

CITY OF WHEELER

CITY COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

September 17th, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present On Site:

City Council: Gordon Taylor, Deanne Ragnell, Walt Porter, Clif Kemp, Karen Matthews

City Staff: Wes Wootten

Guests: Garry Gitzen, TJ Fiorelli, Doug Olson, Patty Olson, Mary Leverette, Dennis Cozart,
Edith Rohde, Denise Donohue, Shannon Foote, Brad Foote, Ken Forcier, Mike
Anderson

Absent: Heidi Stacks

Consent Calendar

Councilor Ragnell made a motion to approve minutes from June 18th and August 20th, 2024.

Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. **The motion was passed 4-0.** (Yes: Taylor, Matthews, Porter, Ragnell; No: none)

City Manager Wootten read the August Financial Report Finance Director Madi Chesnut prepared.

Presentations, Guests, Announcements

SB 406 and URD Updates

A contract planner provided an update on Senate Bill 406 and its implications for the city's Urban Renewal District. They discussed feedback sought from the council and explained the requirements and challenges related to the bill.

County Ballot Measure 29-180 - Adventist Health

County Commissioner Olsen gave a presentation on the radio system bond measure on the ballot this November, explaining its impact on public safety and addressing questions regarding funding and emergency response improvements.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Mike Anderson

Mike Anderson said he would like a quarterly line-item city budget report.

Lea Honeycutt Letter

A letter from a community member relaying her feelings regarding previous discussions at council meetings regarding the Norm Laknes sign at the train station.

City Manager and Public Works Department Reports

City Manager Wootten read the City Manager and Public Works reports. A copy of both can be found on the city website.

Public Hearings

No specific notes were provided on public hearings during this meeting.

Old Business

Nuisance Updates

Nuisance Updates were skipped this month due to Councilor Stacks absence.

Urban Renewal District Next Steps

Plans for the next steps concerning the Urban Renewal District were deferred to a future meeting for more comprehensive planning and alignment.

Nuisance Code Update

Adjustments to the city nuisance code were under discussion, particularly around defining permissible property conditions and enforcement measures.

New Business

Planning Commission Applications

Two applications for Planning Commission positions were reviewed and approved by the council.

Motion: To accept the application of Dennis Cozart for the Planning Commission. Result: Approved Moved by: Councilor Matthews Seconded by: Councilor Taylor

Motion: To accept the application of Shannon Foote for the Planning Commission. Result: Approved Moved by: Councilor Matthews Seconded by: Councilor Taylor

August Police Safety Report

The August Police Safety report was reviewed with limited discussion, focusing on community safety and law enforcement activities.

Resolution 2024-20 - ORS 366.514 Exemption

Discussion occurred regarding the financial implications and potential decision to opt out of certain state transportation funds. This agenda item requires further research and additional review.

Proclamation 2024-02 - Emergency Preparedness Month

The council officially declared September 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Month, promoting community readiness for diverse emergencies.

Motion: To adopt Proclamation 2024-02 declaring September 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Month. Result: Approved Moved by: Councilor Matthews Seconded by: Councilor Taylor

Committee Reports

Waterfront Development

The Waterfront Development Committee presented a report that included revisions and updates to development plans.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation shared highlights from recent events and discussed future projects and maintenance concerns with elements like trail pathways.

Salmonberry Trail Update

The Salmonberry Trail update was brief and noted continued progress.

Business Roundtable Meeting Update

Discussion arose around forming new business entities and organizational structures involving local business groups.

WET

The emergency team reported on efforts to improve preparedness within neighborhoods and integrate new committee members for tranquil emergency response operations.

Port of Nehalem

No update was provided.

Planning Commission

Recent planning activities and code adaptation discussed previously were reiterated, underscoring the planning commission's ongoing reviews.

Mayor and Councilor Comments

The councilors provided the final comments reiterating concerns raised during the meeting and commendations on procedural progress.

Adjournment

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to close at 8:10 PM.

Dated: August 20, 2024

Clif Kemp, Mayor

Wes Wootten, City Manager/Recorder

Recorder: Wes Wootten