

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
November 23, 2021
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 Henry Balensifer, Mark Baldwin, Tom Dyer, Gerald Poe, and Rick Newton

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Finance Director April Clark, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, Public Works Operations Manager Kyle Sharpsteen, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Planning Director Scott Hazelton, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Commission Meeting Minutes – 11.09.21
- B. Committees & Boards Vacancy Update
- C. Police Department Monthly Report – October 2021
- D. Community Center Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – May 2021

Mayor Balensifer requested unanimous consent to add appointment of board nominees to the agenda as item 7C; there were no objections.

Commissioner Newton asked Police Chief Mathew Workman about the procedure for uninsured or suspended drivers. Chief Workman explained it depends on the situation, but often ends in an arrest, citation, or towing a vehicle. Driving while suspended and driving uninsured are the two top-issued citations. He reviewed the figures from the past 4 months. Many come from traffic stops and accidents. He noted the importance of having insurance coverage. Many of the statistics are repeat offenders. Brief discussion continued.

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

Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Poe – aye; Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mayor Balensifer attended the Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) meeting. Congresswoman Bonamichi spoke about ARPA funds; he has nothing new to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning Director Scott Hazelton gave an update on the Simonsen nuisance property. The nuisance is considered abated. If there are further issues within a 12-month period, it could become a chronic nuisance. This process would go through staff not the commission.

Mayor Balensifer noted the junk vehicles in the right-of-way and asked Chief Workman if any cars have been towed or if there are remaining issues. Chief Workman stated none have been towed. They were all moved. Mayor Balensifer asked if there are no unlicensed or unregistered vehicles on that street related to the nuisance property. Chief Workman clarified he is not saying that; the RV is the main issue right now. Mayor Balensifer asked about any other outstanding issues. Chief Workman noted they are working with legal on which way to proceed. They will be moving forward with a parking code violation. He noted discussion from the last meeting that if the vehicle was moved off the property and into the right-of-way, it is no longer part of the nuisance. He noted they need to be careful with this as it is not the case. Mr. Simonsen did not move the vehicle to the right-of-way, his son did, eliminating that part of the nuisance. Brief discussion followed about the other vehicles that were moved.

Public Works Director Collin Stelzig noted a grant agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the project refinement portion of the Tansy Point Connection NW 11th Path project. This is a planning and engineering exercise to look at routes and provide estimates for construction grant applications. About \$94,000 will come from ODOT and about \$10,000 will come from the city. There was brief discussion whether or not the trail will be paved. Mayor Balensifer noted the Delaura Beach trail and asked why the NW 11th trail was prioritized over others. Ms. Engbretson noted it was identified in the master plan and for emergency access. Mr. Stelzig noted they were approached by ODOT about the project. It was noted the trail goes behind the Tagg's property. Commissioner Newton asked about Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. Brief discussion continued.

Commissioner Newton made the motion to authorize the Mayor's signature for the grant agreement between the City and ODOT's Community Paths Program for the Tansy Point Connection NW 11th Path project. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Poe – aye; Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye

Mayor Balensifer discussed his nominations for volunteer committees and boards. He noted his nominations for reapplications. They have served with no issues and are a credit to the citizenry's volunteerism. They were not interviewed for reappointment because they went through initial interviews. He discussed his nominations for new appointments from Anya Schauer mann for the Parks Advisory Committee and Michelle Murray for the Parks Advisory Committee and the Warrenton Community Library Board. He noted two other applicants that

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there are no available positions for on the requested boards. Discussion followed about whether a person can be part of the library board and the Friends of Warrenton Community Library. Ms. Engbretson stated she will need to double check this. Discussion continued. Mayor Balensifer noted the library board bylaw revisions are not finished. He noted past issues and suggested looking into the value of having both groups. Ms. Engbretson noted the Friends is not a city board. Mayor Balensifer suggested holding off on appointing Michelle Murray to the library board.

Commissioner Poe made the motion to appoint Angelo Schauer mann to Position 3 on the Budget Committee. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Poe – aye; Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye

Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to appoint Anya Schauer mann, Ron Dyer and Michelle Murray to Positions 1, 2 and 6 respectively, on the Warrenton Parks Advisory Committee. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Poe – aye; Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye

Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to appoint Chris Hayward to Position 3 on the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Newton – aye; Dyer – aye; Poe – aye; Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Balensifer explained a request he submitted to staff about the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) project funding. This year's emphasis is about bank hardening and erosion control. The Mayor and Marinas Advisory Committee Chair Pam Ackley discussed several projects with Senator Merkley's staff. December 3 is the deadline for project requests. Ms. Engbretson noted they were submitting a couple projects on tide gates. The fishing pier was put in the CIP this year. Many WRDA project requests require a 50% funding match for studies. She feels they should not do this right now to allow time to identify matching funds. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Stelzig noted submitting information on the tide gates. They have draft information for the fishing pier, but it is coming down to determining funding. The commission would like to explore it a little further with Merkley's office. Mayor Balensifer noted significant federal support on this project and would like to see if they could negotiate the cost match for studies. Ms. Engbretson noted this funding is available every couple years and there are many large projects almost ready to go. Mr. Stelzig noted a submittal would be rushed and feels funding research is needed. Ms. Engbretson would like to choose a CIP project to allow more time to focus and prioritize a project over the next couple years. Discussion continued. The commission would like to explore further with Merkley's office; if staff feels good about the funding, go forward, if not, don't. Discussion continued about funding and project management.

Ms. Engbretson noted an opportunity staff has been working on with the county. Mr. Stelzig stated it is a biodigester. The county is doing the feasibility study with Jacobs Engineering for \$150,000. The county is asking if the City of Warrenton would like to be a stakeholder for \$4,000. He stated it would be in our interest to support this. It was noted the material would be brought to the biodigester. Ms. Engbretson noted it is a small amount of money to be a good partner and participate in the study with possible benefit. Brief discussion followed. There was consensus from the commission for \$4,000.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Newton gave an update on Seaside's meeting about the homeless situation. He discussed Spruce Up Warrenton's daffodil planting and noted leftover daffodil bulbs to be planted. They are planning to put a flowerbed around the base of the sign on Harbor. The Friends of the Warrenton Community Library is considering library after dark events for fundraising. He noted a phone app with a map of Warrenton and Astoria trails; they are discussing a reward system. He noted an article he wrote in the Columbia Press. The Kiwanis club will be selling Christmas trees; most vendor's trees were burned this year. He also noted Raven Air signed a contract for electric airplanes in Alaska.

Commissioner Dyer noted a blind spot on the corner by Bio-Products and asked if the brush can be trimmed in the right-of-way to improve the line of sight. Mr. Stelzig said they will look into it. Brief discussion followed on the ownership of baseball field at Fort Stevens. Mayor Balensifer noted the school district is considering housing development there. Ms. Engbretson said it may have been reverted back in the past.

Mayor Balensifer had pleasure of pardoning a turkey this past week and discussed the event.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the regular meeting at 6:45 p.m.

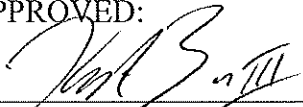
Respectfully prepared and submitted by Rebecca Sprengeler, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Dawne Shaw, CMC, City Recorder

APPROVED:



Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor