

City of Prairie City

Council Meeting

May 13, 2020

1. Attendance

2. Mayor Jim Hamsher
3. Councilor Georgia Patterson
4. Councilor Tisha Packard
5. Councilor Chase McClung
6. Councilor Joe Phippen
7. Councilor Frank Primozić
8. Councilor Scott Officer

9.

10. Visitors

11. Frances Preston
12. Fran Bunch
13. Taci Philbrook
14. Anna Smith
15. Chris Camarena, Public Works Director
16. Bobbie Brown, City Recorder
17. Anna Bass, Solutions CPA

18.

19. Mayor Hamsher opened the regular council meeting at 6:00pm and roll call was taken. Mayor Hamsher
20. asked that those who are using the Go-to-Meeting and calling into the council meeting, if they would
21. save their questions, or comments until the end of the meeting. Mayor Hamsher will open a discussion
22. time then.

23.

24. Mayor Hamsher made a motion to amend the agenda to add sewer lagoon dumping discussion. **MSP:**
25. **to approve the amended agenda. Councilor Patterson/Councilor Officer. All members voted**
unanimously.

26.

27. Minutes:

28. The minutes of March 12, 2020 council meeting were considered.

29. **MSP: To approve the minutes of March 12, 2020 council meeting. Councilor Patterson/Councilor**
30. **Officer. All members voted unanimously.**

31.

32. The minutes of March 20, 2020 special meeting were considered.

33. **MSP: To approve the minutes of March 20, 2020 special meeting. Councilor Patterson/Councilor**
34. **Officer. All members voted unanimously.**

35.

36. Mayor Hamsher gave a brief update on the COVID-19 status and reopening the County into phase 1.

37. Mayor Hamsher said that the County has sent in the phase 1 plan and there was some Health Department
38. related questions returned from the State. He said that the County has answered those and submitted
39. them to the State. Mayor Hamsher said it is looking very positive to move into phase 1. Councilor
40. Patterson asked what would be open up in phase 1? Mayor Hamsher said that hair dressing salons, all
41. retail business, nail salons, and allowing the crowd gatherings in a larger number, but still requiring
42. social distancing. Phase 1 will last approximately 21 days. Mayor Hamsher said that it doesn't look good
43. for fairs or rodeos.

44.

45. Public Works Report:

46. Mayor Hamsher called on Public Works Director Chris Camarena for his report. Chris said that he will

47. address the sewer lagoons towards the end of the meeting.

48.

49. **Payables:**

50. To ratify the payment of bills. **MSP: To pay the bills. Councilor Patterson/Councilor Packard.**

51. **All members voted unanimously.**

52.

53. **Resolution:**

54. Resolution 2020-07: A resolution of the City of Prairie City declaring a state of emergency in response
55. to the COVID-19 pandemic; and authorizing the mayor to take actions necessary and appropriate to
56. protect the health, safety, and welfare of the city and city's citizens. The council will revisit this during
57. the June 10, 2020 council meeting. **MSP: To approve Resolution 2020-07: A resolution of the City of
58. Prairie City declaring a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
59. authorizing the mayor to take actions necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and
60. welfare of the city and city's citizens. Councilor Patterson/Councilor Officer. All members voted
61. unanimously.**

62.

63.

64. **Other Business:**

65. Mayor Hamsher called on Fran Bunch who is asking the council permission to allow her son to move to
66. her property, so he is able to care for her as a care taker. He would be moving an RV onto the lot she
67. owns next to her home that would have separate utilities than Fran's. The City wrote an agreement
68. following the City's planning ordinance for a temporary special use permit that is renewable each year
69. automatically as long as the provisions in the agreement between the City and Mrs. Bunch are followed.
70. **MSP: To approve Fran Bunch temporary special use permit. Councilor Officer/Councilor
71. Phippen. All members voted unanimously.**

72.

73. Mayor Hamsher moved on to discuss the 2020 firework show the City of Prairie City puts on for the
74. Grant County 4th of July celebration. Mayor Hamsher called on City Recorder Bobbie Brown to explain
75. the discussions with Western Display Fireworks who the City contracts with for the 4th of July fireworks
76. show. Bobbie said that talking with Western Display they will not allow the City to pay for this year and
77. hold that purchase for next year's celebration. She said that Western Display said to either pay for this
78. year and have the celebration or decide to cancel all together. **MSP: To cancel the 4th of July fireworks
79. show for July 4, 2020. Councilor Patterson/Councilor McClung. All members voted unanimously.**

80.

81. Mayor Hamsher moved to discuss the City Clerk positions and called on Anna Bass from Solutions
82. CPA. Anna said that she looked at the numbers and although we have had the City Clerk in the budget,
83. we don't this next budget year. Anna said that there was no way she could present a balanced budget
84. without taking that position out. Anna said at no fault to the City the cash is not there because of the
85. emergencies over the last few years. She said that in the reports she gives the council every month, water
86. and sewer are in the whole and the City needs to save where they can save. Anna said that one thing that
87. COVID has shown us is this office can be closed and it doesn't impact the community. Anna said that if
88. the council approves this position the City will be over budget and will be going against Oregon State
89. law to stay within budget.

90.

91. Mayor Hamsher moved on to talk about the sewer lagoons and asked Public Works Director, Chris
92. Camarena if he would like to explain to the council what issues will be coming up with the new DEQ
93. requirements. Chris said that he is in the middle of the permit renewal for the City's wastewater site with
94. DEQ and there are a few changes that will need to be addressed. The crop at the lagoon site is
95. supposed to be a beneficial use crop and engineers are working with DEQ and Grant Soils to have a
96. beneficial crop for that area. Chris said that another issue is the City allows outside businesses to use the
97. lagoons to dump sewage in our facility and we can allow it up until we sign the new permit with DEQ.
98. Chris said that most all other sewer facilities are not allowing these businesses to dump anymore
99. because of the liability and DEQ restrictions. Chris would like to know what the council would like to
100. do about the dumping at the lagoons right now and if the council would like to allow it in the new

101. permit. He said if the council would like to continue dumping at the lagoons that the City would have
102. to get with the engineers to draw a plan and submit it to DEQ to include it in the new permit. Councilor
103. Officer asked if the little benefit worth the risk and the cost to engineer the plans. Chris said that one
104. thing DEQ will require is the sewage they dump will need to be pretreatment, and that's why John Day
105. doesn't allow it now and other Cities. He said your paying to treat it twice, and our facility is not set up
106. for pretreated dumping. Chris also said that the only place that does pretreatment is Depot Park and if
107. they dumped there, the City would run the risk of plugging the system up and would incur extra
108. pumping costs. **MSP: To move ahead with the permit as is and then table this discussion at a later**
109. **date. Councilor Patterson/Councilor Officer. All members voted unanimously.**

110.

111. Mayor Hamsher announced the budget meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020 at 6pm here at City Hall
112. and via Go-to-Meeting.

113.

114. Councilor Patterson asked where the city attorney is at on the Faiman Project. Mayor Hamsher said
115. that at this time Jeremy has the agreement and will be contacting the Coomb's attorney to go over the
116. changes he has made to the agreement, and if they agree then be prepared to have a special meeting
117. after the 24-hour meeting law requirement.

118.

119. Mayor Hamsher said that there is a proposal for the Central Grant County Aquatic Center aka pool that
120. he would like the City to send out a questionnaire regarding the community of Prairie City's feelings
121. on the pool, so that he could share those thoughts and overall consensus of Prairie City residents with
122. the County and John Day. Mayor Hamsher said that he will have the questionnaire in the June
123. utility statements.

124.

125. Mayor Hamsher said at this time he would take questions from the public.

126. Frances Preston who was attending the council meeting over the phone said she had a few questions
127. relating to COVID and John Day. She stated about the 4th of July that she feels there isn't a social
128. distancing issue having the fireworks. France asked the Mayor about opening up against the Governors
129. orders. Mayor Hamsher said that if he was to allow Prairie City to open up, it would put the City at risk
130. of liability if those business didn't follow the State's restrictions and lost their licenses and/or fined
131. heavily and that the City could be held liable for the cost and decision. There was discussion about the
132. Blue Mountain Care Center. There was discussion on federal camp grounds. There was discussion
133. about the pool taxing district.

134.

135. Taci Philbrook wanted to update the council on the Fiber Fest and the decision to hold off any official
136. canceling of the festival until July 6, 2020. Taci asked Mayor Hamsher if he foresees any water
137. restrictions for this summer. Mayor Hamsher said that he doesn't really foresee any restrictions this
138. year and if we can get this agreement done between the City and Coombs then there wouldn't be any
139. restrictions because the Faiman Well's will be in use.

140.

141. **Mayor Hamsher adjourned the regular council meeting at 7:05 pm.**

142.

143.

144. Attested: 

145. Bobbie Brown, City Recorder

146.

147.

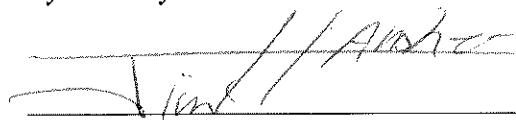
148. Approved by the City Council this 10th day of June, 2020

149. and signed by the Mayor:

150.

151.

152.



Jim Hamsher, Mayor