

## **October 12, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Mayor Nora Aspy: Present**

**Present Council Members:** Gene Zachary, Jean Fennern, Khris Lorence, Alan Hanley, Jackelyn Jackson

**Absent:** Brandon Janes

**City Recorder:** Salli Allen - Present

**Public Works operator:** Todd Robinette – absent

**Public Attendance:** Gail Kimberling (Hells Canyon Journal reporter), see sign in sheet in minutes book

**1. Open: 5:00 PM,** with Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for the 9/14/2023 Regular Council Meeting

**Motion made by:** Gene Zachary to approve minutes as written

**Seconded by:** Jackelyn Jackson

**ALL PRESENT IN FAVOR**

**3. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Written by Todd Robinette, given by Salli Allen. It mentioned that repair of sewer lines had begun and asked for 22 loads of gravel to refill repair areas. It also mentioned trimming of trees around corners and stop signs.

\* Gene Zachary mentioned that the storm drain on E. Bell St. needed gravel or something to help with leveling it.

**4. FINANCIAL BUSINESS:** (copies in minutes file) Jean Fennern asked about the line for Myers repair was and Salli Allen mentioned that he was who council had hired to work on the equipment. Gene Zachary asked about McGill Construction having three different payments through the month and they were broken down to what had been done for each payment.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:** No Correspondence for this meeting.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Audit Presentation by Auditor Stan Mitchel:** (done after 6B) Auditor handed out audit packets to council and newspaper representative, he mentioned that this year there had been a single audit as per federal requirements. According to Stan Mitchel the audit went well, we had one minor violation in water for employment but it should be fine. The city spent less in repairs and maintenance, so that looked good.

B. **Possibility of having a member of Star Gazers represent City of Halfway in Dark Skies activities while keeping the city informed (Rachel Cairns):** Gene Zachary asked council to appoint Rachel Cairns (who has the time and drive to represent City of Halfway in Dark Skies business) while keeping the city informed through mayor, city recorder/manager, as well as attending some meetings.

**Motion made by:** Khris Lorence to appoint Rachel Cairns to represent City of Halfway in the process of making the city Dark Skies compliant while keeping city informed.

**Seconded by:** Jackelyn Jackson

**ALL PRESENT IN FAVOR**

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C. **Discussion of partnership for ROI grant possibilities (Debi Lorence):**

Debi Lorence mentioned representing a thought of a vision for Halfway through Pine Valley 2050. The City of Halfway would become a partner in an RDI grant. She asked about including a line item for a professional to come in to help with setting up a five year vision plan for the City, where it would not cost the city anything.

**Motion made by:** Jackelyn Jackson that Debi Lorence insert a Line Item for City of Halfway to get a five year plan done by a third party noting no money will need paid by the City of Halfway

**Seconded by:** Jean Fennern

**Khris Lorence nay (potential conflict of interest as well as maintaining rural community values with no involvement from the west side of Oregon) ALL OTHERS PRESENT IN FAVOR**

**Motion made by:** Gene Zachary to have Jackelyn Jackson be representative for City of Halfway in five year vision plan (liason)

**Seconded by:** Jean Fennern

**Khris Lorence abstained (for potential conflict of interest) Jackely Jackson abstained (actual conflict of interest) ALL OTHERS PRESENT IN FAVOR**

**D. Discussion on possible Christmas parade:**

There was brief discussion of having a light celebration on Main Street 12/03/2023. Salli Allen told her that the committee in charge would need to okay closing of Main Street temporarily with ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) as it is a state highway through our city. Debi Lorence stated that they would contact ODOT and keep the council informed as to events on Main Street on 12/03/2023

Gene Zachary asked Gail Kimberling of Hells Canyon Journal to make sure whatever was written showed how the council wished for the City and surrounding area to remain rural.

**E. Land Use Report**

Gene Zachary asked council to think about making employee housing another allowed for conditional use permits. He then mentioned applications received and permits extended or renewed. Other items he had taken care of were mentioned as well, trying to catch up with Land Use issues taking time.

**F. ANY ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Gene Zachary mentioned Flag at half staff and explained that he talked with Tod Corrigan about flag lowering issues.
2. Gene Zachary then spoke of council considering a merit raise as the current mayor does a lot and spends a lot of time here.

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• **7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. ANY ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Gene Zachary spoke with Tayer at school about having a student get involved and asked if he should push or let it go until one showed up.
2. Gene mention that dog barking on North end of town is still occurring incessantly.
3. Garbage, vehicles, and wood in Alley is still an issue and would be worked on.
4. Personnel issues (performance reviews) needed to start happening again, an executive session needed scheduled to get the ball rolling on performance reviews. The Executive Session was scheduled for 10/25/2023 at 5:00 PM.

• **8. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**Motion made by:** Alan Hanley

**Seconded by:** Jackelyn Jackson

**ALL PRESENT IN FAVOR**

**Meeting closed at 7:09 PM**