

**City of Hood River
City Council Work Session
February 8, 2020**

Council: Mayor Kate McBride, Mark Zanmiller, Megan Saunders, Tim Counihan, Jessica Metta, Erick Haynie, Gladys Rivera

Staff: City Manager Rachael Fuller, Finance Director/ACM Will Norris, City Attorney Dan Kearns, Fire Chief Leonard Damian, Police Chief Neal Holste, Public Works Director Mark Janeck, City Engineer Wade Seaborn, City Recorder Jennifer Gray, GIS Analyst Jonathan Skloven-Gill

Absent:

I CALL TO ORDER – Cell Phone Reminder – 6:02 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement Statement and Pledge of Allegiance

II BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Carolyn Smale, Hood River, OR – addressed Council regarding missing middle housing and green space. As the City moves forward with higher density and middle housing code, she asked Council to keep in mind the need for parks and greenspace. A lot has been learned during the COVID crisis. It is very important to have walking access to greenspace or a park for everyone. It is a necessity, not a luxury.

Scott Simms, Hood River, OR – addressed Council regarding his concern for the ever-increasing speed of some drivers in downtown Hood River, particularly on Oak and State Street. His concern is, even with the posted 20 and 25 mph they are seeing speeding that is much higher. There have been fender benders, crashes and a recent incident of a pedestrian minor hit by a car. He is glad to help with the problem of excessive speeding in the community and would rally others to volunteer their help. There are several simple improvement solutions to the speeding problems and safety benefits. He mentioned things that have been done in Bingen and White Salmon to reduce speed. He asked Council to consider similar steps.

III PRESENTATIONS

1. SafeSpace Childrens' Advocacy Center of the Gorge, Beatriz Lynch
Lynch is the Director of Safespace Children's Advocacy Center, formally known as Columbia Gorge Advocacy Center. The center has been open since 2009 and serves five counties. They are the one stop child abuse assessment center. They have a couple of medical doctors that do the exams when children arrive. There are forensic interviewers and community partners that come to the center to meet with the children and families. All the parties come together with the goal to get everything done at one time and get all questions answered the first time. They do not have mental health in their office right now. They do referrals through a contract with a local provider that

specializes in children with trauma. Before they existed, children were often seen at the emergency room at the hospital. This process caused the child to be asked numerous times what happened, causing the child to be more traumatized. The advocacy center brings everyone together in one place to have questions answered there and eliminate the times the child has to talk about what happened and healing can begin. They are one of twenty centers in the State of Oregon. They serve a large area but not a large population. They struggle like any other small center in Oregon with funding. She spoke about the costs to operate.

Mayor McBride stated there is a possibility that the center might be able to be co-located with a new safety facility, and the County might also be involved. This will be investigated later this year. She asked Lynch to talk about their current space needs.

Lynch stated they started out of the duplex that Helping Hands owns. They occupy the bottom half for seven years. In 2017 they moved to their current location. They occupy 1300 sq ft. They have quickly outgrown it with the one medical room, interview room and office space. They are at a crossroads where they are almost able to hire a medical director to be on staff, but they do not currently have the room for this position. They are looking to expand their services by bring in mental health to be a part of their team. Lynch reviewed the details of the referral and assessment process. She spoke about the difficulties to provide the same level of care for children, as they receive in the larger cities, due to the lack of resources in the area. Families are never charged for their services. The center receives funding from multiple sources and fundraising. Lynch thinks having a joint facility with a justice center is a great idea. There is a great model in the State of Utah. She has spoken with Chief Holste about the sharing of space and common areas, that could be used by both agencies. Law enforcement is one of their biggest partners; they have a very good partnership. She invited members of Council to visit their center. The center is doing a lot of great work and she would like to share more about what they do.

WORK SESSION

- IV OPEN WORK SESSION – 6:26 p.m.**
- V AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS**
- VI DISCUSSION ITEMS**
- VII ADJOURN WORK SESSION – 6:27 p.m.**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

- I OPEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 6:27 p.m.**
- II AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS**
- III CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 1. Council Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021

2. Oregon Public Works Cooperative Assistance Agreement, M. Janeck
3. Fee Waiver Request from Gorge Grown for Farmer's Market, R. Fuller
4. F-350 Vehicle Replacement, M. Janeck
5. Acceptance of the Urban Renewal Agency Annual Statement, W. Norris

There was a brief discussion about the great work Gorge Grown did with the Saturday Market last year during the pandemic.

Motion: I move to approve the Consent Agenda.
First: Saunders
Second: Rivera
Discussion: None
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
 Ayes: McBride, Zannmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie, Rivera
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None
 Excused: None

IV REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

1. 2nd Quarter Financial Performance Report, W. Norris

The 2nd Quarter (Q2) Financial Report includes six months of financial data through one half of the 2020-21 Fiscal Year (FY). The attached report includes full-year estimates-to-close based on historical spending patterns and staff knowledge of upcoming expenditures. The attached projections are staff's best projections given financial data through December 31, 2020. The Q2 revenue and expenditure projections become the basis for constructing the FY2021-22 budget.

Yearend estimates-to-close become significantly firmer as the City passes the half-way mark of the fiscal year. As expected in this extraordinary global pandemic, individual revenue and expenditure sources have been challenging to predict. Thankfully changes have largely offset each other, and the City's overall financial picture is not substantially altered from the Q1 Report provided to City Council last Fall.

The net change between the ending fund balance estimates in the Q1 and Q2 Report is a downward revision of \$119,214 to \$2,465,812. After extracting one-time revenue sources and expenditures, the General Fund operating deficit is estimated at \$350,000 or 3.7%. This deficit is minimal given the global pandemic. Put into context, accumulated General Fund resources could maintain a deficit of this magnitude for 7-years. The takeaway is that the City continues to have time for the revenue environment to stabilize before initiating significant operational changes.

Individual items to note in the attached Q2 Financial Performance Report include:

Property Tax Exceeding Expectations – The Q2 Report benefits from November tax receipts. The City receives 90%-92% of total property tax receipts in November and December. Trends indicate that property taxes will come in roughly \$80,000 or 2.5% over budget. Approximately \$265 thousand of the \$3.1 Million in expected FY2020-21 property tax is attributable to the onetime "pause" in Heights and Waterfront Urban Renewal division of tax. This pause in urban renewal tax division which will not continue

into FY2021-22

One-time Payments

FY2020-21 includes several one-time expenses to reduce ongoing liabilities. The largest is a \$1.64 million deposit into a PERS Side Account that drew an additional \$410 Thousand in state matching funds. The General Fund's fair proportion of this deposit is \$736,601 as shown in the attached report. This investment will generate "rate credits" resulting in lower future PERS charges. The PERS Fund earned 7.66% in 2020. This compares to the 0.75% the City is earning on funds held in the Oregon Treasury's short-term bond fund.

Lodging, Parking, and Municipal Court Revenues Continue to Lag – Lodging taxes have recovered significantly from Spring lows but remained about 25% below normal in November and December. Parking and Municipal Court revenues are recovering even more sluggishly. Parking meter receipts remain stubbornly low at roughly 45% below normal.

Ambulance Revenues Exceeding Budget – A grim outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic is a bump in ambulance revenues from increased interfacility transports. Based solely on trend, ambulance revenues are on track to exceed \$1 Million. The Q2 Report anticipates ambulance revenues to slow as the vaccine is administered and case counts decline going into the summer months.

State Marijuana Taxes Diverted – The drug decriminalization voter initiative approved on the November ballot diverts the majority of state marijuana tax revenues for regional drug treatment facilities. The League of Oregon Cities estimates that cities will experience a 73% reduction in ongoing state marijuana tax distributions. This change does not impact local marijuana taxes.

Engineering Department Exceeding Budget – The general engineering department primarily serves development, either reviewing proposals or writing standards. Because of this, expenditures are driven largely by the pace of development. The department spent 89% of its full-year budget in the first half of FY2020-21 and is expected to need a budget adjustment before yearend. The new development review contract awarded by City Council on December 14th, 2020, and decision to bring the City Engineer position in-house is intended to better control Engineering Department costs going forward.

Gas Taxes Improving – Both state and local gas taxes are recovering, reaching pre-pandemic levels for the month of December. This resulted in an upward revision to yearend estimates as compared to the Q1 Report. However, both tax sources will end the year down due to lost revenue from the summer months.

Staff recommendation to Council is to receive and file quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2020.

Council accepted the report.

V ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

A. Department Heads

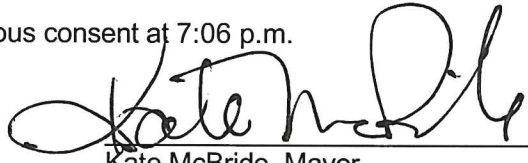
VI MAYOR

1. Landmarks Board Member Reappointment

Motion: I move to request Mayor McBride to reappoint Cindy Walbridge and Scott Sorensen to the Landmarks Board for a 3-year term.
First: Saunders
Second: Zanmiller
Discussion: None
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie, Rivera
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Excused: None

VII COUNCIL CALL

VIII ADJOURN – Adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:06 p.m.


Kate McBride, Mayor
Jennifer Gray, City Recorder

Approved by City Council on 2-22-2021