

CITY OF SUMPTER
COUNCIL MEETING
March 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

- a) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- b) **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Mayor Wise, Councilor Demaris, Councilor Briscoe, and Councilor Smith
- c) **VISITORS** – Skip Duffin, John Young, Al Jones, Kurt Clarke and Bill Cullum

APPROVE MINUTES

- a) **MSP: To accept the February 28, 2023, Council Meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith. All Councilors approved.**

REPORTS

- a) **Fire Chief Kurt Clarke**
 - i) The Fire Chief met with the Department of Interior on March 6, 2023. Discussion was about this year's prescribed burns in our area and vehicle/apparatus owned by Sumpter VFD.
 - ii) Kurt had a fire defense meeting March 9, 2023, with Fire Chiefs from District 13 (eastern Oregon). He is concerned about not being an authorized city signatory and re-addressed the legitimacy issue of the Sumpter VFD at the council meeting. This impacts the ability to assist other fire departments in the event of fire. He was informed that he can sign for such contracts as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Gaslin Accounting Report – Cash Statement: February was a challenging month with \$20K revenues vs. the usual \$40K - \$50K/month. On the expenditure side, the last few months have seen additional expenses due to weather: higher fuel bills and expenses caused by frozen sewer/water pipes. Plus, a loan payment was due (\$43K). Historically, this time of year cashflow is down compared to Summer. Appropriations review – admin is looking ok. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Briscoe motioned to approve to pay bills as presented. All Councilors approved.**
 - i) **Budget Committee – the first meeting will be held May 2, 2023 @ 9:30am; follow up meeting in early June. It was suggested that the Fire Chief, the Public Works Operators, and a zoning committee member participate in the budgeting process.**
- b) **Zoning Permit Application, Cindy George – the councilors reviewed the permit application and plans. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith motioned to approve the Georges permit application. All Councilors approved.**
- c) **Remove Water Charges for Period without Service, starting from 2/1/23, Customer Van Christensen – status: Mr. Christensen's home has not been hooked back up to the city main as per his plumber's advice. However, the city's lines are not frozen, and the opportunity exists for him to hook up to the city's bypass line. February bill will be credited, only. Going forward, billing will continue as usual since the city was ready to re-supply water prior to March 1. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Mayor Wise motioned to approve applying a credit for February 2023, a onetime only, to Mr. Christensen's account. All Councilors approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

- a) **Office Security – three keyless entry units at various pricing were reviewed by council. All models included the use of a physical key. It was proposed to get one for the main door into city hall, the door into the office area and the door to the fire department garage. MSP: Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Smith motioned to**

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approve the purchase of three keyless entry units, one for each door at \$149 apiece. All Councilors approved.

- b) City Cell Phone –purchase a Verizon “Straight Talk” plan (\$25/month) for the city mobile phone to be used by the Recorder for work related calls and use with the keyless door locks. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Smith motioned to approve to purchase a Verizon “Straight Talk” plan for the city mobile phone. All Councilors approved.

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a) Mayor Wise – Breakfast for Locked & Loaded April 8. The city recorder is updating the website with this event and any other events that organizers wish to be on the city website.
- b) Councilor Smith – an underground excavating contractor would like to rent a 20'x50' area next to the city shop to stage ore from mining during the Summer. More information is needed to draft a contract.
- c) Councilor Demaris – Zoning meeting going well for Short Term Rentals agreements. Tentative launch date of July 2023.
- d) Councilor Smith – the state of Oregon is looking at their fleet to find a truck for the city Fire Chief.
- e) Councilor Briscoe – no room left for plowing out McCully Creek Road. The sand filters will need to be cleaned out by Summer. Cameras for the shop: Matt working on them and will donate a desktop computer (if needed) to operate them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Kurt Clarke – at Fire Defense meeting, Fire Marshals want to co-operate more with stakeholders in E. Oregon on fire defense. Kurt would like reader boards at both ends of town and would like more access to the current board. BFA grant – VFD put together a list of items to get. It's a matching grant, there is a firefighter who will put up the \$10K to get the grant going.
- b) Kurt Clarke – brought up the city road graders; council members stated they will be scrapped or salvaged to the highest bidder. A resolution is required by the city.
- c) Bill Cullum – wants to present/discuss various issues with his property. 1-There is an issue with sewer that required pumping twice; 2-high risk for fire; 3-per Bill, the alley ingress and egress by his neighbor is illegal.

ADJOURNMENT – 5:15 PM

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

Approved by the City Council this 28th day of March 2023.

Approved: 

Attested: 