

**City of Hood River
City Council Work Session
October 15, 2019**

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

Staff: City Manager Rachael Fuller, City Attorney Dan Kearns, Finance Director/ACM Will Norris, Planning Director Dustin Nilsen, Fire Chief Leonard Damian, Police Chief Neal Holste, Interim Public Works Director Wade Seaborn, Building Official Danielle Meyers, City Recorder Jennifer Gray

Absent:

I CALL TO ORDER – Cell Phone Reminder – 6:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement Statement and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor McBride stated she would be moving item number one under Mayors Call, Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution 2019-13 to follow Business from the Audience.

II BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Tracey Tomashpol, Hood River, OR – stated she is here to talk about extending the reach of City meetings to people who are interested in City issues but cannot always attend and participate in person. She provided information regarding livestreaming. She explained the City of The Dalles livestreams their meetings. She reached out to their City Clerk and was given the contact for Open Media Foundation. That is the organization that helped The Dalles set up their streaming service. Tomashpol prepared a document (English and Spanish) and sent it to Fuller to share with Council. The document has information about how to get livestreaming started. She stated the effort and investment is small. Open Media platform and software will take the archive videos and provide Spanish language, or up to 60 other languages in translation. She understands the City is already considering this, but she wanted to show everyone that it is doable, affordable and reasonable.

Lyric Emmons, made a statement on behalf of the Earth Action Club at Hood River Valley High School.

“By choosing to pass the resolution endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency in the city of Hood River and requesting regional collaboration on an immediate and just restoration effort to restore a safe climate, we would be choosing to invest in our future. Passing and upholding the resolution would entail the halt of all new fossil fuel infrastructure and the use of technologies that rely on fossil fuels, which would require green alternatives. Endorsing this resolution would create jobs and benefit communities which have historically been involved in the fossil fuel economy. This resolution would help end the city of Hood River’s greenhouse gas emissions and would initiate an effort to draw down carbon from the atmosphere. All of these actions would help restore our climate and keep us from reaching higher temperature levels,

which would wreak havoc on our environment and lives, and drive us into a mass extinction. In order to prevent this from happening, we need to take action and declare a climate emergency in the city of Hood River. Thank you.”

Judy Zimmerman, Chairperson of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries – she thanked Council for the chance to speak to them and for the work Council does for the community. She wanted to recognize local area tribe people as the original habitants of this land. She stated everywhere we have been, indigenous people have been. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day takes a step towards recognizing that reality and the bitter residues of colonization. There is deep regret for the harm that has been caused. The City of Hood River is a part of a growing movement that is sweeping the County, with over 129 cities officially declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day. This day calls for a better understanding of our history and the day also reminds everyone of core values; striving to be a community of inclusion. The City is commended for its leadership. The Gorge Ecumenical Ministry remains committed to collaborating with the City to make these community values visible. The resolution must be more than words.

Peter Cornelison, representing Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network.

“Within decades we face the collapse of civilization because of the destruction of the living world, yet we continue in collective denial. We need our institutions to tell the truth to motivate us to solve the crisis. Words matter.

The goal of the climate movement and government must be to lead the public out of normal mode and into emergency mode. This is not the same as panic mode.

Emergency mode is characterized by an extreme focus of attention and resources working productively to solve the emergency. When people are in emergency mode, they experience heightened focus, perception and abilities, some enter a state of flow.

Usually emergencies take hours or days to resolve, but people can and do also enter long emergencies that last for years. Think of long acting cancer, poverty or the Second World War. Essential to long emergencies is the human capacity for dedication and commitment.

We cannot count on people entering emergency mode on their own. Rather, we need to accomplish it through education, organizing and setting an example. The role of government and the climate movement should be to enter emergency mode ourselves and lead the public there.

These are the words of psychologist Margaret Klein Salamon PhD, leader of The Climate Mobilization organization where we obtained the draft resolution. Key documents on this site provide the well thought out foundation and rationale for declaring a Climate Emergency.

If you pass this resolution tonight you will be the first government in the Pacific Northwest to do so. Please exert leadership and declare an emergency. Together with the Hood River Energy Plan it will make a difference. We don't have much time left.”

Lottie Bromham, Hood River, OR

“The Last time I spoke before this council I told you stories. Stories of how we are already facing the impacts of Climate Change. I will not do that today. Instead, I will tell you that you have a chance at being on the right side of history. You have the opportunity to be the city councilors who put our planet and its people first.

You can pass this climate resolution and declare Hood River in a state of climate emergency. But you have reservations that may make this dream unattainable. You fear dropping everything and just focusing on climate change, but why? Surely you all must know that if nothing is done now, future generations will not have Hood River we know today. Surely, you understand that the climate crisis is not an independent issue, but one that will affect and has already affected

dozens of other issues. Surely, you understand that nothing will matter anymore if we don't have an earth to live on.

And surely, you must know that by calling the climate crisis what it is and actually enacting the goals in the energy Plan, you can help save Hood River before it's too late. Thank you."

Eric Strid, Hood River, OR – he is representing the Columbia Gorge Climate Network as well as the Hood River Energy Council. He believes the resolution with some reference to the Hood River Energy Plan would help get Hood River on the map. He believes the Hood River County Energy Plan is a really good plan compared to a lot of other plans. He believes they need to prioritize the Energy Plan and what they are already working on. It should target the reduction of fossil fuel usage because of the co-benefits. He explained cutting back on fossil fuels would also save a lot of money. He recommends that Council adopt the resolution, with references to accelerate the energy plan.

Mayor McBride read the approved Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution 2019-13.

III PRESENTATIONS

1. Upcoming Warming Shelter Operation, S. Kellems

Kellems stated on behalf of some of the most vulnerable members of the community, she wanted to thank Council for their support of the warming shelter. City funding helps support staffing and open community collaboration with City staff and departments. Kellems shared information that accompanied the materials included in the meeting packet. The Hood River Shelter Services has operated a winter shelter for 9 years, in order to meet their mission to compassionately provide a safe place to meet the basic needs for those without shelter during the winter. From the beginning they have had strong community support from individuals, faith-based communities and many businesses such as Providence and United Way. During last year's season, they were open for 120 consecutive nights and served 107 individual guests. Over 100 community volunteers served more than 750 volunteer shifts, to make shelter operations possible. In order to meet the increasing need in Hood River County, they have shifted from an entirely volunteer base operations, to adding paid staff. Primary services included shelter, meals, warm clothing, toiletries, shower passes and access to laundry. Kellems spoke about the onsite visits by community partners and local business that provide meals for their guests every night. They are preparing to open November 18. The shelter will be open from 6pm to 7am through March 8 at Riverside Church.

Thanks to funding provided by the Ford Family Foundation, in May of this year Hood River Shelter Services adopted a three-year strategic plan after working with an outside consultant. Their four objectives; to secure stable long-term funding, better meet the needs of their guests, redefine the organizational structure and secure a long-term facility. Kellems spoke about the increasing need for a year-round shelter in Hood River County; current number has almost reached 100. Increasing the regional and statewide crisis response system, is critical to addressing the crisis of homelessness, and will require the collaboration of State agencies with local agencies and organizations. Stakeholders in Hood River have met the last two springs. Member of this group came from a wide range of local agencies, who serve people who are experiencing homeless in the community. Mayor Blackburn convened these meetings. Participants shared experiences and challenges in serving the homeless of the community. They indicated a commitment to continuing to work with the hope that goal setting would lead to actionable steps to better serve the unhoused community members. With the change in City leadership, the stakeholder's group has been on hold. However, Mark Thomas shared that Providence has allocated \$5,000 toward hiring a facilitator for this group. This is an important step to guide the collaborative work toward goals,

actions and outcomes. It is Kellems hope the City will allocate staff, Council or Mayoral time to participate in this group so, as a community, they can come together to support people who are in need. She thanked Council for their time addressing this difficult matter and for supporting the work that is done. Council is welcome to tour the warming shelter.

Councilor Zanmiller added there are two trainings scheduled, if anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer.

Mayor McBride stated she will reach out to former Mayor Blackburn to discuss his past involvement. She is happy to continue the Mayor's role in participating.

WORK SESSION

IV OPEN WORK SESSION – 6:40 p.m.

V AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

VI DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Safety Community Summer Recap, Chief Holste, Chief Damian

The Hood River Police Department and Hood River Fire & EMS are tasked with ensuring the City of Hood River is safe and welcoming. Police Chief Holste and Fire Chief Damian provided a summer recap from June 2019 through September 2019.

Calls for service at the Police Department continue to increase, as well as reports written by officers. DUII arrests increased by 6%, and drug arrests increased by 24% from last summer (June-September). Chief Holste reviewed the type of drugs seized during arrests; methamphetamine had the highest percentage. Theft reports decreased by 13% from last summer, and theft arrests increased by 8%. A total of 1,070 traffic citations were issued during the summer season. There was a total of 472 pieces of evidence submitted and processed by Morgan. Code Enforcement was down 39%. Parking enforcement issued 4416 citations. Chief Holste spoke about his department's community events and outreach.

The Fire Department had a total of 673 incidents this summer. Chief Damien stated since 2012, there has been an annual increase of 10% in calls for service. He stated EMS calls are 50% call volume and the other 50% is telemedicine. Telemedicine is becoming more popular at Providence. There was an increase in reliance on Hood River Fire Department outside of their ASA. The Fire Department does several public outreach programs; Radio Tierra, childcare centers, school tours and visits to May Street Elementary. The Medal of Valor was given to several City police officers and City firefighters for their response to a fire on August 11, 2018. FEMA granted Hood River County the 2018 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant; this replaced a total of 89 air packs.

Fuller stated she wants to applaud the work of both Chiefs, as well as the other departments. Some of these organizations were built in a different time, for a different set of circumstances. There are terrific ideas coming out of the departments, as to how they can better meet the needs of the people they serve. There are needs but the first thing managers need to do is look within. Look how they can change and adapt to how they deliver those services.

The PowerPoint presentation was added to the record. No action was taken by City Council.

2. Development Trends and Process Improvement Update, D. Nilsen, D. Meyers

After a record year for housing and development activity in 2018, staff produced a 2019 (year-to-date) development overview to compare housing and development activity over the past decade. 2019 housing numbers trended down from 2018 but are generally in-line with development rates over the last decade. The table in the packet includes a two-decade overview of housing units completed and broken down by different housing product types.

Based on its 2015 Housing Needs Analysis, the City needs to produce approximately 100 units per year to keep pace with demand. Typical development levels for housing production over the past decade indicate that approximately 48 units per year (half that is needed) come online annually.

The post-recession record of housing completions were not the only noteworthy trend of 2018. General development activity, as measured by construction work valuation, showed an increase in new permits initiated in 2018, resulting in construction activity throughout 2019. Construction valuation grew 75% from 2017 to 2018. Major projects that contributed to the activity levels and valuation include One Community Health and May Street School redevelopments.

A key goal of the 2019 City Work Plan adopted by Council is the creation of opportunities for an inclusive and diverse housing inventory. And one of the areas where the City is directly involved in housing opportunity creation is through the regulatory permitting and land entitlement processes.

In support of the housing opportunity goal, the City initiated a series of process improvements, based on outreach and survey efforts that gathered staff, customer, and developer feedback. These process improvements impact the effectiveness of the organization, service levels, and overall customer experience. A short list of the process improvement projects include the standardization of office hours for Building and Planning; the co-location of Building and Planning operations at City Hall; the update of numerous application forms and manuals; the update City Engineering Manual and Standards; and the update of project intake checklist for Building and Engineering permits.

Further process improvements and accomplishments from 2019 include the establishment of the Building Department as an in-house service; the approval of an IGA with Hood River County Building for shared services; the publication of the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) Maps online for customers and public access; the approval of a personal service contract with 4 state-approved building inspection and plan review consultants; the online publication of the new city-published website with customer facing features that improve access to codes and forms; and the initiation of the Permit Enhancement Project.

In the report and presentation, staff gave additional details regarding the development activity and process improvement efforts. No Council action was taken. The PowerPoint presentation was added to the record.

There was discussion regarding the increase in demolitions within the City. Councilor Coughlin stated he was shocked having not been notified of a demo next to his residence. He stated

notifications should be considered moving forward. Meyers will check to see what other jurisdictions do for notification of demolitions.

Areas where process improvement can impact the effectiveness of the organization, service levels, and development incentives materialize in several business areas. Areas where the improvements to process typically manifest in the areas: customer service, process predictability, staff and process efficiency, public transparency and greater compliance.

Permit Enhancement Project Goals: Streamline and Track Internal Processes through Building-Engineering-Planning and Fire reviews by leveraging capabilities of digital plan review, documents archival, and permit processing technologies. Phase 1 – Building Permit Process Enhancement. Expand the use of current State Accela e-Permitting system for Building permits to include use by Planning and Engineering staff. Phase 2 – Engineering Permit Process Enhancement. Implement the e-Permitting Public Works module (or other software) to track Engineering permits, i.e. Right-of-Way (ROW) and Construction Site Permits (CSP). Phase 3 – Planning Project Process Enhancement. Implement the e-Permitting Planning module (or other software) to track the Planning department land use decisions of various types.

Some of the threshold questions that need to be answered prior to implementation: Will the State managed Accela meet the needs of Planning and Engineering? Will document strategies allow the move from paper submittals towards e-plan review and archival? How does the City best engage with community throughout phase implementation to generate feedback? Nilsen stated the City will prepare a request for proposals and qualifications for a project manager, to support implementation and coordination efforts of the project.

What is on the horizon: Staff will continue to manage current workload while investing time in process and code improvements. RFP for permit enhancement Project Manager. Staff recruitment, RPF, and additional IGA for Building Department support. Public Works and Engineering Staff recruitment process and Planning Development Code Revisions

VII ADJOURN WORK SESSION – 7:51p.m.

Break 7:51p.m. – 7:56p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

I OPEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:56 p.m.

II AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – removal of Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution under Mayors Call. It was approved at the beginning of the meeting.

III CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2019- REMOVED
2. Sale of Sanitary Line to DMS Ranch, LLC, W. Seaborn

Mayor McBride removed the Council meeting minutes from the consent agenda. Council will send changes to Gray.

Councilor Haynie explained he will be recusing himself from the discussion and vote regarding the

Sale of Sanitary Line to DMA Ranch.

Councilor Zanmiller asked what the dollar amount is for the sale, he did not see it. Seaborn stated there is no dollar amount. There is a mutual promises and other valuable consideration. DMS Ranch has proposed taking ownership of the portion of the City's sanitary sewer line within their property. They would assume all maintenance and operation responsibilities. It would become a private sanitary lateral, typical of sanitary service lines on private property.

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.
First: Saunders
Second: Metta
Discussion: Haynie stated he will be recusing himself from the vote.
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta
Nays: None
Abstentions: Haynie
Excused: None

IV REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

V REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. Department Heads
 - 1. Announcements
 - 2. Planning Director Update

VI MAYOR

1. Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution 2019-13 – REMOVED from Regular Meeting Resolution was approved and read by Mayor McBride after business from the audience.

2. Climate Change Resolution

Council discussed the climate change resolution presented by the Hood River Valley High School Earth Action Club and Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network on September 23, 2019.

Environmental sustainability is a 2019 Work Plan goal with the identified project: implement the energy plan. In February 2018, the City Council approved resolution 2018-02, an Organizational Commitment to the Hood River County Energy Plan.

Councilor Zanmiller likes Councilor Haynie's revised resolution. He's unsure if it should be a resolution or a proclamation. He believes Council should continue to say what they have been saying but keep it simple. He doesn't want to tie the City's hands in some unintended way. Pointing to the City's Energy Plan is what he sees as their biggest and best work towards this goal. He supports having language stating "we recognize there is a climate emergency."

Councilor Saunders stated she likes the general idea of this. There are parts of the resolution that are a little beyond what the City can do. She would like the resolution to be narrowed down to what the City can do; things that are achievable at their scale.

Councilor Haynie stated when he read the resolution, it struck him as something that is very important for Council to consider. There are youth involved in the community talking about this.

It is important to consider this. If he had a concern, it would be that it's biting off quite a bit. He understands that is part of the goal but if they are really going to do this, they have to be prepared to do it. They can't pass a resolution and have it in a file cabinet. The resolution is saying very significant things; reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2030. This makes him think about a number of things. Are they going to have emission standards, and how will they deal with fossil fuels? It can really impact things. He is concerned with practicalities and making sure if they are going to do this, they will really live up to it.

Councilor Coughlin stated he supports the proposed resolution as it is written. He believes it is the whole point of the resolution; do what it states and do it fast. That is the whole point. Reducing the carbon emissions to zero in 10 years is a large piece, but it is a goal. He agrees with the proponents. He believes they are at a stage where they really need to think about doing something drastic. He suggested going through the resolution and discuss what is and isn't achievable.

Councilor Metta felt there are a lot of things in the proposed resolution that are not under the purview of the City. She is interested in reducing those, similar to what Councilor Saunders stated. She feels there are items in the proposed resolution that would take a greater commitment of Council's Work Plan and resources. Maybe that is what Council wants to do, but she feels that is a conversation for the Work Plan. She does not feel this is the time or place to wordsmith the resolution.

Council Coughlin and Councilor Saunders agreed to work together to rewrite a resolution to bring back for Councils consideration.

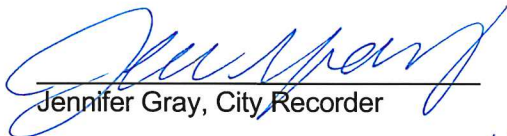
VII COUNCIL CALL

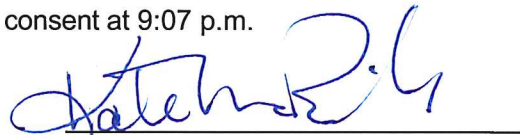
VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:32 p.m. – 9:07 p.m.

Oregon Revised Statute 192.660 1 (e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Oregon Revised Statute 192.660 1 (d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

IX ADJOURN – Adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:07 p.m.


Jennifer Gray, City Recorder


Kate McBride, Mayor

Approved by City Council on 11/25/19