

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

**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; Police Chief, Bob Morris; Public Works Director; Gary Kaping; 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 – May 12 and May 26, 2020**

**MOTION:** Councilor Rowe made a motion to approve the May 12 and 26, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

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

None.

**5. Public Hearing on Proposed Uses of State Shared Revenue**

Mayor Crenshaw opened the public hearing on proposed uses of State Shared Revenue.

**Staff Report**

Director Crocker stated that this was the hearing before the City Council required by state eligibility requirements for receiving State Revenue Sharing funds. There was about \$500,000 in the budget for the upcoming budget year, and no Council action was required. There would be a Council resolution on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, which was the same day that the budget would be brought before Council. The detail pages were attached as Attachment B and Attachment A outlined the instructions that he followed.

**Public Testimony**

Mr. Jack Sumner, 1061 Quince Drive, Junction City asked if the money would be returned from the Police Department budget to the State Revenue Sharing fund they used to buy the cameras and the tasers. Administrator Knope responded that at the time this came before Council, the Council chose not to have a requirement to have the Police Department repay those funds.

**Questions or Comments from Council**

Councilor Thomas stated that she did not remember voting on that or deciding that.

Mayor Crenshaw reminded everyone that the purpose of this hearing was on the proposed uses of State Shared Revenue. Councilor Thomas stated that she understood that but did not understand Mr. Sumner's question. Mayor Crenshaw responded that Mr. Sumner had found an opportunity to bring an item of similar relevance but not exact relevance to the issue that they were discussing today. He continued that an expense was approved by the Council last year, and they were talking about uses of the proposed State Shared Revenue for the next budget cycle. He added that to get an answer to her question, Councilor Thomas would need to review the minutes from those meetings to refresh her memory, but the relevance to today's hearing was minimal.

Councilor Rowe stated that on Attachment B, page 15, Line 3 State Revenue Sharing Receipts, the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 number was \$73,000, which was about 10% higher than the Fiscal Year 2019-20 adopted budget. He asked if Director Crocker knew the actual number for 2019-20. Director Crocker responded that number was in the statement that he emailed out yesterday and he would pull that up.

Councilor Rowe stated that his question was about the 10% increase and if that was fiscally appropriate based on all the forecasts on revenue. Director Crocker responded that the gas tax and room tax had been in the news a little bit, but he was not aware of any particular news, good or bad, on that line for the general State Revenue Sharing.

Councilor Rowe asked if Director Crocker thought the \$73,000 was a fair number. Director Crocker responded that it was just a trend number and he was trying to pull up where they were at this year. He continued that there was nothing special about that number, and he did not receive a lot of direction from the state on what to expect for that number. He just went by what was received in the last five years. He stated that what the City had received through May of this year was \$72,103.

Councilor Rowe responded that was great and made him feel better. He noted that he had the same question for the Streets Fund on Line 3 and if Director Crocker felt the \$400,000 in State Tax Street Revenue would be a good number. He asked what the City had received to date on that for this year. Director Crocker responded this was the gas tax and there had been a little bit of news on that. ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) had stated that it had been hit because there was a whole lot less driving in the last few months, but they did expect it to start recovering as people got back out; however, they did not expect full recovery until the end of the next fiscal year coming up.

Councilor Rowe asked if these numbers were in the proposed budget that the Budget Committee just approved. Director Crocker responded that they were.

Councilor Thomas referred to page 86, Line 21 Transient Room Tax and asked if that would also be affected, as events like the festival were being cancelled and people were not doing a lot of traveling. Director Crocker responded that was the hotel tax and they did expect it to be affected. It was only \$23,000 in total, so was not a number that would affect all of the departments very much, but yes it was one item, given the news, that would probably receive much less than \$23,000.

Councilor Gambee noted that he did not quite understand what Director Crocker had said on the gasoline tax. Director Crocker responded that for the current Fiscal Year 19-20 budget, the City had received \$406,000 through the end of May and the budgeted line item was \$390,000. ODOT had said that since traveling was down for a couple of months and gas prices were low, we would be receiving a bit less. To date, the City had received more than had been budgeted, and ODOT had said that for the next budget year coming up, although it may be lower than what was originally predicted, they did expect recovery for that tax, probably over the next fiscal year.

Councilor Gambee stated that ODOT's official statement was they were expecting recovery in revenue, and asked what recovery meant. Director Crocker responded that he would interpret that to mean that they would be back up to the levels that were being received before the pandemic.

Councilor Gambee asked for confirmation that through May, the number was already ahead and there was still a month to go. Director Crocker responded that was correct and they had received \$406,000 and had budgeted to receive \$390,000.

Councilor Gambee asked how much the delay was between revenues coming in and when they were actually taxed at the pump. He asked when they would see the impact from the 3 months of the pandemic. Director Crocker responded that he did not have any information on that.

Councilor Gambee stated that he had heard that a lot more people were drinking and smoking during the pandemic and asked if the cigarette tax was expected to go up. Director Crocker responded that the one thing he had heard was that the liquor tax had an immediate jump and in March went up 20% across the state.

Councilor Gambee noted that not everything was down. Director Crocker responded that may be correct.

Mayor Crenshaw closed the public hearing.

## **6. City Engineering Services Contract Renewal**

Director Kaping presented the request to renew the City Engineering contract. In 2019, the City went through the process to select a City Engineer. HBH Engineering was selected and had previously served as the City's Engineer for five years. There had been no issues with HBH and they had finished projects on time and on or under budget. The 2019 contract with

HBH was a one year contract with options to extend for one year terms over a five year period.

Councilor Rowe added that the Public Works Committee reviewed and endorsed this at their June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilor Thomas made a motion to renew the contract with HBH Engineering for one year and authorize the City Administrator to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rowe and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

#### **7. Planning Commission Appointments**

Planning Technician Andrews reviewed that there were four vacancies on the Planning Commission of three regular member positions and one alternate position. Vacancies were advertised and three applications were received. The Planning Commission reviewed the applications on May 20, 2020 and recommended that the Mayor make appointments to fill the three regular member vacancies.

Mayor Crenshaw made the following appointments: Jim Creech to fill the unexpired regular member term through October 31, 2020; Cindy Montgomery to fill the unexpired regular member term through October 31, 2022; and Brian Wells to fill the unexpired regular member term through October 31, 2022.

#### **8. Business Pandemic Impact Support Program Update**

Administrator Knope reviewed that as of today, there had been 71 local businesses who had applied and qualified for the grant program. Nearly \$164,000 had been awarded, with an average of a little over \$1800 per application and many grant requests ranging between \$500 and \$2,000. The number of new applications had tapered off a bit, and the City was starting to see previous applicants coming back and applying for an additional month. The City had received a couple more applications from landlords, and that topic and some related topics would be discussed at the next Finance and Judiciary Committee meeting.

Administrator Knope added that funding wise, they were good through the end of the month and if the Council adopted the approved budget that was recommended by the Budget Committee, they should be in good shape starting in the month of July as well.

Councilor Thomas noted that she had been asked by several people if it were public information that they could get at City Hall on who received these monies. Administrator Knope responded that he would need to talk with legal first on requirements per public records law.

Councilor Thomas expressed her thanks and noted that it was nice to receive the letters from people who were thankful for the grants they had received.

Mayor Crenshaw added his concurrence. He noted that Administrator Knope had reported that the Finance and Judiciary Committee was going to review whether or not the program needed any changes or updates and they would make a recommendation to Council. Administrator Knope responded that was correct, according to discussions he had had with the Chair of that committee. It was noted that the next regularly scheduled Finance and Judiciary Committee would be on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **9. Councilor Comments/Questions**

Councilor DiMarco stated that in today's Register Guard, there was an interesting story titled, "Springfield Won't Consider Cutting Police Body Camera Program as a Cost Saving." He added that there was interesting information in there, along with the main topic about their budget and some of the things they were looking at.

Councilor Rowe noted that the Public Works Committee did consider the Ratepayers Assistance Program and recommended that it be discussed by the entire Council at a Work Session. Director Kaping added that this would go back to the Public Works Committee at their July meeting and then would go to the July Council Work Session.

#### **10. Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Crenshaw stated that he hoped not to tread too dangerously in the waters of politics around the country but they did see a small presence of some of those actions going on in

Junction City, whether or not it was any kind of a sanctioned event or if it was just some individuals wanting to claim their attachment. But what he found to be really valuable was that the City's Police Department and current City Council had some foresight in the last year to protect their officers from some of the things that were not being protected for officers in other communities. The City did this by making an additional expenditure that they did not plan on making for upgraded body cameras to make sure that the City's officers were accountable. Not only could the footage or data recorded be used as evidence in prosecution, but it was also something that helped their officers maintain accountability and that their actions being recorded then stood to protect them from false accusations from anyone that wished to cast any doubt on the veracity of the City's officers.

Mayor Crenshaw continued that the other area for which the City was ahead of the rest of the country was that over the last couple of years, the City's Police Department had insisted on appropriate psychological evaluations to ensure that the City's officers were indeed fit for the job, which had become a hurdle to the City filling positions at some times. Mayor Crenshaw definitely agreed that it was worth taking the extra effort to protect the citizens of Junction City from someone who did not have the psychological capacity to do the job. He noted that this was definitely a kudo, and Junction City could hold its head proudly that this Council and their Police Department were having the foresight to make sure that those things happened.

**11. Adjournment**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

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Mark Crenshaw, Mayor