

CITY OF SUMPTER  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 26, 2023

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 – Jennifer Lake, Toni Thompson, Rebecca Patterson, Jon Patterson, Skip Duffin, John Young

APPROVE MINUTES

- a. MSP: To accept the September 12, 2023, Council Meeting minutes as presented. MSP: Councilor Brandt/Councilor Smith motioned to approve 9/12/23 minutes as written.

REPORTS

- a. Fire Department - John Young
  - (1) Ground fires are not allowed.
  - (2) Shifting to seasonal operations: wildfires vs. structural fires.
  - (3) There have been a couple of ambulance calls.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. OSFM Grant – Street Signs and Workplan – The city submitted a workplan to OSFM for activities that will occur during the grant's first year. Part of the plan is the purchase of street signs for installation in 2023. Three bids were obtained from various vendors for posts, signs, and brackets. The quotes were reviewed/discussed. Due to inaccurate counts of posts vs. signs, the decision is tabled while the city recorder obtains a new quote from Traffic Safety Supplies
- b. Water Tank – Payment Applications HECO & M2 Construction - HECO controls what M2 gets paid. This payment is the first. HECO must manage/verify all conditions are met for the grant. This is task #6, it was signed and submitted.
- c. Resume Workshop/CDBG Requirement – As part of the grant, the state requires Sumpter to provide tradeshow/training for low to moderate income populations. Ducote has a person that has done them before and can do it for us. It must be posted locally and advertised in Baker City. A date for the training will be chosen and communicated when appropriate.
- d. Zoning Permit – 12 Mountain View Lane, Hansen – The permit supersedes a previously submitted permit. After some discussion about the rear setback not being clear on the diagram, it was determined that the project meets all setbacks. MSP: Councilor Smith/Brandt motioned to approve the zoning permit for Mr. Hansen. All Councilors approved.
- e. Patterson – Updated Permit for 650 NW Sumpter Valley Hwy, Survey – The survey has been completed for this previously approved permit for four homes. The result was that the lots were evened up. MSP: Councilor Briscoe/Councilor Demaris motioned to approve the updated survey for the previous permit. All Councilors approved.
- f. Discussion – TLT Tax Document – Sumpter will request from Baker County the city's share of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) dollars collected for lodging occurring in Sumpter. The new commissioners are suggesting that Baker County cities to request portions of their share of the collected TLT. There are discussions at the county about increasing the tax (to 9.2%). The funds can be expended for various uses including marketing and improving infrastructure related to tourism. Current balance of the TLT account is \$1.2MM. The mayor will schedule a workshop to develop a plan of use for

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the funds. Once completed, the plan will be submitted to the county to begin receiving the funds in 2024.

- g. Cemetery Stumps Removal – The stumps are piled up. The SVFD stated that the stumps are mixed with soil and would make them challenging to burn. Letters of appreciation were sent to both the backhoe owner and the operator. Terry Valentine, the operator, spent \$100 of his own money for fuel in the backhoe. He also spent \$397 of the \$400 for fuel (from the Stage Stop) that was approved by the City Council. The city recorder will explore the needs of cemetery expansion. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Councilor Briscoe motioned to approve reimbursement of \$100 to Mr. Valentine without a receipt. All Councilors approved.
- h. Discussion – Military Resource Assistance – A representative of the Oregon National Guard was in Sumpter last week to provide information on veteran’s support and assistance programs and reach out to military veterans. Her role is to make sure veterans are getting what they need, especially older veterans who may be reluctant to ask. She also brought items for giveaway. She suggested creating some activities to get veterans together, i.e., veterans’ parade, meetings, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

None

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a. Mayor Wise – The City received a \$2000 planning grant from DLCD.
- b. Councilor Demaris – Regarding an approved zoning permit at 272 Bonanza: a shed was placed too close to the line due to a zoned alley. It will probably be moved in the Spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Jon Patterson – “Can we contact the parks to repair the TPO on the Dredge?” They have a cover in storage but may not be in their budget to repair.
- b. Jon Patterson – Flea Market – “why do food vendors pay more for vendor licenses?” Councilors stated that it covers the cost of the garbage generated. Also, Jon stated that he heard from his vendors that “an older lady” at the Grounds was bad mouthing him. Another vendor stated that the older lady asked why the vendor would want to be on his lot, it is safer at the Grounds. He stated that he expends time pushing the Sumpter Flea Markets to vendors around the region and it does not look good for the city when a person representing the city bad mouths him or other landowner facilities.
- c. Jennifer Lake – “Are the street signs in the budget?” Councilors advised that the signs have nothing to do with the budget; they are being purchased with OSFM grant funds. She feels the signs should be designed to match the flavor of a historic city versus metal signs and posts. Councilors advised that the purpose of the signs is safety tied to fire response. “You don’t have a plan of action here and you are rubberstamping your community” according to Ms. Lake. Rebecca Patterson stated she supports street signs for safety; in the future we should have or consider having a city design group. Councilor Brandt commented that the sign coming into town could use some touching up. Perhaps it could be painted? Or add some shrubbery/Plants?
- d. Jon Patterson – “Would the city approach ODOT about reducing the speed limit on Hwy 410 leaving town?” It is currently 55 MPH; perhaps reduce it to 45 MPH. It allows users to get to Sumpter RV and Ironhorse legally.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:45PM

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

Approved by the City Council this 10th day of October 2023.

Approved: *Luca Wu*

Attested: *Matt M...*