

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Ryan	Mayor
Nancy Connolly	Council President
Andrea Blum	Councilor
Richard Esterman	Councilor
Michael Preedin	Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Cory Miskey	City Manager
Paul Bertagna	PW Director
Joe O'Neill	Finance Director
Patrick Davenport	CDD Director
Kerry Prosser	City Recorder

All Council members joined the meeting by phone.

I CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 pm.

II ROLL CALL

City Recorder Prosser took roll call, and a quorum was established.

III APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Ryan removed Item A under Council Business from the agenda.

Council President Connolly made a motion to approve the agenda with the exception of Item A. Councilor Preedin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

IV VISITOR COMMUNICATION-None

V CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

1. March 11, 2020-Joint Meeting
2. April 08, 2020-Regular Meeting
3. April 08, 2020- Workshop

B. Bills to Approve

1. April 17, 2020- Accounts Payable

C. Appoint Dave Moyer, Marcus Peck, and Patrick Burke to the Urban Forestry Board for three-year terms.

D. Approve a Public Transportation Services Agreement between Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and the City of Sisters and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement.

- E. Approve Agreement 33559 between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Sisters for Public Transportation Services and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement.

Council President Connolly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Preedin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

Councilor Esterman suggested having more discussion time on the agenda so the public could see how the Council was working on returning to normal.

VI COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. Review Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Grant Application-Removed from the agenda.

VII OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Quarterly Financial Review

Director O'Neill explained this review was for the third quarter, which had ended on March 31st. These numbers did not reflect any substantial changes from the impact of the pandemic. He noted the fourth quarter would look very different.

Mayor Ryan asked if the underspending in capital was related to Well #4 and was that driving the timing on spending the funds. Director O'Neill replied the design work was taking more time than expected, and overall the project would be conducted later in the fiscal year.

Director Bertagna explained the fiscal year overlap in spending funds happened because we separated the project into two phases. The project had been broken into phases due to the location of the well and campground operations.

1. Design and construction of the well.
2. Constructing the building and piping to bring the well online.

Director Bertagna noted we would be going to bid for the construction in May with the work scheduled to begin in October. He said the staff was watching construction pricing closely as it was currently trending down. Staff saw an opportunity to do some value engineering on Phase 2 that may drop design and construction costs.

- B. Staff Comments

City Manager Misley explained there would be time allocated to discuss the COVID-19 situation and where the City was going over the next six weeks at the May 13th workshop. He noted the emergency declaration and administrative order discouraging tourism all lined up to expire on May 13th. City Manager Misley said the staff was monitoring what

the State was coming out with and whether to extend the emergency declaration. We were trying to be strategic in our plans. He noted the May 13th meeting would be a longer meeting to discuss where we were going.

VIII MAYOR/COUNCILOR BUSINESS

Council President Connolly asked if the sidewalk being installed on Buckaroo Trail was a private developer. Director Bertagna replied it was a private developer; the sidewalk would connect to the existing Whychus Creek trail.

Councilor Blum asked if the County Stabilization Center had opened. City Manager Misley did not think it had opened but would verify with the County. Councilor Blum asked if the traffic audit was moving forward. City Manager Misley replied it was in the proposed budget.

Councilor Preedin explained he was following the coronavirus numbers closely, and today was the first day with no new reported deaths in Oregon since March 29th. He noted the peak of new cases was on April 4th, and we were now 18 days past the peak. Councilor Preedin said Deschutes County had not been affected as severely as other areas of the State. He thought May 13th was a long way away, and there might be a point that we wanted to address concerns about not opening the City as quickly as possible; questions were coming from the public.

Councilor Esterman was watching the coronavirus situation daily and was in touch with the County Commissioners. He felt three weeks was a long time away, and each day was like a month to the businesses. Councilor Esterman said we had an obligation as Council to be discussing the issue. He thought we needed to work towards getting back to normal and discussing ways to open-up the City. Councilor Esterman noted the east side was only 10% of the State population, and the Governor needed to look at us differently. He stated the Governor said the "virus was in charge." He said the Federal government was moving forward, and the Department of Justice had already mentioned they were going after governors who were dragging their feet on reopening. Councilor Esterman said we owed it to our residents to be looking at this and planning and talking about moving forward.

Mayor Ryan explained City Manager Misley, Councilor Preedin, and he would be reaching out to as many businesses as they could next week to listen to their concerns and ask them a series of questions to understand their needs. He said we wanted to ask them questions about what the City could do to address their concerns and issues.

City Manager Misley stated this was a marathon, not a sprint, and May 13th seemed like a long time from now, but we were looking out to October to understand how we could

incorporate plans and strategies into the upcoming budget. City Manager Misley said we needed to be looking at creative strategies for June-October for the businesses; the City needed to be part of the solution. He noted there were a lot of things out of our control, but we did want to work proactively to create a viable downtown, so locals and visitors wanted to come out and spend time in Sisters. City Manager Misley recommended the City focus on a long-term strategy.

Mayor Ryan noted the State and City were doing the right thing with social distancing. He said the Federal government had come out with reopening recommendations, and the Governor would come out with her plan soon that we would have to review. He thought businesses were going to have to do things differently to reopen and he wanted to understand that and how the City could help. Mayor Ryan would be on the Governors town hall tomorrow and asked Councilors to email him questions. He had gone to the Governor with the question on when there will be guidance on major events and how they would be allowed to proceed.

Councilor Blum had reviewed both the Federal guidelines on how to open communities back up and the Governor's proposal on how they would be rolled out in Oregon. The State had created task forces in specific categories (restaurants, retail, etc.), and each one would develop guidelines on how they would implement an opening and at what point the science let us know if it was feasible to open each category of businesses. The process was being done methodically (slowly to many people), but until we saw a decline in the death rate and of new cases, we could not implement the plan. We did need to be prepared to move forward when we could reopen. If the virus re-bounds, we would have to go back to square one, and we needed to have a significant plan in place if reopening did not go smoothly.

Councilor Esterman said Portland and Salem were not Central Oregon, and he was concerned the Governor's guidelines were looking at the whole State vs. comparing us, like in the past, like everything else on the other side of the mountain. He said the information coming out of the Center for Disease Control was changing constantly; they said one thing and contradicted it another day. Councilor Esterman thought the media had run wild with this. He was not saying it was not a bad virus, his son was recovering from it, and he knew people who did not make it through, but if the media actually showed body bags from a flu season, no one would ever come outside ever again.

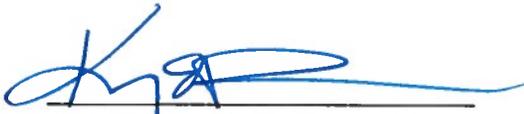
Council President Connolly thanked Councilor Blum for her comments and agreed with them. She said we owed it to our residents, who were primarily in the target high-risk category, to protect them. There was be a fine balance of the city functioning and businesses operating and protecting our citizens. This was unfolding every day, and

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
APRIL 22, 2020

scientists and medical researchers were putting policies and guidelines in place; she would hate for Sisters to jump ahead of the game and have issues later.

Councilor Preedin said the balance between getting businesses going and health and safety had to be equal. He said he was pro-business, and we had to keep the people who were not working in mind. He said the state legislature generally thought about the west side, not the east side, and hopefully we could regionalize some of the recovery.

IX ADJOURN: 7:05 pm.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Chuck Ryan, Mayor