



CITY OF MYRTLE CREEK

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 7, 2023

PLACE: Council Chambers, 207 NW Pleasant St., Myrtle Creek, Oregon

PRESIDING OFFICER: Council President Susan Harris

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors: Bill Burnett, Diana Larson, Robert Chaney, Sr., Luke Dillon (conference call)

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Mayor Matthew Hald

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Administrator Lonnie Rainville, City Recorder Joanna Bilbrey, Police Chief Jonathan Brewster

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Susan Harris called the March 7, 2023 meeting to order at 5:31 PM

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

No public presentation was made.

CONSENT AGENDA

Part 1

Councilor Larson requested that it be added to the minutes her request that if any trees had to be removed that it be prior to any birds creating their nests.

Motion was made by Councilor Burnett and seconded by Councilor Larson to approve the Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2023. Discussion: no discussion followed

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Adjusting Monthly Water and Sewer Rates

City Administrator Lonnie Rainville shared with Council that the costs associated with water treatment have gone up drastically the last year and it is putting a strain on the water operations budget. With the sewer loan now paid off the City Administrator suggested that we look at reallocating sewer and water fees to avoid raising rates for consumers and balance the water and sewer funds. Water fund and sewer fund charts were shared and are attached to the permanent packet. Without any changes the water fund

Myrtle Creek City Council Minutes

March 7, 2023

Page 1 of 3

will be in a deficit. For citizen inside the City limits this option will cause no change to their bill, for those that have City water outside the City limits some decisions will have to be made. Those accounts currently pay a double water rate so we will have to look at whether we pass on the double rate or if we just add the set increase. Councilor Chaney asked if the fees were set by Ordinance or Resolution. Councilor Larson asked about the effect on individuals that have City water but do not have City sewer. It was recommended to table the item to gather information that would clarify the presented questions.

Review of Agreement between City of Myrtle Creek and Myrtle Creek Rural Fire District

This is just a notice to Council that the agreement between the City of Myrtle Creek and the Myrtle Creek Rural Fire District is expiring on June 30, 2023. The City Administrator will be contacting representatives of the Myrtle Creek Rural Fire District to begin negotiations. He does not see that there will be a lot that changes to the contract.

Dedication Plaques and Benches at City Parks

Councilor Chaney asked that the City policy regarding memorial plaques and benches in City parks be reviewed by the Park Commission. He mentioned that criteria would need to be established for the benches and plaques.

Motion was made by Councilor Chaney to send this to the Parks Commission to take a look at the establishment of memorials in the City Parks. Motion seconded by Councilor Burnett. Discussion: no discussion followed

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 847 – FIRST READ – An Ordinance Establishing a Public Safety Fee to Equitably Spread the Cost of Public Safety Services

City Administrator Lonnie Rainville shared with Council that our City Budget is based on property taxes which only allows for a 3% increase each year. Currently the Police and Court Budget is about half of the general fund, the other half of the budget covers all other departments. By adding this fee to the general fund and allocating it to Police Operations the budget is softened for all other departments. Chief Brewster shared with Council a list of items that the Police Department has to purchase each year and the cost increases associated with these items.

Motion was made by Councilor Larson to approve the first read of Ordinance 847 – An Ordinance Establishing a Public Safety Fee to Equitably Spread the Cost of Public Safety Services allowing the City to implement a public safety fee to be listed in the Handbook of Fees and Charges effective July 1, 2023.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Burnett. Discussion: Councilor Luke Dillon asked if this Ordinance would open up the ability for fees to be continually raised. The City Administrator shared that any fee increases have to be brought before Council for approval. Councilor Chaney asked if the motion should include the set fee of \$4.

Councilor Larson and Councilor Burnett recinded their motions.

Motion was made by Councilor Larson to approve the first read of Ordinance 847 – An Ordinance Establishing a Public Safety Fee of \$4 to Equitably Spread the Cost of Public Safety Services allowing the City to implement a public safety fee to be listed in the Handbook of Fees and Charges effective July 1, 2023. Motion was seconded by Councilor Burnett. Discussion: Councilor Larson caught a misspelling to be corrected on the final draft of the Ordinance.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

City Administrator Lonnie Rainville shared with Council that if the second read is approved he would like to start getting information out to the public by May about the increase so that there is at least 60 days notice of the increases. Audience member and Utility Billing Clerk Krissy Chandler asked that an information meeting be set for the public prior to the second read to allow community input. Council decided to table the second read until an informational meeting could be scheduled.

CITIZENS HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No items were presented.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

City Administrator Lonnie Rainville shared with Council that he and the Finance Officer have been working on putting the budget packets together. The Souther Oregon Blues Festival is being moved to Winston. The Neil Lane subdivision is hoping to break ground in May weather depending. The City Administrator shared that he put in an application with Senator Merkley’s office for funding for the Water Plant expansion and to replace 5000 feet of water lines.

MAYOR AND COUNCILOR – COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Larson commended the City Administrator on the city’s water system. She also shared that the recent publicity regarding a warming center has caused the church that was sponsoring the local warming center to regroup. Councilor Harris shared that the Citizen of the Year Banquet is scheduled for April 15, 2023 at the Myrtle Creek Grange and will be catered by Mid Town Grill. Nomination forms are out and can be dropped off at Trueblood Real Estate or Happy Donut.

ADJOURNMENT

City Council President Susan Harris adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council for March 7, 2023 at 6:11 P.M.

Matthew Hald, Mayor

Attest:

Joanna Bilbrey

City Recorder

Myrtle Creek City Council Minutes

March 7, 2023

Page 3 of 3