

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Cory Misley City Manager
Paul Bertagna PW Director
Kerry Prosser City Recorder

ABSENT:

Joe O'Neill Finance Director

GUESTS:

Caprielle Foote-Lewis Sisters Country Economic Development

I CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:39 pm.

II ROLL CALL

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

III APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council President Connolly made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Preedin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

IV VISITOR COMMUNICATION-None

V CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

1. May 27, 2020 -Workshop
2. June 01, 2020-Budget
3. June 02, 2020-Budget
4. June 10, 2020-Regular
5. June 24, 2020- Regular
6. June 24, 2020- Workshop

B. Bills to Approve

1. July 17, 2020- Accounts Payable

- C. Approve a Letter of Support for a Deschutes County Application for a Transportation and Growth Management Grant to Identify future trails for the Deschutes County Transportation System Plan map.**

Councilor Preedin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Blum seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

VI COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2020-21: A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF SISTERS DESIGNATING THE GREATER REDMOND ENTERPRISE ZONE BE DESIGNATED FOR ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.

Ms. Lewis explained the e-commerce designation was a special status that was vital for Sisters. She said businesses were clearly using the e-commerce platform, and it was a valuable marketing tool for the City. Ms. Lewis noted both Deschutes County and Redmond had approved similar resolutions.

Councilor Preedin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-21. Council President Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution 2020-22: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SISTERS ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.

Mayor Ryan opened the public hearing.

City Manager Misley reviewed Republic Services had requested a 9% rate increase for both residential and commercial accounts. He noted this resolution updating the Master Fee schedule would memorialize the rate change.

Mayor Ryan asked for public comment.

Sue Stafford of Sisters asked if the City had investigated allowing garbage pick-up two times a month. City Manager Misley replied staff had not had any conversations with Republic on the topic. Susan Baker of Republic Services said they would be open to a discussion on the topic.

Mayor Ryan closed the public hearing.

Council President Connolly made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-22. Councilor Preedin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

C. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2023 Sisters Country Economic Development (SCED) Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lewis reviewed the SCED board has been working on updating the strategic plan since early 2020. She explained that some goals were updated to recognize the economic headwinds we were facing. The Board wanted to move the needle on economic diversity

and supporting the downtown. Ms. Lewis noted they also wanted the plan to be practical and achievable, keeping the program viable long into the future. Ms. Lewis highlighted Goal 4, which prioritized the retention of traded sector employers.

Council President Connolly asked when you considered a business as having relocated to Sisters. Ms. Lewis replied they did not make projects public until a company was producing products in the facility.

Council President Connolly asked with e-commerce expanding, did we have the bandwidth to accommodate businesses. Ms. Lewis replied as part of the visioning, there was a broadband improvement initiative. She had been working on this with city staff, and in 2019 they had evaluated the quality of service in Sisters. They found reliability was the primary concern for remote workers. Ms. Lewis was working with providers to implement more infrastructure to increase capacity and reliability.

Council President Connolly asked about section 4.3, who had the funds to help retain the traded sector businesses. Ms. Lewis replied when a company was at risk; we would have a discussion with both private and public partners both locally and regionally. She noted the County forgivable loan fund was initially formed to help retain companies during the last recession.

Councilor Preedin noted the SCED Board had worked hard on this update. He said objectives were added, including 1.1, which targeted the companies we wanted to attract.

Councilor Preedin made a motion to adopt the 2020-2023 SCED Strategic Plan. Councilor Blum seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

VII OTHER BUSINESS

A. Staff Comments

Director Bertagna said a chip seal project would be happening next week on West Hood Avenue, Washington Avenue, and South Locust. This was a daytime project that would take approximately a day and a half.

Councilor Esterman noted a motorhome was making a home in Creekside park, and a van with a pop-up was there as well. City Manager Mисley had talked to Lt. Bailey and mentioned the issue at that location as well as Village Green and East Portal. City Manager Mисley said the City policy was RV parking was only allowed in designated RV parking spots, and sleeping and using an RV as a dwelling in the right-of-way was not allowed.

Director Bertagna explained Republic Services had moved out of the wastewater treatment site; residents would see less truck traffic on the road.

Director Bertagna said staff had started the traffic safety audit and Transportation System Plan amendment project. They had collected intersection data and were now collecting vehicle trip data on twenty streets. We were able to get the number of trips, type of vehicles, and speeds down to the hour.

Mayor Ryan clarified we were doing the traffic safety audits and aggregating the data for the Sheriff. He asked what else we were doing. Director Bertagna responded we would give the data to our traffic engineer to make educated decisions on safety. Mayor Ryan asked City Manager Misley to get this information out to the public.

City Recorder Prosser explained staff had done RARE participant interviews last week, and we should hear back next week about our selection. City Manager Misley was really encouraged by the applicants. He noted 50% of their time would be spent on the Vision and 50% on the Comprehensive Plan.

City Recorder Prosser reviewed that due to COVID-19, there would not be an in-person State of the City. Staff was working towards a two-page spread in the Nugget to highlight Council Goals, Vision work, and other projects.

City Manager Misley noted our Community Development Director opening would be extended for a week or two to generate a few more applications. He explained we were not in a rush to fill this position, and there might be multiple interviews for this position. City Manager Misley said the Parks Coordinator position should be posted in early August with an expected start date for the position in October.

The Comprehensive Plan Consultant, Professional Services Agreement, would come before Council in early August. The project would not kick off in earnest until Fall.

City Manager Misley said the staff was researching how to engage the strategic planning process around the existing Transient Room Tax (TRT) dollars. He noted we wanted to do a deep dive on how to utilize the funds and were tentatively aiming for the fall for the process to begin. We were looking at bringing a third party in to facilitate the conversation. He would like to wrap up the process before the holiday season.

VIII MAYOR/COUNCILOR BUSINESS

Councilor Blum had attended the open house of the Deschutes County Stabilization Center. She said it was a fantastic facility and would benefit our community. She noted the facility just received 24-hour funding.

Council President Connolly thanked City Manager Misley and Public Works for getting the garbage trucks off Locust Street. She noticed the first day it was very quiet.

Council President Connolly and City Manager Misley did interviews for potential patrol officers today. She said the candidates were very qualified, and she was impressed with their work experience, personality, demeanor, and integrity. Council President Connolly thought no matter who was selected; they would be fabulous; they had the feel of what Sisters was about.

Mayor Ryan and City Manager Misley had lunch with Lt. Bailey, our interim lieutenant and Lt. Davis, who would most likely be our local lieutenant. Mayor Ryan said Lt. Davis was a great guy, he had three kids in our school system, and he was vested in the community. City Manager Misley said in the next few months, Lt. Davis would come to a workshop to introduce himself.

Mayor Ryan reviewed an email from Phil Chang, a candidate for County Commissioner who was having a field trip on Thursday, July 30th, to discuss wildfire.

Mayor Ryan noted on July 29th, the new trailhead for Peterson Ridge would be opened.

IX ADJOURN: 7:25 pm.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Chuck Ryan, Mayor