

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE ST., ECHO, OREGON.**

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**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt, Mayor Jeanie Hampton, Tammie Williams, Chad Ray, Robert Harris

**ABSENT:** Dick Yoder

**STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT:** David Slaght, City Administrator-Recorder; Peggy Haines – Clerk; Justin Northern, PW Director; Ken Hendrix, PW II

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Thew, Bill & Judy Webb, James Shelton, Alvin Umphres, Jonathan Lopez, Kent & Laura Madison, Randy Sperr, Frank & Laurie Nelsen, Joe Ramos, Jeff & Toni Roach, Brian Cimmiyotti, Nate Rivera, Dana & Pam Reese, Ron Hinkle, Justin Morris, Bryon Zumwalt.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jeanie Hampton led the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Nate Rivera talked about the Greater Hermiston Opportunity Foundation and grants that are available for up to \$10,000. Jonathan Lopez informed the group that he is running for a county commissioner seat and wanted to be available if anyone had question for him. Justin Morris wanted to let the city know that the fire department is planning on going out for another revenue bond to pay for some facility expansion on the current fire department building in Echo. He needs to fill out a Building/ Zoning Permit to submit to the state. Dave will work with him on this. Kent Madison suggested that the fire department consider waiting and putting up a facility in the proposed project site north of town. Brian Cimmiyotti from the Red to Red bike race informed the council of their intent to run the race this March and that he wanted to make sure that its was ok to close off a portion of both Bridge & Dupont for the finish line. The council didn't have any issues with this as long as he filled out all of the permits. He has already completed those.

The council voted to approve the Red to Red event. Robert made a motion to approve; Janie seconded; VOTE All ayes, motion carries.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 council meeting minutes. Chad moved to approve; Tammie seconded; VOTE All ayes, motion carries.

**POLICE REPORT:** Mayor mentioned that she is getting good feedback on the report being put in the monthly newsletter. Bryon came in later in the meeting and said that he has brought on two reserve deputies who will be attending the academy this winter.

**GOLF COURSE REPORT:** Randy talked about the approval of the grant for the new greens mower and that it has been ordered. He talked about several winter routine projects to get the equipment and golf course ready for the up coming season.

Randy presented the rate hike proposed for fees that is laid out in resolution 465-2020. Chad explained some of the financial history that he received from Dave earlier in the week. He had been concerned about raising rates and losing usership, but now he feels this is a good business decision.

**RESOLUTION 465-2020** – Chad moved to approve with the noted changes from the discussion; Robert seconded; VOTE All Ayes, motion carries.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Justin talked about the work he has been doing to make sure the Small-Town Allotment from the state is taken care of for the upcoming year and finishing up the paper work on the previous projects. He has been working with Dave on goal setting for the coming year to prioritize the projects. Working on the shop and finishing with the grant that he got to supply the PW department with much needed tools and equipment.

Robert asked about the accessibility of the Arboretum and if it was open. The council thanked Justin and Ken for their hard work and also the recent snow removal they did.

**PRESENTATION:** Joe Ramos talked with the council and audience about the Care Van service provided free for appointments at Good Shepherd Facilities. He explained how it works and the benefits of the program to our community. There is also a need for volunteer drivers and they are seeking our help to get the word out about the program and volunteers.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Goal planning. The meeting was set for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM upstairs in the Community Center at Echo City Hall. Robert made a motion to set the meeting; Jerry seconded; VOTE All ayes, motion carries

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor discussed her ideas of giving out a “key to the city” award to those long time Echo residence, specifically mentioned were folks who turn 100 years old.

Robert made a motion to adopt the “key to the city” award for folks that the council want to recognize for turning 100 and living in Echo; Chad seconded; VOTE: All ayes, motion carries.

18'-19' Audit adoption – Dave talked about some of the fund issues, but that it is manageable and we are moving in the right direction. Chad moved that the 18'-19' Audit be adopted as presented; Tammie seconded; VOTE: All ayes, motion carries. Janie asked the council if we could look into getting an ordinance on the books to address homeless camps and how to deal with them in the future. Dave said he would look into it.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 464-2020** - Stanfield & Echo Enterprise Zone  
Dave explained what this enterprise zone could mean for Echo down the road and how its supposed to work. Robert made a motion to approve; Chad seconded; VOTE; ayes, motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bill Webb expressed his displeasure of any growth that may occur in Echo. "Its not going to be Unicorns, lollypops and rainbows when the city is left holding the bag".

Kent Madison asked about where the city was with the re-zoning process in regards to the proposed North Gate Project. No current work has been done on it was Dave's reply.

James Shelton commented that annexation is not a one shot and your done process, it takes a lot of time and rules to follow.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being as there is no further business before the council a motion to adjourn was made by Tammie; seconded by Chad at 5:10 PM; VOTE: All ayes - Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mayor, Eujeana Hampton

Attest:

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David Slaght/ City Administrator