

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Tom Schmidgall, local contractor, complimented employees Casey Young and Mike Kuschnick from the Public Works Department. He said they always represent the City in a professional and courteous manner.

Scott Walker commented on the recent rate increases and asked the City to provide a method of relief for the residents who live on a lower income.

James Ellison said he lives on a fixed income and the rate increases have impacted him. He said he captures rainwater to use for his yard usage and does not have as much runoff as his neighbors. He said he is now paying over \$7 in increases and asked the City Council to consider implementing an assistance program. City Manager Christy Wurster indicated there is a utility program in place to assist residents, which is currently administered by Silverton Area Community Aid.

Ammon Benedict commented on the homeless population and its impact in the community. He questioned whether the City plans to address the issue. Mayor Palmer updated Mr. Benedict on the Task Force that will be appointed later in the meeting to review options to address that issue.

Greg Sheesley said the Sidewalk Shindig is scheduled for October 7, 2017 with several musical acts performing throughout the day. He also commented on the quality of service he received from the Police Department after his car was stolen.

V. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS –

5.1 Employee Recognition – Jeff Fossholm and Eric Herd

Mayor Palmer recognized employees Eric Herd and Jeff Fossholm for their 30 years of service to the City. He highlighted their careers and presented plaques on behalf of the City.

The Council adjourned for a short recess at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

5.2 Chamber Of Commerce monthly report

Executive Director Stacy Palmer provided the monthly report to the City Council. She indicated contacts have increased this year. She noted there were three Davenport descendants who visited Silverton in July. She thanked staff for the lighting of the downtown trees and said she received comments on how different and welcoming downtown looks now. She said the Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) survey deadline has been extended and they will now go door-to-door to gather more responses. She listed upcoming events, which includes the Silverton Arts Festival and Solar Eclipse activities.

5.3 Silverton Area Senior Center annual report

Executive Director Dodie Brockamp provided the annual report. She said the age restriction has been reduced to allow anyone over 50 years old. She said the Board is considering options to increase their membership and attract people ages between 50-60 years old.

5.4 Legislative update – Representative Rick Lewis

State Representative House District 18, Rick Lewis provided a legislative update to the City Council on the four priorities they referred to the 2017 legislative session:

- Restore Recreational Immunity
- Mental Health Investments
- Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Reform
- Transportation Funding and Policy Package

He said Recreational Immunity was handled through a Senate Bill, which removes personal liability from municipal employees in a lawsuit. He noted when he served as Mayor, he provided testimony to the Transportation Preservation and Modernization Joint Committee in regards to transportation. He said the 300-page bill was passed and provides money to local governments for highway and bridge improvements. He said \$9.3 million was set aside for Salem-Keizer Transit Authority to provide more frequent connectivity to rural communities. He said funding for Safe Routes to School pedestrian safety increased from \$5 million to \$10 million. He noted Silverton will receive an additional \$246,000 a year for the next eight to ten years to use towards improvements. He stated he was able to include an additional \$275,000 for Highway 214 and Jefferson Street crossing where schoolchildren cross.

Representative Lewis said the PERS reform did not move forward and indicated the funding liability for cities could increase to \$25 billion for cities. He said school districts would be hit by \$330 million and stated the Governor appointed a task force to work towards a solution. He said bills passed in regards to public records and tax credits to keep doctors in rural areas. He indicated they also fixed an issue of non-transferrable credits from a two year community college to a four year university. He said there will be a new Veterans' program with funding from the Oregon Lottery money. He listed some programs that will be available because of the funding to the veterans' program. He said a bill was passed to incentivize the construction of broadband networks in rural communities. He listed bills that failed. The Council thanked him for his presentation and for advocating for the funding in the transportation package.

Representative Lewis mentioned HB3427 addressed emergency access plans for high hazard dams and said he used Silverton as an example. He said it would require emergency preparedness teams to conduct activities in anticipation of catastrophic events. The Council thanked Representative Lewis for his update.

5.5 Rotary Club Peace Pole project presentation

Mayor Palmer provided a report to the Council. He said the Peace Pole would be installed adjacent to the railing along Main Street at Town Square Park. He said the Club would be responsible for the installation, maintenance and removal of the pole. He said the Peace Pole would be engraved with several different languages and it is included in the consent agenda for approval. There were no questions from the Council.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

There were none scheduled.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Carter moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Agenda Items 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3. Councilor Freilinger seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Aye: Jim Sears
Matt Plummer
Dana Smith
Kyle Palmer
Laurie Carter
Jason Freilinger
Absent: Rhett Martin

7.1 Approval of Rotary Club Peace Pole Project

7.2 Contract Change Order – 2017 Crack Sealing and Asphalt Skin Patching Work

7.3 Purchase Authorization – Public Works Fleet Vehicle Replacement

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Radar Reader-Board Sign Options

Chief of Police Jeff Fossholm summarized the staff report included in the packet. He said the original trailer was old and beyond repair. The Council reviewed the options and discussed whether one should be purchased this fiscal year.

Darlene Blackstone works for a sign board company. She said they manufacture signs, one of which can be moved and mounted on poles at different locations within the City with quick change brackets, and the other is a portable 18" sign that can be mounted on a work stand or a patrol car.

The Council preferred a mobile option and some members expressed an urge to purchase it as quickly as possible but felt the staff would be able to select the appropriate one.

8.2 Review and approve Preliminary Title Report for Eugene Field

City Manager Wurster updated the Council on the Eugene Field property due diligence period. She indicated Section 4 required the City to purchase a preliminary title report for the property, which has been received. She stated she reviewed the unacceptable exceptions for that report but wanted to bring an issue to the Council's attention. She said an easement agreement was recorded in January, 1936 listed under the special exceptions. She said the agreement does not indicate where the easement is located and Staff contacted the title company, who responded the easement could not be located. She indicated Staff considered having a survey performed on the property and found there are two types of surveys:

1. A boundary survey to identify the boundaries of the property, research easements, and identify any encroachment issues; and
2. An ALTA survey is a comprehensive survey, which identifies all of the structures, the underground utilities, etc. and would take several months to complete

City Manager Wurster said the provisions of the purchase and sale agreement stipulate the buyer has 20 days to list unacceptable exceptions to the title report, and then the seller has 15 days to indicate they would be able to remove those conditions from the title itself. She indicated the staff report was written with a recommendation to conduct a survey; however, it could take up to two months just to schedule the boundary survey.

She said Community Development Director Gottgetreu reviewed the legal descriptions and believes the easement could be a sewer easement for a portion of the property that was previously sold across First Street. She requested the Council list item number 16 as an unacceptable exception until such time the City can identify the location of the easement and obtain further information. She said she would like direction from the Council [if they cannot identify the location of the easement] on whether they would like her to enter into an agreement or an evaluation to identify the easement through a private surveyor to conduct the boundary survey, which could cost up to \$10,000. She noted if an item is listed as an unacceptable exception, the cost to remove the item lies with the seller and if they refuse to remove the item, the buyer (City) may terminate the contract.

The Council questioned if the costs of the survey would be considered under the \$400,000 the City has to pay towards the purchase of the property. City Manager Wurster said staff would look into it. The Council discussed the options and asked clarification questions. City Manager Wurster stated if it is a utility easement and runs through the middle of the property, then it prohibits being able to build over that section. She said Staff would conduct a detailed review of the asbuilts, etc. to identify what kind of easement it is. Councilor Carter asked if the City could ask the school district to pay ½ of the ALTA survey. City Manager Wurster said it is a possibility. There was discussion about the due diligence period. There was a consensus of the Council to direct Staff to identify the easement and if necessary list it as an unacceptable exception under item number 16.

IX. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY GROUPS

9.1 Create a temporary Ad Hoc Committee to address homelessness

Mayor Palmer reviewed the staff report and summarized the motions.

Councilor Smith moved to create a temporary Ad Hoc Committee for a limited duration to address the homeless/housing issue and to appoint the proposed members to the Committee. Councilor Carter seconded the motion.

Tim Gettman asked what the priority of the Council is in the issue. Mayor Palmer said appointing the task force is an exploration step, which would consider all options not just for homeless, but would include affordable housing, small houses, etc. and might include Code changes.

Lori McLaughlin expressed appreciation a task force will be in place look at options. She requested the Committee include a mental health specialist.

Scott Walker said the homeless population is diverse and suggested their solution be flexible to address the various populations. After further discussion the motion carried as follows:

Aye: Jim Sears
 Matt Plummer
 Dana Smith
 Kyle Palmer
 Laurie Carter
 Jason Freilinger
Absent: Rhett Martin

X. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

10.1 City Manager Update

City Manager Wurster mentioned the BR&E survey and said she met with Sarah Spinks of Marion County, who indicated she would make a presentation to the Council at the October Work Session. She expressed gratitude to Dr. Terri Vasché, OD who supplied solar eclipse glasses to all City employees and the Council. She said Staff will take a photo at 9:45 a.m. tomorrow in front of City Hall for the upcoming City Hall Selfie day and invited the Council to participate. She said there were comments about the health of trees by the stream bank, and it was found those trees do have Dutch Elm Disease, which was confirmed by the state. She said there is a strict process to remove these trees and said Staff may bring an ordinance back for Council consideration on how to address this issue within the City. She noted a Work Session is scheduled on August 21 and the Regular Meeting September 4 will be pushed to September 11 because of the holiday. She said the hospital asked the City to consider closing three of the nearby streets during the eclipse and Staff will review their request. She noted the Church near the hospital is allowing camping on their grounds, which is an allowable use according to the Code and Staff is requesting to the close reservoir on August 21 during the solar eclipse. She said Staff would monitor activity over the weekend and make the determination on Sunday. There were no objections from the Council.

10.2 Council Communications

Councilor Sears commented on the status of sidewalks report in the department update. He asked about the Citizen involvement Committee. City Manager Wurster said identifying neighborhood committees is on the Council's goal list for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Councilor Plummer asked if Staff could look into installing bike racks in front of the community center and the YMCA. He noted safety concerns for pedestrians when they cross the foot bridge to Coolidge

McClaine Park and land in the round-about. Public Works Director Saxe indicated a perimeter sidewalk is on the project list for that location. Councilor Plummer announced the Council will listen to a nicotine licensing update on August 21. He commented on the proposed Transportation Committee, its role and once established will need volunteers to serve on the Committee.

Councilor Smith referred to the note about System Development Charges (SDC) on the issue tracker and suggested the City create special SDCs on new remote developments, similar to the Steelhammer SDC, to address connectivity issues within the City. She expressed concern about the shuttle not operating on Monday during the eclipse. Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu indicated the shuttle received half of the funding from their grant request by the Tourism Promotion Committee (TPC) and after the event the TPC will determine if they met the criteria of the grant request. Councilor Smith asked if there are traffic control plans for the weekend of the solar eclipse. Chief of Police Jeff Fossholm said Staff will be focused on responding to emergencies. City Manager Wurster said Staff could consider solutions at their Staff Meeting this week. Councilor Smith said Poison Oak is prominent near Silver Creek and asked Staff to post pictures on the boards to educate the public. Public Works Director Saxe indicated he would have a work crew clear the Poison Oak.

Councilor Freiling asked if the City has any vehicles impacted by carbon monoxide. Staff said no and stated detectors have been installed in some vehicles to ensure safety.

Councilor Carter said the Oregon Garden Foundation Board is now accepting applications for the Executive Director. She said she received numerous comments on how hard the Mayor worked at the Homer Davenport Festival and thanked him.

Mayor Palmer thanked the Urban Renewal Agency, TPC, and Staff for the lighting of the downtown trees. He said US Senator Ron Wyden will host a Town Hall this week at the Silverton High School auditorium. He thanked the Homer Davenport Committee, the Police Department and the Public Works Department for their assistance during the Festival thanked City Manager Wurster for driving the truck.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were none scheduled.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

/s/Lisa Figueroa, City Clerk