

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT: Mayor, Mark Crenshaw; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Robert Stott, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambee, Dale Rowe, and Bill DiMarco; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Public Works Superintendent, Jeremy Tracer; Finance Director, Mike Crocker; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Crenshaw called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 12 and 26, 2019

MOTION: Councilor DiMarco made a motion to approve the March 12 and 26, 2019 Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stott and passed by unanimous vote of the Councilors present: Thomas, Stott, Ceniga, Rowe, and DiMarco.

4. Review of Previous Month's Expenditures

Mayor Crenshaw asked if there were any Council comments or questions on the previous month's expenditures. There were none.

5. Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Crenshaw read the proclamation to proclaim April as "Child Abuse Prevention month" in the City of Junction City. (Councilor Gambee arrived at the meeting at 6:34 p.m.)

6. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

Mr. Steven Barret, President of the University of Oregon (U of O) Police Association, said that he was representing the union, but was not representing the U of O Police Department or the U of O. He expressed concerns and opposition to the U of O finalizing a dispatch contract with the City of Junction City.

Ms. Jackie Pendergrass, 1246 Breckenridge Drive, Junction City, asked when a park would be put in the Reserve, as she had lived there for 10 years and nothing had happened.

Mayor Crenshaw invited Ms. Pendergrass to attend Community Services Committee meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month where parks would be discussed.

Ms. Geri Brooks, U of O police officer, stated that she was not representing the U of O Police Department or the U of O and expressed concerns with the U of O finalizing a dispatch contract with the City of Junction City.

Mr. Chris Wagner, 3430 Douglas Drive, Springfield, expressed concerns with the U of O finalizing a contract with the City of Junction City.

Mayor Crenshaw thanked everyone for their comments.

7. Public Comment on Rate Study

Mayor Crenshaw invited questions and comments from the public on the rate study.

Ms. Cathie Campbell, 554 Kalmia Street, Junction City, thanked staff for the informational flyer, but suggested that it be updated, as it read that the average monthly bill would increase by \$2.00 per month; however, she did some calculations and her monthly water and sewer bill would increase by around \$4.50 per month, with \$2.00 for water and \$2.50 for sewer; Sanitation increases would be in addition to that. She added that she took some numbers from the last meeting and calculated that 10% of customers would be in arrears. She asked what the plan was for those people, especially when looking at increases.

Administrator Knope responded that improvements could be made to the informational flyer. His understanding from the last meeting was that the Council wanted the Public Works Committee to start looking at ratepayer assistance programs to help customers.

Mayor Crenshaw stated that the City was proactive in collecting on accounts that were in arrears, and the City would be forward thinking on looking at impacts to people who could not afford to pay their bills.

Councilor Rowe invited Ms. Campbell to attend a Public Works Committee meeting on the 1st Monday at 6:30 p.m. to provide testimony and help develop an assistance program.

Councilor Thomas asked if she could pose some questions that were missed during the prior agenda item. She asked if Ms. Pendergrass knew about the historical issues at the Reserve Park site, and Ms. Pendergrass responded that she did. Councilor Thomas asked if the U of O police officer concerns would be going to the Public Safety Committee. Administrator Knope responded that they would go to Public Safety Committee and then to Council; he suggested that the U of O Police Chief be invited to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings.

Mayor Crenshaw invited additional comments on the rate study.

Mr. Keith Perkins, 1012 Green Meadows, Junction City, said that he was told that the City threw recycling in with garbage, even though the City had added a recycling charge of \$1.07 per month. Mayor Crenshaw responded that was a rumor, as the City did not throw recycling in with garbage and followed recycling state mandates.

Mr. Jack Sumner, 1061 Quince Drive, Junction City, asked what the rate study included and noted that it referenced adding 7 new people. Administrator Knope responded that there was a typographical error on page 10 and there would be 5 for the utility crew and 1 for the Sewer Treatment Plant. He added that the rate study also included funding future projects and covering operational costs.

Mr. Sumner stated that rates were going to be raised and the City would be talking about having a program to help people who could not pay, but the extra per month would be hard on many people. He continued that he thought it was imperative that the Council stop spending money that they did not have. He hoped the Budget Committee would be able to tie down what was needed and not just what was wanted. He added that the Police Department was down to 9 officers, yet their budget was increasing. He noted that the water and sewer budget was increasing as well and \$5.00 per month for 6,000 people over a 12 month period was a considerable amount of money. He asked what the process was for spending that money for the good of the City.

Councilor Stott clarified that the rate impact would not be to 6,000 but to the number of accounts. Administrator Knope confirmed that was correct and stated there were roughly 2100 accounts.

8. Public Hearing – Supplemental Budgets

A. Public Hearing

Mayor Crenshaw opened the public hearing for Supplemental Budgets.

Staff Reports

Director Crocker noted that updated resolutions had been distributed that included recommended language from the City Attorney. Only Resolution No. 2 required a public hearing, but he had included Resolution No. 1 for efficiency. Resolution No. 1 was to address the Building Department experiencing higher than anticipated activity, mainly due to development at the Grain Millers site and at the “Y” property. The additional revenue was expected to cover the related costs incurred in Materials and Services, so there would not be a change in the budgeted Ending Fund Balance. Resolution No. 2 was to address higher than anticipated costs in the Internal Services Department, due to additional vehicle maintenance for Public Works and the Police Department. The additional revenue being recognized would offset the additional costs, so no effect to the Ending Fund Balance. Resolution No. 2 required a public hearing, because it changed expenditures by more than 10%.

Public Testimony. None.

Council Questions/Comments. None.

Mayor Crenshaw closed the public hearing.

B. Resolution No. 1 – A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019 and Making Appropriations within the General Fund.

MOTION: Councilor Stott made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rowe and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

C. Resolution No. 2 – A Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019 and Making Appropriations within the Internal Services Fund.

MOTION: Councilor Stott made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rowe and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

9. Police Surplus Vehicles

Administrator Knope presented the resolution to declare six police vehicles as surplus. The Council had previously passed Resolution No. 1201 to surplus some police vehicles to Lane County Parole and Probation, but Lane County Parole and Probation had found other means to supply their vehicle needs; therefore, Resolution No. 1201 was being repealed.

Councilor Thomas noted this only addressed 6 out of the 24 police vehicles. Administrator Knope responded that more disposals could be occurring in the future and he reviewed the process for disposing of surplus property; items under \$10,000 did not technically need to go before Council, and vehicles were often sold in various auctions or donated to other agencies.

A. Resolution No. 3 – A Resolution Declaring City Items as Surplus Property and Indicating Intent and Method of Disposal of Such Property and Repealing Resolution No. 1201.

MOTION: Councilor Stott made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rowe and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

10. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster.

11. Staff Reports

Superintendent Tracer reported: Public Works had been busy addressing issues and localized flooding on the east side of town, due to recent heavy rainfall. The pool resurfacing project was in progress. Public Works was finishing up winter maintenance and getting ready for summer projects.

Director Crocker reported: The City received the Government Finance Officers Association financial report award for the 6th year in a row.

Attorney Connelly stated that in response to Councilor Thomas noting that discussion was not held after public comment, Councilors could always ask questions or provide comments under Councilor Comments and Questions or Other Business.

Mayor Crenshaw shared that as Mayor, he wanted to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to come and talk about whatever they needed to talk about and that included Councilors. He noted that citizens may not always get a response or the response that they wanted, but they would always be given the opportunity to talk.

Attorney Connelly added that was a good follow-up point that many times responses would not be given or given right away, in order to give staff an opportunity to brief the issue and possibly bring back information to committee or Council. She added that other times individuals could be referred to staff and staff would follow up with them afterwards.

12. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Rowe invited the public to attend the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Gambia expressed appreciation to Councilor Rowe for creating the Utility Rate Increase spreadsheet. He continued that instead of raising rates even higher to provide assistance to some customers, he would rather see rates kept lower and for people to donate to the charitable organizations in the community who could provide assistance. He added that

the statement that 10% of customers were in danger of being shut off was not correct and that number was more like 1%, with 22 to 50 potential shut offs per month out of 2100.

Councilor Gambie continued that in response to what Mr. Sumner had said, some of the rates were going towards funding staff; however, the City had saved money many times by doing projects in house with hired staff instead of contracting services. He expressed appreciation for the comments on the police dispatch contract and hoped that the U of O officers were also sharing their concerns with their employer. He asked about the status of the parkland at the Reserve.

Administrator Knope responded that there were two primary issues. One was on the regulations around building a park there, as it had been determined to be an historic archeological site. The other was that a multi-million dollar regional park was listed for that area in the Parks Master Plan, which the City did not have funding for. The Community Services Committee would be looking at issuing a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to address the issues around building a park in the archeological site, and the Committee could also look at revisiting the Parks Master Plan to see if any revisions should be made to the park's projects.

Councilor Thomas thanked everyone for showing up and voicing their concerns. She added that they took things seriously and had good intentions of trying to do what was best for the good of the City.

Councilor Ceniga encouraged Ms. Pendergrass to attend a Community Services Committee meeting, where they would be discussing parks.

Mayor Crenshaw also encouraged Ms. Pendergrass and the public to attend a Community Services Committee meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month. He noted that even if it was not on the agenda, citizens could express their concerns with the Committee.

Councilor Ceniga thanked the U of O officers for coming and sharing their concerns. She encouraged them to attend a Public Safety Committee meeting and for the Chief of U of O PD to be invited to attend as well, so they could hear from all parties.

13. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Crenshaw thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He noted that the Council was there to make decisions in the best interest of the community and it was important to hear from citizens. He continued that Mr. Perkins had brought up the topic of rumors and that was another reason for citizens to attend meetings. He noted that rumors often snowballed and became fact to some people who did not take the extra time to check those things out, which resulted in unfortunate consequences.

Mayor Crenshaw encouraged the Councilors to preview their packets and call staff ahead of the meeting to get any questions answered. He asked Administrator Knope to get back to Councilor Thomas on if any of the other police vehicles would be surplus.

14. Other Business

Ms. Jo Ann Perkins, 1012 Green Meadows, Junction City, asked what happened when a Junction City resident called 911. Administrator Knope responded that the call went to Central Lane in Eugene and then was routed to Junction City. Ms. Perkins noted that she and her husband had called 911 and were on the line for 10 minutes before Junction City Police Department (JCPD) had been contacted. Since then, they just called JCPD directly.

Ms. Jessica La Farga, 92460 River Road, Junction City, asked questions about individual invoices on the Accounts Payable report.

15. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Mark Crenshaw, Mayor