

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Kenneth Wells; Council President, Karen Leach; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, and Ken Hancock; Excused Absence: Councilor John Gambee; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Police Chief, Mark Waddell; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; Finance Director, Mike Crocker; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wells opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Remove Item 9 – Tri-County Chamber Report.

3. State of the City Address

Mayor Wells presented the state of the City address:

“As your Mayor, it is my honor to deliver Junction City’s State of the City Address. During 2023, we worked to improve communications amongst ourselves, our citizens, and local organizations, including county, state, and federal levels. Like many of our local businesses, staffing is an ongoing concern, maintaining and hiring qualified candidates for various positions. With staff and Council working together, a few of the many accomplishments this past year include:

1. Adding Citizen members to all Council Committees, including Public Safety, Public Works, Finance and Judiciary, and Community Services and Development.
2. In May, working with legal, we updated our Homeless Code Audit and Ordinance.
3. Updated the Public Records Policy.
4. We had a set agenda item every quarter for the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, Junction City School District, and the Junction City Fire and Rescue.
5. In October, the City met with the Governor’s Regional Solutions Team, including representatives from Senator Merkley’s and Senator Wyden’s offices, Dan Walen from Representative Val Hoyle’s office, and key individuals representing the state of Oregon. Several key items were discussed, including water, wastewater, and parks to mention a few. These discussions will continue again this year.
6. During Governor Kotek’s statewide tour, I along with mayors from Veneta and Dunes City, County Commissioner Ryan Ceniga, South Valley/Coast Regional Solutions Coordinator Courtney Flathers, and the Governor and members of her staff met for two plus hours to discuss the needs of each of our jurisdictions with the Governor’s team and getting feedback on what help we could get from the state.
7. I served as the City’s representative on the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) and Councilor Washburne serves as the City’s representative on Lane Area Commission on Transportation.

Over the past year, there were many departmental achievements, including the following:

1. City Administration

- a. Throughout the year, working with Council, City staff have developed plans for completion of the following projects: The new City Hall, remodel of the Police Department’s building, and upgrades to the Community Center. Hopefully these three projects will be completed this year.
- b. The Rural Development grant application moved to the state and regional levels.
- c. Administrator Knope, working in conjunction with the Public Works Department, conducted three Work Sessions. On August 22, 2023 and September 26, 2023, we discussed Water System Improvements, and on October 10, 2023, we discussed the Sanitation Operational Analysis. Each of these Work Sessions generated the opportunity for open discussion on a wide variety of topics, and public comments and input were really appreciated.
- d. After a thorough interview process, background checks, etc., Mark Waddell was administered the oath of office on August 8, 2023 as our new Chief of Police.

2. Public Works

- a. Completed the construction of the park at the Reserve.
- b. Completed the Sewer Treatment Plant re-design and submitted it to the DEQ for review, which was approved late last year.
- c. The department worked closely with contractors hired by the state of Oregon that were updating the ADA ramps. Unfortunately, this project took much longer than any of us anticipated.
- d. Various street projects were completed during the year.
- e. As stated earlier, Public Works worked closely with Administrator Knope on the various water related issues.

3. Finance and Judiciary
 - a. Completed the implementation of the Tyler Software Program for the City. These upgrades improved the efficiency for staff, employees, and you as citizens.
 - b. The Revolving Loan Fund Committee is active again.
 - c. Director Crocker worked with staff and Budget Committee developing the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, which was approved by the Council at the June 12, 2023 meeting.
 - d. Director Crocker presented the resolution to create the position of Accounting Technician and updated the job description for the Accountant position, which would be restructured and called Senior Accountant. Funding has been included in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget.
4. Community Services and Development
 - a. Purchased and installed our new digital reader board on Highway 99 by Dutch Brothers. This was one of the major projects Councilor Ceniga had been working on for years.
 - b. Worked with Administrator Knope on upgrade plans for the Community Center.
 - c. Began discussions on possible expansion projects for the pool.
 - d. Continue to deliberate on the entrance signs for Junction City. The Scandinavian Festival Association has presented a design option for our consideration.
5. Public Safety
 - a. Chief Waddell has made assessments on how the processes and programs in the Police Department are working.
 - b. Chief Waddell is working with the City Attorney concerning Junction City's code on prohibited parking and standing.
 - c. Lifesaving Awards were presented to Dispatcher Sheila Deskins and Officer Levi Green on November 17th by the Oregon Peace Officers Association.
 - d. The School Resource Officer position was approved by Council, and Chief Waddell assigned Officer Janet Deckard to that position.
 - e. Chief Waddell and staff are working to fill officer and dispatch openings which they hope to fill with the most qualified applicants who support the goals and objectives of the Junction City Police Department.

Thank you for this opportunity to review the opportunities and challenges from 2023, knowing that City staff and City Council strive to deliver the services you our citizens expect.”

4. **Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2024**

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve the January 9, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

5. **Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda**

- A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.
- B. New Comments from Public. None.

6. **Joint Meeting of the City Council and Local Contract Review Board**

- A. Call to Order of Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Contract Review Board.

Mayor Wells called the joint meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

- B. Joint Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance Amending Public Contracting Rules for the City of Junction City

1. Mayor Wells opened the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Staff Report

Attorney Connelly presented the updated Public Contracting Rules. The City Council and Local Contract Review Board (City Council) last updated these rules in 2013, and since that time the legislature had made several changes to the Public Contracting Code. The most important recent change, effective January 1, 2024, was to increase the thresholds for Small and Intermediate Procurements for goods and services. The threshold for Small Procurement Direct Award had increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. There was a similar threshold increase in the E-17 personal service contracts threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The direct award threshold for Public Improvement contracts also increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The Intermediate Procurement threshold for goods and services increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000. This was less than a formal procurement process and staff could collect three interested contractor proposals. The Intermediate Public Improvement contracts/construction threshold remained at \$100,000. These new rules provided more flexibility for staff in choosing vendors to do work and provide goods and services for the City of Junction City and provided guidance on the process for procuring public contracts.

Attorney Connelly continued that if the City did not have these rules in place, it would be governed by the Attorney General's (AG) Model Rules; however, the City opted out of those and one of the conditions of opting out of the AG Model Rules was that every time the legislature acted, somebody on the City's behalf (Attorney Connelly) would review the rules and recommend any updates. The required notices for this hearing had been published.

Councilor Leach asked for clarification on the \$250,000 amount. Attorney Connelly responded that for Intermediate Procurements, staff could get three quotes for any goods and services that were between the range of \$25,000 and \$250,000.

Mayor Wells noted that the Agenda Item Summary referred to the Intermediate Procurement threshold as \$150,000 to \$250,000. Attorney Connelly responded that the Intermediate Procurement threshold increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000. The direct award threshold increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Public Testimony. None.

Questions from Council

Councilor Thomas asked if this would give staff more authority for purchases without approval by the Council. Administrator Knope responded that there were two different layers: This was for the Public Contracting Rules that the state rules said the City could do, and then there was the layer that the Council enacted on what the dollar thresholds would be for staff's spending authority. Department Heads could spend up to \$5,000 and the City Administrator could spend up to \$15,000 without having to seek additional approval.

Attorney Connelly added that these were the City procurement rules and the steps that the City would go through in order to be able to enter into a contract with a contractor, for example. She added that then there was spending authority, which Administrator Knope just addressed and was totally separate and would not be changing.

Mayor Wells closed the public hearing at 6:48 p.m.

2. Ordinance No. 1- Joint Ordinance of the City Council and the Local Public Contract Review Board for the City of Junction City Amending JCMC 2.55 to Conform to 2023 Oregon Public Contracting Code Legislative Amendments.

Attorney Connelly read Ordinance No. 1 in full.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to read Ordinance No. 1 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

Attorney Connelly read Ordinance No. 1 by title only.

MOTION: Councilor Hancock made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1 on behalf of the City Council and the City's Local Contract Review Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

- C. Adjournment of Joint Meeting of the City Council and Local Contract Review Board.

Mayor Wells adjourned the joint meeting of the City Council and Local Contract Review Board at 6:54 p.m. Regular session of the Council resumed.

7. **Public Hearing: A-16-02 and RZ-16-03 Raintree Annexation and Rezone**

A. Public Hearing

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing at 6:55 p.m. He asked if there were any Council conflicts of interest, ex-parte contacts, or biases. There were none. Mayor Wells read the required statements.

Staff Report

Planner Trifilio stated that she was representing the City of Junction City, as the City was the applicant for this City owned annexation. This was to annex and rezone a 9.93 acre parcel that was west of SW Quince Street and Raintree Subdivision. The property was mostly open space with a gravel trail around a forested section. The property was currently zoned Exclusive Farm Use (Lane County) and was designated by the Junction City Comprehensive Plan as Public. The proposal tonight was to annex the property into the

City and rezone to Junction City zoning of Public Lands. The intent of the annexation would be to drill another well to serve the public.

The Planning Commission reviewed on November 16, 2016, and on January 18, 2017 the Planning Commission initiated the annexation and recommended approval in a public hearing. A public hearing was then held before the Council on March 14, 2017, where there was more public discussion because at that time a park was proposed and there were concerns about the impacts of the park proposal. The Council then suggested that this go to the Community Services Committee and be brought back to Council. Review by the Committee was tabled, and the annexation was now back before Council; however, there was no park proposal at this time but the intent of this annexation and rezone was to drill another well for an additional public water source. All noticing requirements had been met.

Planner Trifilio continued that the intent of declaring an emergency was for the immediate passage of this ordinance to honor the finding for the need of an increased water supply. The annexation was contiguous to City limits and was consistent with applicable Oregon Statewide Planning Goals, Junction City Comprehensive Plan, and Junction City Municipal Code. She reviewed some of the applicable Comprehensive Plan findings: Citizen Involvement – Noticing process requirements were met and no public comments were received; Environmental Element – Small wetland area on northeast corner of property; Land Use Element – Rezone to public lands which was consistent with the underlying plan designation of Public; Economic Development – Property was identified as public use in the Comp Plan, so no impacts to industrial/commercial or housing inventory; Transportation Element – Not proposing development or parks at this time. There was a pedestrian access off of SW Quince Street and an easement that allowed limited utility access to the site via Bailey Lane to the south; Public Facilities Element – By annexing this property, it would increase the ability for Junction City to provide top quality service and the goal of the plan was to provide public facilities in an efficient and timely manner at a level in excess of projected demands. The annexation was to help with the water issue at this time; Parks, Recreational, and Cultural Preservation Element – This property was designated as a future park in the Comp Plan. Zoning it public lands and keeping it as a property to serve the public would be in the best interest of the community and would not take away from any potential park sites that could be used; and Housing Element – It had been designated as public, so it did not address any housing criteria or change to available housing stock. Planner Trifilio noted that many of the Oregon Statewide Planning Goals were similar.

Councilor Ceniga stated that this annexation was to develop a City well for an additional water source and asked if this property could also be used for a second water treatment plant. Administrator Knope responded yes and that would also fall under the public designation.

Public Testimony. None.

Additional Comments/Questions from Staff or Council. None.

Mayor Wells closed the public hearing and record at 7:11 p.m.

B. Ordinance No. 2 – An Ordinance Approving the Annexation and Rezone of Tax Lot 507 of Lane County Assessor's Map 16-04-06-00.

Attorney Connelly read Ordinance No. 2 in full.

MOTION: Councilor Hancock made a motion to read Ordinance No. 2 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

Attorney Connelly read Ordinance No. 2 by title only.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

8. Audit Presentation

Gatlin Hawkins, Isler CPA, presented the audit report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. In their opinion, the financial statements of the City were fairly presented in all materials aspects in accordance with the modified basis of accounting. In addition to auditing the financial statements, they also performed various procedures required by Oregon State Law, which

included the use of gas tax funds, the process for adopting, amending and following budgets, the city procurement and state procurement policies, and how City funds were invested or stored at financial institutions. In that testing, they did not observe any non-compliance with any of the rules that they were required to test. They did not encounter any errors from the transition to a new software system (Tyler). Tyler was a great improvement over the previous software, being more modern and integrating more functionality.

Mr. Hawkins continued that he had two items to share with Council. One was a Utility rate increase was scheduled to take effect on July 20, 2022 and that was not implemented in the utility billing process until late in August, resulting in the City underbilling utilities by approximately \$18,000 for the month of July 2022. The second item was a quarterly payroll tax payment was not made in late Fiscal Year 2023 as required and resulted in assessed penalties of \$10,000 (\$7,500 from the IRS and \$2,500 from the state of Oregon). The \$2,500 penalty had been abated, and the \$7,500 penalty had not been paid to date, pending a request to the IRS to abate that penalty as well. They considered this to be a significant deficiency in internal controls but was not something that was pervasive throughout the City or something that would cause a material misstatement within the financial statements. This had not occurred previously, and they understood that there was a lot going on for the City at that time, including significant turn over in staffing as well as implementing an entirely new accounting system, which required a lot of people to shuffle duties and shift attention and focus. Whenever a significant deficiency was noted in the audit, the Oregon State Rules and Regulations required that a corrective action plan be prepared and adopted by Council by resolution and then submitted to the Secretary of State's office with the City's financial statements. That resolution would be coming to Council at a future meeting, and he would be preparing a formal communication of the items that they noted to accompany that corrective action and resolution.

9. **Bailey Park Well Construction**

Director Kaping presented bids to construct a new well at Bailey Park. The City had been working with the City Engineer on two new wells; one at Alderdale and one at Raintree. Alderdale has been delayed, with ongoing cultural studies work; consequently, Alderdale has been moved to number 3, and a new well at Bailey Park was moved to number 2. The Public Works Committee reviewed on February 5, 2024 and recommended awarding to Jones Drilling. Funds had been set aside in the Water Capital Fund for this work.

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to authorize the contract to Jones Drilling for the construction of the Bailey Park Well in the amount not to exceed \$586,920 and authorize the Public Works Director to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

10. **Sanitation Requests for Proposal**

Director Kaping reviewed that at the October 23, 2023 meeting, the Council had asked staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for sanitation services. At the December Council meeting, staff brought the RFP, and the Council directed staff to put that out to bid. Three bids had been received and were before Council.

Councilor Thomas noted that the Council had asked for these bids, as the Sanitation Fund was having trouble and they needed to look at all information. In reviewing the bids, it did not look like anyone could beat Junction City.

Councilor Hancock stated that they all agreed that nobody could beat the quality of product that the City produced. As Councilor Thomas had said, the Sanitation Fund was upside down and the Council needed to look at all the information before they raised rates. He noted that he did not see a better rate than the City's and asked for staff input.

Director Kaping responded that they were all within a dollar and no one was a lot cheaper than the City's rate. Administrator Knope added that one bid did not include recycling education and outreach and the City would still have to fund that somehow.

Councilor Leach thought the bids were self-explanatory and like Director Kaping had said, there was not a lot of difference. She asked what Director Kaping thought .

Director Kaping responded that he thought they should stick in-house for the next five years. They would make some adjustments to improve the revenue of the department and if they

could not do that within the next five years, they could re-address at that time and go out for another RFP.

Administrator Knope expressed his agreement and noted that something to take into consideration was the lowest bidder was still taking their solid waste to Lane County. Lane County would be building a new Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF), and the cost burden and future financial impacts of increased tipping fees were not yet known. By waiting five years, that would give some time to see what the actual impacts of that facility would be.

Councilor Hancock shared that he thought they would always be happier with their own service and noted that there were a lot of activities that sanitation helped out with. Their main concern was the financial impacts and to see if there was a much cheaper deal out there, and they were able to find out that there was not.

Director Kaping noted that the bids received were being compared to the City raising their current rates by 18%. Administrator Knope added that it was within a dollar a month with the lowest bidder at \$20, Junction City at \$21, one at \$22 and the other at \$25.

Councilor Hancock stated he was comfortable knowing that they could say to the public that they did their due diligence and there was not a better deal out there; consequently, the City was better off running its own program and having control over that. When they were made aware that there was a problem with the sanitation budget and the question was posed on comparable services, they could now be 100% sure that this was the best decision for the citizens to keep this service in-house.

Councilor Washburne stated that he would like to see this come back in five years and look at it again. He thought the employees did a great job for the City and they had a great crew.

Councilor Thomas noted that Director Kaping was always good at squeezing as much as he could from a dollar, so they would work together and find a way for the Sanitation Fund to be healthy.

Councilor Leach expressed appreciation to staff for obtaining bids as the Council had directed. They received the answers, and it was nice to be able to keep sanitation in-house so that any problems would be taken care of right away.

Councilor Ceniga shared an example of a recent issue she had with her sanitation service and how the issue had been immediately resolved. She was 100% in support of the Sanitation crew and for keeping sanitation in-house because she felt the excellent service that they provided to the community would not be found anywhere else. She added that she would continue to fight to keep Sanitation in-house beyond the five years, because of the service.

Mayor Wells noted that there was a consensus of the Council to keep sanitation in-house. The Council had directed staff to issue the RFP, not because they were looking to get rid of the department, but to gather facts so they could make an informed decision. They received the information that was needed and could see that the City was competitive and doing a great job. He thanked staff for their work on this and noted they had direction for where they would be going over the next few years. He thanked the sanitation crew for the job they did every day and to all City employees for their good work.

11. Judge Pro Tem Appointments

Director Crocker presented the two Judge Pro Tem nominations from Judge Wiese. Mayor Wells appointed Lindsay Wostmann and Cathy Ouelette as Judge's Pro Tem.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointments for Municipal Judge Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Councilors Washburne, Ceniga, Leach, and Hancock voting in favor and Councilor Thomas voting against.

12. Councilor Rules Update

Administrator Knope stated that this item was back before Council, to address the concern of Council members having to fill out an Agenda Item Request form to get an item on the agenda per the Agenda Process Guidelines. He presented two options for Council consideration: One was to amend the Council Rules via Ordinance to eliminate the Agenda Process Guidelines.

The second option was to amend the Agenda Process Guidelines in Section 4.3.2 External Requests to remove the requirement that individual Council members would need to complete an Agenda Item Request form to get an item on a Council or Committee agenda. Administrator Knope recommended amending the Agenda Process Guidelines, so that the remainder of the guidelines, agenda setting process, agenda forecasters, etc., could still be used by staff.

MOTION: Councilor Hancock made a motion to adopt the Agenda Process Guidelines, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

13. Lateral Sergeant Position

Chief Waddell presented the resolution to update the Police Sergeant job description and add two sergeant positions to the department. One of the current officers was functioning as sergeant, and this would add one position to the department of lateral sergeant, for a total of 11 officers.

A. Resolution No. 1 – A Resolution to Update the Position of Police Sergeant, Pursuant to Personnel Policy Section 4(K) and Assigning a Range within the City's Compensation Schedule.

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1 and the two (2) Sergeant positions at the Junction City Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

14. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster. Councilor Hancock noted that he would like to discuss Municipal Judge and Other Council Appointees contracts. The Council consensus was to discuss that at the February 27th meeting.

Mayor Wells noted that it was time to do the City Administrator annual performance evaluation. Attorney Connelly noted that she would pass that along to Attorney Wolf.

15. Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee met on February 6, 2024. Councilor Ceniga reported:

- Discussed hiring status, building remodel, lateral sergeant position, and accreditation.

Public Works Committee met on February 5, 2024. Councilor Washburne reported:

- Discussed some items on tonight's agenda, paving alleys, still waiting on grant for well, and Citizen Committee member Jib Daeges would not be reapplying.

Finance and Judiciary Committee met on February 1, 2024. Councilor Leach reported:

- Discussed Judge's Contract and needing to go out for RFP, court operations and how to address small court turnout by possibly adjusting amount of court days per month, and needing to review/update other contracts that had expired.

Community Services and Development Committee met on February 7, 2024. Councilor Leach reported:

- Discussed Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, Updating System Development Charges; they have not been updated since 2010, Community Center remodel update, and received citizen member application from Kristin Hutchinson.

Mayor Wells expressed appreciation for all the hard work that was done in Committees. He noted that there were citizen member vacancies on the Planning Commission, Budget Committee, and Citizen Members Positions on Council Committees.

LCOG Board of Directors met the end of January. Mayor Wells reported:

- Made appointments to Senior and Disabled Services Committee and discussed adding a bus route to Cottage Grove, as part of the LCOG/Lane Transit District transportation system.

16. Staff Reports

Chief Waddell reported: Seven open positions and interviews and backgrounds in various stages; building remodel continued and met with architect to draw up a master plan for the entire space; training for officers occurring via partnerships with other agencies; social media

policy would be coming to Council; and Lane County was putting together a mobile mental health crisis response team and Chief was facilitating them being in Junction City.

Director Kaping reported: Now that sanitation was resolved, he would repost the vacant Sanitation position; 13th and Elm Well and 17th Street pump station work was close to being completed.

Director Crocker reported: There were two Budget Committee vacancies; Budget Committee Work Session would be held on February 22, 2024; Finance Department was utilizing the efficiencies of the Tyler Finance software with Accounts Payable having 50% of payments done electronically. Finance staff turnover and getting through the Tyler implementation had taken its toll on finance, and staff was still working on getting caught up with contract renewals and RFPs that the Finance and Judiciary Committee would be working through.

Attorney Connelly reported: She liked the decision tonight to keep the Agenda Process Guidelines; the legislature was in session and items she would keep the City updated on were recreational immunity and recriminalization of small amounts of otherwise illegal substances. A new law required public officials to attend an Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) training once per term in person or virtually; the training had not yet been released by OGEC. Regarding the discussion on RFPs and contracts for Council appointees, Attorney Connelly noted that some municipalities did an evaluation process and if that was something the Council was interested in, it could be folded into upcoming RFPs.

Recorder Vodrup reported: To add to Attorney Connelly's comments about the new required OGEC training, Recorder Vodrup and other City Recorders were working closely with OGEC, and she would let the Council know when the required training was available.

Administrator Knope reported: He was working with Arbor South Architects on the Community Center project, and preliminary concept drawings had been prepared. A structural engineer would be coming out tomorrow to look at a roofing issue at the Community Center. The goal was to have design set drawings by the end of February so this could go to Committee and Council in March to get public input. Would like to get permits out to bid by mid-March with an April construction start. The City did receive confirmation that the grant deadline extension to complete the work by December 31, 2024 had been approved. Painting at City Hall should be finished this weekend, and he would be bringing back the remaining items to the Council to try and finish the project by the end of the fiscal year. The goal was to have both projects done before festival.

17. Previous Month's Expenditures. None.

18. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Hancock: He thanked Attorney Connelly for the comment about evaluations. He expressed appreciation to everyone for their patience on the Sanitation RFP. He knew that it was hard to go through, but they knew that nobody was going to beat the quality and they were pretty convinced that it would also be tough to beat the City's pricing as well. If the City was going to raise Sanitation rates, the Council needed to be able to look people in the eyes and tell them that the Council did their job in gathering all the information.

Councilor Hancock continued that there was a belief that if Councilors go to a Committee meeting as a citizen who lives in the community that they were not allowed to speak as a citizen. Attorney Connelly responded that she strongly recommended that if a Councilor was speaking as a citizen that they identify themselves as a citizen. Usually the Committee meetings were posted as a potential quorum of the Council because the line was so easy to cross for somebody to start talking as a citizen and then move into discussing something as a Councilor. She noted that someone could try very hard not to do it and she appreciated such efforts, but she had seen it happen time and again where it was just a slippery slope that was slid down. She added that it was not anyone saying that a Councilor could not go to a Committee meeting, that it was legally prohibited or that they could not talk. It was that it was so easy to move into an unlawful public meeting.

Councilor Hancock thanked Attorney Connelly for her response and said that basically as long as they used a modicum of intelligence and did not start talking as a Councilor and moving the discussion into a Council meeting, they could speak as a citizen about issues affecting their neighborhood and community. So they could attend and speak, but just needed to be careful and smart. Attorney Connelly noted that it could help if Committee members in that context,

did not respond and did not engage, initiating a back and forth. If the Councilor, speaking as a citizen, provided testimony or participation, then the Committee moving on to talk amongst itself would be very clean; if a dialogue commenced, that increased the chances of things moving down that slippery slope.

Councilor Hancock expressed appreciation that he no longer had to fill out an Agenda Item Request form and that Councilors could request things be placed on the agenda, putting Councilors on the same par as staff. Since this was a Council meeting, he thought that was important.

Councilor Leach recognized Director Crocker, Chief Waddell, Director Kaping, Superintendent Tracer, Administrator Knope, and Attorney Connelly for their good work. She continued that the City had great staff and she appreciated each of them. She expressed appreciation to the Council for working together and trying really hard to do what was best for the City. She agreed with Councilor Hancock that the Sanitation RFP process was really hard, but the Council felt it was the best way to gather the information and tell the citizens that the Council did their best effort and could show the numbers. Keeping sanitation would allow the City to have more control, and she appreciated Director Kaping at the helm to oversee that.

Councilor Ceniga stated that she was glad they were able to resolve the sanitation issue and keep sanitation in house, which she supported keeping for as long as they could. She thanked everybody at the meeting and thought meetings had greatly improved over the last several months with more information and transparency, which she thought was important. She felt Council and Committee meetings had gone more smoothly, which she appreciated. She thanked the Sanitation crew for their great work.

Councilor Washburne thanked everybody for all the good reports tonight. He was really impressed with the way the Sanitation crew went out after the recent ice storm and got caught up so quickly. He also appreciated Public Works staff cleaning up the downed trees and debris from that event.

Councilor Thomas expressed appreciation to staff, Council, and citizens for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

19. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Wells thanked Council President Leach for doing a good job of running the January meeting when he was out of town. He commended everyone on a great meeting and getting through a lot of items. Everybody got an opportunity to discuss and decisions were made by the entire Council. They did not always agree, but they could talk it out with respect for one another. He commended the Police Department for being out in the community and shared a recent incident at night where an officer had let him know his garage door had been left open. Mayor Wells encouraged citizens to join the Council at future meetings and noted that the Council appreciated citizen input. He added that the Council could not get better if they did not hear input on how the City could do a better job for the citizens.

20. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Kenneth Wells, Mayor