

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
September 8, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Balensifer, Tom Dyer, Mark Baldwin, Rick Newton (via Zoom), and Pam Ackley (via Zoom)

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, Public Works Operations Manager Kyle Sharpsteen, Harbormaster Jane Sweet, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Fire Chief Brian Alsbury, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Monthly Finance Report – June 2020

**Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye; Newton – aye; Baldwin – aye; Dyer - aye**

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Newton stated he spoke with Fire Chief Alsbury and learned they sent three firefighters over to the wildfire in Mill City. He also noted on September 21 the Astoria City Council will meet to discuss what to do about past due water bills and late fees.

Commissioner Dyer welcomed everyone.

City Manager Linda Engbretson followed up on Commissioner Newton's comments, noting that Chief Alsbury can give an update on the fire. She also noted that later this month she be bringing to the commission for discussion, the water bills, and the unintended consequences of not charging late fees.

Mayor Balensifer asked Commissioner Ackley for the dates of the drive-in movie; Commissioner Ackley confirmed September 12 and 13. Mayor Balensifer noted he has been talking with folks across the nation, and people really want to feel like things are getting close to normal.

City Recorder Dawne Shaw stated the City now has a permanent ballot drop box located in the parking lot behind city hall. She thanked Public Works for their work in getting the box installed. The box will be managed by county elections.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Faletti voiced concerns about camping at the Hammond marina over the weekend, noting that RVs and tents were all over, camping in undesignated areas. He also noted concerns about people using hibachi grills in the dry grass areas.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – None

#### BUSINESS ITEMS

Public Works Director Collin Stelzig presented Resolution No. 2575 for its second reading and adoption.

**Commissioner Dyer made the motion to conduct the second reading, by title only of Resolution No. 2575; Adopting and Setting New Rates for Residential Recycling Services effective October 1, 2020 and Repealing all Resolutions in Conflict. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye; Baldwin – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye**

Mayor Balensifer conducted the second reading, by title only, of Resolution No. 2575; Adopting and Setting New Rates for Residential Recycling Services effective October 1, 2020 and Repealing all Resolutions in Conflict.

**Commissioner Ackley made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2575. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye; Baldwin – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye**

Mr. Stelzig discussed the bid award for the 2020 Warrenton Paving Improvements Project, noting the project was discussed with two contractors. Bayview Asphalt was the only one that submitted a bid, in the amount of \$377,266. He noted this bid came in lower than the engineer's opinion of probable cost for this project. Brief conversation followed. Mayor Balensifer asked Mr. Stelzig to confirm for the record that the pavement management program is not a commission generated list; the list was generated in 2018 by an independent consultant, with no financial or otherwise direct interest ties to the City of Warrenton, who created a grading system and gave it a five year plan based on the grading and budgetary breakdown. This is a staff driven project. Mr. Stelzig confirmed; noting that back in 2018, there was very little, if any input from the commission on the program when it was presented. He explained how the plan was calculated and determined. He also noted Public Works did not have any input on the roads and

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how they were scored. Mayor Balensifer noted the idea was to depoliticize management of roads that do not need full reconstruction; Mr. Stelzig confirmed this was to depoliticize it.

**Commissioner Dyer made the motion to approve awarding the contract for the 2020 Warrenton Paving Improvements Project to Bayview Asphalt, Inc. for the amount of \$377,266. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye; Baldwin – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye**

Commissioner Newton asked for an explanation, for public benefit, where the money for this project comes from. Mr. Stelzig stated it comes out of the state tax street fund, which is gas tax and some other ODOT monies, which can be used for maintenance as well as rebuilding roads.

City Manager Linda Engbretson noted the updated copy of Resolution No. 2577 distributed to the commission prior to the meeting that includes an updated adopted date. She stated this resolution will extend the state of emergency. She recommended linking the declaration to the Governor's order unless rescinded earlier by the Warrenton City Commission. Mayor Balensifer noted for the record there are no emergency orders attached to it, it is just a declaration for funding purposes. Ms. Engbretson stated it continues the declaration so that we are able to apply for covid relief dollars, should they become available. Brief discussion followed. Ms. Engbretson noted we have been reimbursed for \$14,000 so far, which includes our covid related legal costs.

**Commissioner Ackley made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2577, Extending the State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ackley – aye; Balensifer – aye; Baldwin – aye; Dyer – aye; Newton – aye**

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Harbormaster Jane Sweet gave an update on the Marina and Buoy 10 activity. She explained the report she submitted, noting they budgeted low due to the pandemic but have met the projected goals for Hammond and Warrenton, however they are down from last year. She noted the camping revenues were up in Warrenton this year, and down a little in Hammond. Ms. Sweet spoke to Mr. Faletti's comments, noting he was correct, and explained that campers come in late at night and go into undesignated areas. Staff does chase them out. She noted they come in all hour of the night, but are out fishing when staff gets in. It is hard to keep track of who is legally there and who is not. Ms. Sweet noted the challenges of keeping up with it due to being short staffed. Brief discussion continued. Chief Workman noted most of that area is out of city limits so our ordinances cannot be enforced. We need to tighten up our ordinances and close loopholes. He noted they do everything they can and patrol around the basin, now that it is city owned property, but they cannot enforce city ordinances outside of city limits. Discussion followed on trespassing. Commissioner Newton suggested a work session to determine how to manage this next year. Commissioner Baldwin suggested posting criminal trespass signs any place you do not want camping, and if they don't move, trespass them. He also asked about the barricades on the

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east side of the marina. Ms. Sweet clarified that the barricades were moved to allow trailer parking in the field, but not driving on the river beach. Mayor Balensifer stated he is not trying to fix these problems right now, the marina task force or committee can do that, but thinks it is important to overview some issues now for the record on what's going on. He asked if there was police presence in Hammond this year? Ms. Sweet and Chief Workman confirmed the police were there. Ms. Engbretson noted the steps we have taken over the years which have improved things greatly out there. She stated with the number of people that were out there this year, in a condensed timeframe, that a lot of the complaints we get, are the same complaints we get every year during Buoy 10. In order to eliminate some of the mayor's concerns is that we state absolutely this is how many campsites we have, and once we are full, we are full. There is no overflow, if you don't want them to be in that area, then we make that decision and we won't go there at all. We as staff members looked, knowing covid, and knowing the other campgrounds were opening at 100%, and one of her concerns was the Buoy 10 folks are going to come and where were they going to go if they weren't camping in the marina. All the campgrounds are open for business and she didn't think it fair to close our campsites when we would be dealing with RVs parked illegally all over the city. She stated there were great improvements with added bathrooms, and lots and lots of signage. Discussion continued on overflow camping. Commissioner Dyer noted he and Harbormaster Sweet have discussed nautical themed barricades they can put in. Mayor Balensifer stated he was most bothered by people disrespecting the Seafarers memorial, and felt it was not dignified for the city to allow. He briefly discussed the RV issues and noted there are bigger issues that a citizen committee can work on with the harbormaster's and police chief's help. He stated that he does agree with Mr. Faletti that they were packed in like sardines and discussed the fire hazards. He also suggested raising the camping rates as well, since the demand is there. Ms. Engbretson stated she would like to hear direction from the commission that there is no camping in Seafarer's Park, even for overflow, and from there we can determine spacing. Mayor Balensifer stated that once the marina advisory committee is in place, one of their first tasks should be to look at Buoy 10.

Commissioner Ackley stated she is hoping to remain on the marina committee and noted these are good suggestions and agreed that it would be imperative to protect the park. She stated she has aerial photos which show how many RVs were out there that she will share with the committee when it gets formed. She noted the need to protect our aquatic areas and memorials, and to designate camp spaces. She also noted the task force wanted to see overflow parking and camping in the dredge spoils area. Ms. Engbretson stated we need to dedicate more resources and staff. She commended the marina staff, who worked 24/7 for those two weeks and noted they did a pretty good job. Ms. Engbretson stated there are things they can improve on and will take note of those and do a better job. Mayor Balensifer agreed they did great with what they had, but we need to take what we have heard and seen, and learn from it and improve on it. Ms. Engbretson stated the public needs to be accountable too. Brief discussion continued.

Ms. Sweet gave a brief update on the dredging, noting they submitted a letter to see if they can get permission to dispose dredge spoils on ebb and flood tides. Everything is on schedule for November.

Chief Workman gave an update on the police activity during Buoy 10, noting he went out the first weekend at 4:30 a.m. and boaters waiting to launch were backed up all the way out to the Hammond post office. He agreed that heavy rope would be great for barricades and stated in addition to barricades we need to complete the lighting project out there - a lot of the issues are due to darkness. He noted the statistics from the 2-week period; 437 total calls for service during that period, however only 23 were directly to Buoy 10 – less than 5%. He did note that does not include traffic stops, where they had an increase in speeding incidents. Brief discussion followed on delinquent marina accounts. Mayor Balensifer stated marina staff has done a great job on the issue of late accounts, as well as derelict vessels. Commissioner Ackley noted how impressed she was with the repairs that were done on A & B dock. She noted concerns on one boat that is causing issues for others; Ms. Sweet stated they are addressing that issue. She noted they are now down to 8 live-aboards. Mayor Balensifer asked Ms. Sweet to extend to staff and herself the commissions’ thanks and appreciation for keeping things together and running. Ms. Engbretson noted a recent issue where a local elderly person needed help and marina worker Anthony Wirt stepped up and helped her out – on his own time. Mayor Balensifer asked Ms. Sweet to extend to Mr. Wirt the commissions’ thanks and appreciation, as well as encouragement; that kind of civic engagement is in the highest standards and traditions of the city of Warrenton and its citizens.

Fire Chief Brian Alsbury gave an update on the current fire activity. He noted the crew came back from firefighting in California last week and stated for the record they did not bring back the smoke or the heat. He outlined the current burn ban. He noted the State called last night looking for resources and they put together a task force (county), with one engine from Warrenton that left at 3:30 a.m. this morning. The State called again today looking for more resources, but he had to decline. He noted the crew that left today went to the Hagg Lake fire. He spoke of the devastation and noted that there was nothing they could do, but just watch buildings burn to the ground – the city is gone. Mayor Balensifer asked what Chiefs’ assessment of the fire risk or the possibility of a fire risk in our dunes; Chief Alsbury stated it could end very badly. Brief discussion continued on the severity of this fire season. Chief Alsbury continued to explain how the community is on board with the current burn ban.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Ackley gave a few more details on the upcoming drive-in movie.

Commissioner Newton stated he will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Dawne Shaw, CMC, City Recorder

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