

CITY OF SUMPTER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
October 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

- a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- b. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE – Mayor Wise, Councilor Demaris, Councilor Briscoe, Councilor Brandt. Councilor Smith was absence.
- c. VISITORS – Rebecca Patterson, Jon Patterson, Toni Thompson, Skip Duffin, Richard Summerfield, Cindy Remington, Kimberly Ballard, John Young, Kurt Clarke, Jennifer Lake.

APPROVE MINUTES

- a. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Councilor Demaris motioned to accept September 26, 2023 minutes with correction of adding a “T” after “TL” to NEW BUSINESS, item f., Discussion - TL Tax Document. All Councilors approved.

REPORTS

- a. Fire Chief Kurt Clarke
  - (1) Fire trucks were winterized and ready for dry storage in the city shop.
  - (2) Fire Department grants – for a new FD Building. There is also a grant available for a new truck, however the grant requires indoor storage only.
  - (3) Mutual aid checks were cut for assistance rendered at the summer wildfire on highway 7. The city has not received it yet.
  - (4) Mayor Wise - Evacuation plan – does the city have one? Per Chief Clarke: having one can be detrimental since fire events are very fluid, i.e., sending evacuees out according to a plan could put them in harm’s way.
  - (5) Public question – install a siren at the other end of town to alert residents of fire event. The siren is not for resident alert, it is there to call fire fighters to respond to a fire.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Gaslin Report – checks/expenses highlighted for this month: interceptor tank pumps, flea market portable toilets, backhoe repairs, city attorney and Gaslin Accounting. Cash statement: \$554K. Appropriations review: overall it is okay. We are getting a little tight for city services: S/W, road fund, sidewalk repair, etc. At his point of the year, budget is at 63% of allocation vs. 75% in typical years. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Briscoe motioned to pay the bills for the month. All Councilors approved.
- b. HECO, Task #4, USFS Update/Review – the forest service wants to continue their study up to the water intake. HECO can design the plan, but it could cost \$49K. We are trying to get funding through a grant/loan. Deferring the study could be more costly. The city has funds in the budget. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Briscoe motioned to proceed with the study since the USFS are there now. All Councilors approved.
- c. Keyless Lock, Community Center – the keyless lock units at city hall have been working well. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Brandt motioned to proceed with the purchase of keyless lock for the community center. All Councilors approved.
  - a) Councilor Demaris – is there a key for the rear door at the community center? Those in attendance were not aware of a key for that door.
- d. Zoning Permit – 890 Cracker Creek Rd, Summerfield – there was discussion about the location of the alley that runs through the property. MSP: Councilor Briscoe/Brandt motioned to approve the permit application and plot plan as presented. All Councilors approved.

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- e. Speed Limit Reduction, Highway 410 – it was proposed to request a speed limit reduction from ODOT: reduce it to 45 MPH entering/exiting Sumpter. The change should begin at the city's southern border and proceed 0.7 miles to where the speed limit drops to 25 MPH. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Demaris motioned to approve the ODOT application to request a speed limit reduction beginning at the city border. All Councilors approved.
- f. Water Rate Increase – 5% - The City Council discussed increasing water rates by 5%. This will help offset rising costs to operate the city. For example, the residential rate will increase \$2.25/month (from \$44.50/month to \$46.75/month). All other water rates will increase accordingly by 5%. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Briscoe motioned to raise the water rates by 5% across the board. All Councilors approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. OSFM Wildfire Grant, Quotes Review – tabled from September 26<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. A revised quote was reviewed. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Briscoe motioned to approve the lowest bid from OSE/Portland Traffic Safety for \$8972.60. All Councilors approved.

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a. Mayor Wise – quote from Baker County Pest control for services at the Grounds to reduce Sage Rats. More than likely the work will start in the Spring. John Young suggests treatments should be started at the Hub (it seems to be a hub for the pest activity).
- b. Councilor Briscoe – proposed installation of the ladder at the museum before it starts to snow. A contractor suggests securing the ladder by bolting all the way through the wall. Plans need to be drawn up for it to be permitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Kurt Clarke – can the FD use the reader board to advertise the spaghetti feed?
- b. Jon Patterson – thanked the Council for addressing the speed limit issue.
- c. Richard Summerfield – asked about digging with backhoe after October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year? Is this part of an ordinance?

ADJOURNMENT – 4:46 PM

MSP: To adjourn. Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Demaris. All Councilors approved.

Approved by the City Council this 24th day of October 2023.

Approved: 

Attested: 