 350. The purchase will come out of the Safety Equipment line.

108.

109. Chris reported he was just returning from a class that Councilor Georgia
110. Patterson also attended on behalf of The City of Monument. Since Prairie
111. City benefits from her certifications he is wondering if Prairie City could
112. share the expense of Georgia's room with The City of Monument. After
113. some discussion about ethics, the council as a whole decided if there is
114. a way to, we should.

115.

116. Chris has met with City Engineer, Joe Hitz to finalize the bid packs for the
117. sewer project.

118.

119. Chris is also working on a trade with the county for the 79' Dodge
120. truck. He will be trading the truck for in kind labor at the landfill, and for
121. rock.

122.

123. Chris is looking at purchasing two new solar powered speed trailers with

124. flashing lights. He will purchase one this FY, and one next FY. He is going
125. to go through a program using the special rates for police chiefs so he can
126. get two trailers for what he would usually have to pay for just one. They
127. will get paid for out of the budget line for signs. He has also spoken to Toby
128. Gangler with ODOT. Toby is interested in using our signs for traffic
129. control in emergencies.

130.

131. Councilor Phippen asked if there was any word from ODOT on the
132. mortality facility. Chris explained to the council that Taci had sent an
133. inquiring email to them, and when ODOT's work schedule slowed down
134. they will get the documents to us.

135.

136. Chris asked if we can look into hiring some part time help for the summer.
137. He sees a need for more staff in the public works department in preparing
138. for the 2017 Solar Eclipse. He referred to John Day that is looking at hiring
139. four part time employees for the event.

140.

141. Chris is also hoping we can fit a pay raise into the budget for the Utility
142. Maintenance II position. He was told we can discuss that during the
143. upcoming budget meeting.

144.

145. **Fire Dept.:** In Chief Rynearsons absence Chris reported there had been a
146. fire at Eula Waits. After investigating the cause, it was reported she had
147. been smoking in bed, and ashes ignited her oxygen tube. At this time it is
148. unknown if she had insurance. The council discussed the possibility of the
149. city footing the bill for cleaning up the scene of the fire. The fire displaced
150. five people in the home. Chris reported two volunteer fire fighters were
151. injured during the call, but only one of the injured went to the hospital to
152. get checked out. The volunteer fire fighter has a sprained hand, neck and
153. shoulder. There were lots of explosions due to fuel and oxygen tanks being
154. in the house. The neighbor, Pam Woodworth, pulled Eula Waits out of the
155. burning home. Chris offered debriefing to Pam. Councilor Patterson
156. suggested honoring Pam for her assistance and bravery. The council
157. decided to honor Pam with a certificate or plaque at the next regular
158. meeting.

159.

160. **Accounts Payable: MSP: To ratify payment of the bills. Councilor**
161. **Miller / Councilor Primozic. All in favor.**

162.

163. **MSP: To approve the 2016-2017 Oster agreement and Contract.**
164. **Councilor Patterson / Councilor Garrison. All in favor.**

165.

166. **MSP: To approve the Facility Use Agreement for the Grant Co.**
167. **Kruzers to use the city park for this years car show. Councilor**
168. **Garrison / Councilor Patterson. All in favor.**

169.

170. The mayor introduced the offer from American Tower (see attached).
171. American Tower has offered three options to entice us into signing a long
172. term easement program with them. After some discussion the council
173. agreed not to accept any of the offers. The general consensus was; if we
174. wait they will offer more to get us to sign.

175.

176. The mayor introduced this years fireworks display agreement, and purchase
177. order. After confirming with Taci there were no changes in the last year
178. since the council voted on the documents last. **MSP: To approve the 2017**
179. **4th of July contract. Councilor Patterson / Councilor Miller. All in favor.**

180.

181. City Recorder Taci reminded the councilors of the Essential Training Class
182. in Redmond scheduled for the 19th of April.

183.

184. The mayor read aloud the thank you card from the Senior Center Board of
185. Directors.

186.

187. Councilor Garrison asked for volunteers to water the city planters in front
188. of the Texaco Bldg.; May – Councilor Patterson
189. June – Councilor Phippen
190. July – City Staff
191. August – City Staff / Councilors Garrison & Primozic
192. September – Councilor Miller

193.

194.

195. **The Mayor adjourned at 7:15 pm.**

196.

197. Submitted by:

198.

199.

200. _____
Taci Philbrook, City Recorder

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202.

203.

204.

205.

206.

Approved by the City Council this _____
day of _____, 2017 and
signed by the Mayor:

Jim Hamsher, Mayor