

CITY OF SUMPTER
COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

- a) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- b) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE – Mayor Wise, Councilor Demaris, Councilor Briscoe, Councilor Brandt, Councilor Smith
- c) VISITORS – John Young, Debbie Bliss, Greg Bliss, Al Jones

APPROVE MINUTES

- a) MSP: To accept the January 24, 2023, Council Meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Demaris/Councilor Brandt. All Councilors approved.

REPORTS

- a) Volunteer Fire Department – John Young
 - i) The department held medical training refreshers. Members were getting hands on time with rescue equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) PAY BILLS, GASLIN ACCOUNTING – Rob Gaslin was not able to attend; his usual report was not available for review. The full financial report will be presented at the February 28th council meeting. City bills were reviewed, and a few were higher, the most visible bill was for rental equipment from Eastern Oregon Rentals at a cost of >\$13,000 to repair frozen water mains in the city. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Brandt motioned to adjust payment to Hughes to \$200 and approve and pay the city bills. All Councilors approved.
- b) AUTHORIZATION OF PAY AMOUNT, CITY RECORDER – establish a purchasing limit for office supplies, etc. for the city recorder of \$200. The previous city council approved Councilor Briscoe with a spending limit of \$2000 for sewer and water supplies. MSP: Councilor Demaris/Brandt motioned to approve a spending limit of \$2000 for Councilor Briscoe and a spending limit of \$200 for the City Recorder without coming to the Council. All Councilors approved.
- c) SHORT TERM RENTALS (STR) – Councilor Demaris has been researching STR rules in other cities around Oregon. She stated that it may be possible to manage STR without conditional uses; it appears that the application process would be sufficient. A six-city sampling yielded nearly identical rules for managing STR and the associated transient taxes. The current focus is on how to balance the needs of business owners and residents. Another STR public meeting will be scheduled following discussion in zoning/planning meetings. As with the previous public meeting, the city council's objective is to solicit open and frank discussion and feedback.
- d) FLEA MARKETS – the flea markets will be handled as they were in 2022; the city will host Memorial Day and Labor Day [which includes the Grounds] while the SVCV and merchants will host the Fourth of July festivities in the downtown area. The volunteers offered their assistance during Memorial and Labor days in whatever capacity the city needs. The SVCV will send a broadcast email (MailChimp) to vendors stating that the Fourth of July market is on. The city will send letters for Memorial and Labor Day markets and devise a plan for personnel needed to handle the usual services: vendor registration, garbage removal, restroom cleaning, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

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- a) **OFFICE SECURITY INSTALLATION** – the preferred keyless entry unit must have data logging capabilities and a physical key override. These units cost north of \$120. Research continues to identify the best brand at the lowest cost. Councilor Demaris reminded the council that Jenny Long offered used security cameras for the city shop.
- b) **MUSEUM/LIBRARY CONTRACT** – on the advice of legal counsel, the contract for use of the building should be split out; one for the library, one for the museum. Currently, the city has a memorandum of understanding with the museum. Tony, the museum Director, is on the agenda for the February 28, 2023, city council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENT

- a) **Councilor Smith** – expressed a concern for snow build up on the roof of the museum. It was suggested to investigate a grant for an exterior ladder or stairs to facilitate snow removal. Another payment option could be transient tax revenues. However, the use of those taxes may be earmarked for other purposes. Additional investigation of the building codes and transient tax use is needed for this potential project.
- b) **Mayor Wise** – OTEC is applying for a federal grant that could improve electrical infrastructure in its member areas. The emphasis is on protecting the grid in the event of wildfire. The grant would ultimately benefit OTEC's members. OTEC has requested Sumpter sign a letter of affirmation to be included in the grant application. **MSP: Councilors Demaris/Smith motioned to approve the signing of the letter. All Councilors approved.**


PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:34 PM

MSP: To adjourn. Councilor Brandt/Councilor Briscoe. All Councilors approved.

Approved by the City Council this 28th day of February 2023.

Approved: 

Attested: 
Matt Armstrong, City Recorder