
CITY OF PILOT ROCK

Council Meeting
April 19, 2022, 6:00 PM

A. Called to Order

Having a quorum, the Regular Council meeting was called to order by **Mayor Randy Gawith** at 6:00 PM. Council members present were **Councilor Derek Turner, Councilor Tegan Kaneaster, Councilor Raymond Doherty, Councilor Vern Sandy, Councilor Paula Evoniuk, and Councilor Aliina Kirby.** Department Heads present were **Public Works Director Steve Draper, Chief William Caldera, and City Recorder Teri Bacus.** **Citizens present were Ray Bacus, Kim Gawith, Tiffany Schademan, Dezi Putnam, Madyson Moffit, Jade Atkins, and Natalie Lankford. Officer Daniel Badal also attended.**

B. INVOCATION

Pastor Harley Jeffers gave the invocation

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Citizen Risa Riggen attended via phone conferencing and explained to City Council that she is on dialysis and it was recommended by her doctor to have the ability to evacuate quickly in case of an emergency. She has a recreational vehicle (RV) parked in front of her house for that purpose. She is requesting permission to park the RV on the street for a long period of time because she has no other place to park the RV. Chief Caldera states that the RV has been parked there for about 3 years and it is not level. He also states that there are storage facilities available in town for RVs. Risa explains that it would be a troublesome for them in an emergency to have to get the RV and bring it to the home. She states that her doctor has recommended the RV be close by for emergency use. She is awaiting a kidney transplant and once that is complete, the RV will no longer be needed and can be parked elsewhere. She has been on the wait list for 2 1/2 years and the wait is usually about 5 years. Councilor Turner says that he does not see the need for it to be on the street when it can be parked 5 minutes away. He explains that in an evacuation situation, there is usually enough time to be prepared to leave. He feels that the RV being 5 minutes is adequate time in an evacuation situation.

Councilor Turner made a motion that we do not make an exception and do not allow parking the RV on the street and Councilor Doherty seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted no, Councilor Kirby voted no, and Councilor Evoniuk voted no. 3 – Yes and 3 No which is a tie. Mayor Gawith asked the street name of where the RV is parked. **Mayor Gawith voted no and will allow the RV to be parked on the street until her kidney transplant. Motion failed: 3 Yes – 4 No** Chief Caldera comments that there are several RVs that think it's legal to park on city right of way and believes this will cause other issues. Councilor Evoniuk begins discussion on the medical condition involved and Councilor Turner comments. Councilor Kirby makes comments. Councilor Doherty states, "point of order" and the discussion was concluded.

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E. PRESENTATIONS

Carl Moore originally requested to address City Council has decided to contact the Police Department regarding speeding on Douglas Street. Chief Caldera explains that he has contacted him and has evaluated the situation. He will be meeting with Carl on Thursday to discuss the situation.

F. ACTION ITEMS

F-1 Employee Cost of Living Increase (COLA) – City Recorder explains that she is preparing the annual budget and would like it to be accurate. She is requesting guidance and direction on an employee COLA increase. She states that inflation has dramatically increased and would like to avoid the generous increase from last year to be wiped out. She believes that the wage scale is still slightly behind and explains that in this current economy, retention is being focused on. Once the wage scale is competitive, then small increases would keep the scale current instead of falling behind and requiring a large increase. She provides reports with the Social Security increase at 5.9% and the consumer index is over 7%. She is requesting a 6% cost of living increase to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The increase will take effect on July 1, 2022. Councilor Doherty asks how the increase will be funded after the SLFRF funds are over. She explains that property taxes will have an increase due to 3 new homes and two new retail stores. Also, the new solar project will be complete which will bring in new annual revenue and the cash carryover is over \$257,000 in the general fund. Councilor Sandy asks if there was a 9% increase last year and City Recorder replies, that’s correct. Councilor Sandy states that you can’t pay good employees enough and then there are others that aren’t worth minimum wage. He asks if the city has an evaluation program. City Recorder explains that each Department Head evaluates the personnel in their department. She also states that there are no below par employees. The Department Head evaluation process was discussed, and Councilor Doherty believes that it has little value. He explains that the Department Head report provides all the information that is needed. Councilor Doherty says that we do not have anyone on staff at this time that is being overpaid. Councilor Sandy explains that he just left working at the prison, and they are having a difficult time hiring even with good pay and benefits. Chief Caldera explains that the Police Department has been undermanned for almost two years and we have gone through 4 hiring processes and have not been able to fill the position. Councilor Sandy asks what the starting pay for a police officer is. **Councilor Sandy made a motion that we accept the 6% COLA and use the Coronavirus funds. Councilor Kirby seconded. Councilor Turner voted yes, Councilor Evoniuk voted yes, Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, and Councilor Doherty voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

F-2 Occupancy of Recreational Vehicles (RV) – City Recorder presented the fourth draft of ordinance 592 and provided a history on the topic. She explains that suggestions were made at the last discussion and no motions were made. She would like to address each suggestion and decided which ones will be kept and which ones will be eliminated. Councilor Sandy asks if we allow this, can anyone just have a piece of crap RV and Chief Caldera replies, it depends on how the ordinance is wrote up. Minimum standards of RVs were discussed, and City Recorder suggests that the first statement of the ordinance which describes RVs can have language added to

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address. There was further discussion on the appearance of newer and older RVs and who would determine if it is acceptable or not. The appearance of the surrounding area of the occupied RV was discussed and City Recorder explains that we already have an ordinance in place to prevent. Councilor Doherty asks if number two which states - The recreational vehicle complies with Pilot Rock Municipal code (PRMC), chapter 8.10 article II Nuisances Affecting Public Health could address the appearance situation. Current licensing and registrations were discussed. Officer Daniel Badal states that this would be difficult to enforce. Councilor Doherty asks what PRMC chapter 8.10 addresses and City Recorder reads the code out loud which talks about the prohibiting dumping of refuse, unsightly trash and debris. **Councilor Sandy made a motion to accept number 2 as written and Councilor Doherty seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Turner voted yes, Councilor Kirby voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

City Recorder reads number three which states - The recreational vehicle is located in an R-1 General Residential Zone or R-2 Limited Residential Zone or R-3 Limited Residential – Mobile Home Zone. The different types of zoning were discussed, and the residential zones are identified to emphasize that occupied RVs are not permitted on public property. **Councilor Doherty made a motion to accept number three as written and Councilor Turner seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Kirby voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

City Recorder reads number four which states - The recreational vehicle is on a site with a house, attached house, or manufactured home unless: a. A dwelling is being constructed or reconstructed. **Councilor Turner made a motion to accept number four and Councilor Sandy seconded. Councilor Doherty voted yes, Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Kirby voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

City Recorder reads number five which states - Only one occupied recreational vehicle per lot to include adjacent lots owned by the same property owner. **Councilor Doherty made a motion to accept number five as written and Councilor Kaneaster seconded. Councilor Turner voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted no, Councilor Kirby voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk voted yes. Motion carried: 5 Yes – 1 No**

City Recorder reads number six which states – The city will charge a separate fee for water and sewer for each recreational vehicle. Councilor Turner states he does not see how this could be enforced. PW Steve Draper states that the best way to enforce is to make the property owner responsible. It would be the same process as a motel. Ordinance violations was discussed. Mayor Gawith disagrees with number six and says that if you have a home and paying for water and sewer, you are paying for the extra usage anyway. Councilor Doherty states that it is a separate dwelling and the base rate should be charged. Hookup fees were discussed. The dollar amount was also discussed. Councilor Kirby asks if a smaller fee could be considered due to less water consumption and Councilor Doherty states that it should be the base rate. Citizen Tiffany Schademan states that what if we compromised and have the language state that the property owner is responsible for any and all service fees. PW Steve Draper says that the fee rate should be established. Councilor Doherty says we could put that wording in and still have the base rate. Rates of RV parks were discussed. Citizen Ray Bacus states that the difference is the home is hard piped and the RV is not. Kim Gawith states that it appears that the city would be double dipping.

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RV dump sites were discussed. Councilor Doherty states that we should change the wording adding that the property owner is responsible, and the full fee should be the basic rate. **Councilor Sandy made a motion to accept number six and charge the base rate.** Councilor Doherty asks if any new wording should be added, and PW Steve Draper adds that we may want to quote our ordinance making the property owner responsible. Councilor Evoniuk states that she thinks we should wait on number six and reword it. **Councilor Doherty seconds the motion. Councilor Turner voted no, Councilor Kaneaster voted no, Councilor Kirby voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk abstained. Motion Carried: 3 Yes – 2 No – 1 Abstained**

City Recorder reads number seven which states – No rent is being charged. **Councilor Turner made a motion to approve number seven and Councilor Evoniuk seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted yes, Councilor Kirby voted yes, and Councilor Doherty voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

City Recorder reads number eight which states – A minimum setback of five feet from any structure. **Councilor Evoniuk made a motion to accept number eight and Councilor Turner seconded. Councilor Doherty voted yes, Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted yes, and Councilor Kirby voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

City Recorder reads number nine which states – One recreational vehicle electrical hook-up is permitted. **Councilor Turner made a motion to accept number nine and Councilor Kirby seconded. Councilor Doherty voted yes, Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Evoniuk voted yes, and Councilor Sandy voted no. Motion carried: 5 Yes – 1 No**

Councilor Doherty would like to revisit number one and states that he thinks the issues discussed were addressed in number two having the reference to already existing code. Councilor Sandy asks if we should add that the word moveable. **Councilor Sandy made a motion to accept number one and add the word moveable. Councilor Kirby seconded, Councilor Doherty voted yes, Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Turner voted yes, and Councilor Evoniuk voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No**

G-1 Department Head Report –

Chief Caldera provided an update on purchasing the vehicles from the county. The county is reviewing and will decide soon. City Recorder states that the budget committee meeting will be on April 27, 2022 at 6pm.

City Hall:

1. Completed April 5, 2022, City Council meeting minutes
2. Prepared Council packets
3. Routine updates on websites
4. Dept Heads budget meetings
5. Attended online training towards next certification
6. Continued prep on FY23 budget

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Police Department:

1. Chief attended the regional law enforcement meeting in Pendleton.
2. Ofc. Badal completed an instructor 24-hour defensive tactics class in Baker City.
3. Tagged several travel trailers parked on city right-of-way.
4. Chief was asked by the city's insurance carrier to assist the city of Irrigon as they prepare to form their own police department.
5. A resident requested that several people be trespassed from their property.
6. A transient was found living in her car on a residential street. She was advised of city ordinance and was gone within 24 hours.
7. Report of a drive off of \$70 worth of fuel. The responsible parties reached a civil compromise.
8. Report of two aggressive pit bulls in a residential neighborhood.
9. Assisted school staff with a harassment involving middle school students.
10. Assisted Pendleton PD with a runaway case.
11. Report of two adults harassing one another via phone.
12. Report of a theft of a gas can from someone's front porch.
13. Received a report from an inebriated male who said he was being chased by a hate group. The incident was unfounded.
14. Assisted OSP in looking for a loose horse on the highway.
15. Officer assisted the fire department with a structure fire.
16. Officer assisted with security at the bike pit races.
17. Officer responded to a 911 call where two young children were playing with a phone.
18. Officer helped a citizen with unlocking her car.
19. A high school student was cited for minor in possession of marijuana.
20. Report of suspicious people with flashlights hanging around a residence.
21. Assisted Pendleton PD in providing suspect information on a case they were working

H. CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the consent calendar with correction on page 5. Councilor Doherty seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Kirby voted yes, Councilor Evoniuk voted yes, and Councilor Sandy voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No

Bills \$11,111.63

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Turner asks if a sports complex could be developed in the industrial property area. He suggests that the city use the Coronavirus Relief Funds to construct. He states it would only be about \$10,000 annually to maintain. It could be used for little league due to the unavailability of areas to practice. PW Steve Draper replies that there are only two covenants for the city owned industrial property, and they are that we cannot have daycare or residences. Councilor Turner would like to discuss it for the future. PW Steve Draper states that it will have to be on hold until the old lagoons are decommissioned. He also says we do have a master plan for a sports complex.

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Councilor Kirby provides an update on the farmer's market. She would like to capture the people that drive through town and have the hours as 11am to 2pm. She states that she would like the City of Pilot Rock to run it instead of a private entity.

Councilor Sandy would like to thank the Pilot Rock Downtown Association for the easter egg hunt. He saw a great turnout.

Councilor Evoniuk would like to create a program to assist in a low-cost clinic to spay and neuter cats. She would like to collaborate with the vet that comes to Pilot Rock once a month.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Doherty made a motion to adjourn, and Councilor Turner seconded. Councilor Kaneaster voted yes, Councilor Sandy voted yes, Councilor Evoniuk and Councilor Kirby voted yes. Motion carried: 6 Yes – 0 No

Mayor Randy Gawith adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

APPROVED _____
Randy Gawith, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Teri Bacus, City Recorder