

CITY OF SUMPTER
COUNCIL MEETING
January 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

- a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- b. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE – Mayor Wise, Councilor Demaris, Councilor Briscoe, Councilor Brandt, and Councilor Smith
- c. VISITORS – Ryan Shanks, Toni Thompson, Coy Wilde, Mike Bogart

APPROVE MINUTES

- a. MSP: To accept the January 23, 2024, Council Meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. All Councilors approved.

REPORTS

No Reports

NEW BUSINESS

- a. City Council Workshop (1/18/24); Follow Up Discussions/Decisions – five subjects from the workshop were discussed and/or voted upon:
 - i. Mainline Utility Extensions – it is a question of who bears the responsibility for extending a mainline: the homeowner or the city. The ordinance language is unclear. In the workshop, the council felt that it is the city's responsibility and expense. At some future point, an ordinance change will be required. MSP: Councilor Smith/Councilor Briscoe motioned that all installations of mainlines will be the responsibility and at the expense of the city. All Councilors approved.
 1. Utility Mainline Installations – referencing NEW BUSINESS, Topic a., i., the city does not have the experience, manpower and equipment to install utility mainlines. Therefore, it was proposed that all mainline extensions be put out to a public sealed bidding process. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Briscoe motioned that going forward, all mainline installations will be put out for sealed bid. All Councilors approved.
 - ii. Short Term Rentals (STR) – the city attorney is drafting ordinance language to establish basic rules for STR in the city. A rough draft of the language was reviewed, and changes were proposed. After a workable document is completed, the council will hold a public hearing(s) and potentially additional council meeting(s).
 - iii. Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) – Sumpter TLT revenues are collected and administered by Baker County. Sumpter has never requested grants from the fund; It is this council's will to begin requesting grants for the many events held in town. 70% of the funds awarded, must be spent in support of tourism. Currently, most of the advertising done by the county is targeted at Boise; central Oregon and the Willamette valley are not targeted. A Sumpter representative will attend the next county TLT meeting to express interest.
 - iv. Employee Handbook Revisions – some updates were made to improve the verbiage in certain sections: vacation and sick leave.
 - v. Zoning, Properties with Zone Splits – a few properties in town exist in two zones. They need to be in one zone determined by the larger split taking precedence over the smaller portion. The city will work with the state and conduct public hearings when appropriate.
- b. Vintage Snowmobile Races, Coy Wilde – the Vintage Snowmobile Club will again host the races at the Grounds and the Simonson's property. The intended dates are February 24th & 25th (back-up dates March 2nd and 3rd). The Simonson's have approved use of their property and insurance coverage is in

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process. The club will pay the city \$350 in advance for plowing the Grounds parking lot. If costs exceed the limit, the Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) will make up the difference. Finally, the club proposed the antique races be approved in perpetuity vs. requesting approval each year at a council meeting. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Councilor Briscoe motioned to approve the snowmobile club to hold the races at the Grounds and to establish a base rate of \$350 for plowing the parking lot. All Councilors approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fire Department Overhead Doors – the council members are aligned with installing new R-18 insulated doors (option #2 of the provided spreadsheet) which includes powered door openers. Currently, there are no outlets in the ceiling for power; the council stated that the SVCV are willing to provide the funds for the openers and outlet installation by Arros Electric. MSP: Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Demaris motioned to move forward with option #2 following subsequent approval by the SVCV to pay for the openers and additional outlets. All Councilors approved.
 - i. NOTE: if SVCV does not pay for electrical, the city will move forward with option #4 (manual opening doors).
- b. City Hall Wall Partition – this renovation to city hall was discussed at the last meeting, however no decision was made. More details were discussed including ADA compliance. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Brandt motion to move forward with installing the wall in city hall. All Councilors approved.
- c. Baker Heating and Cooling Quote, 2 Mini Splits – the quote is for \$21K. For now, the priority is to get FD overhead doors replaced: perhaps new doors will improve heat retention.

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a. Mayor Wise – there was a significant water leak at the library/museum. There is potential for major water damage to components of drywall, carpets, etc. A company was hired to mitigate water damage. An insurance adjuster should be in Sumpter January 26th. Note that the building is still functional.
- b. Mayor Wise – pipes are frozen at the Schoolhouse. The public works operators are working to thaw pipes, depending on the outcome upcoming events could be affected.
- c. Mayor Wise – at the previous council meeting, a resident asked when the “Sewer Land & Improvement Fee” (\$10/month) will be removed from sewer/water bills. The fee pays for land purchased to contain and apply effluent to the land (to dispose of effluent). Sewer users will continue paying the fee until the mortgage is paid in full, which is many years in the future.
- d. Councilor Briscoe – at the previous council meeting, a contractor stated that the city has never paid for permits. Records show that when Timberline Builders built the Volunteer Park building, the city paid for permits. One permit cost \$1174 and it was not waived. The pavilion permit was also paid for by the city. In short, all properties/building in the city are subject to permits and their fees. The Baker City Building Department does have the authority to waive the fees, however only for extreme hardship. “Let the records show that the permit fees are not waived.”
- e. Mayor Wise – Thursday, January 25, 2024, is the next TLT meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

ADJOURNMENT – 4:45 PM

CITY OF SUMPTER
COUNCIL MEETING
January 23, 2024

MSP: Councilor Demaris /Councilor Briscoe motioned to ajourn. All Councilors approved.

Approved by the City Council this 27 day of FEBRUARY 2024.

Approved: 

Attested: 