



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056**

Disclaimer: These minutes are intended to summarize the conversations that took place in this meeting rather than provide a full transcript. Anyone wishing to view the full conversation can find a recording of this meeting on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=taYQRyT_wpU.

Call to Order

Mayor Backus called the November 6, 2023 City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joseph A. Backus	Mayor	Alexandra Rains	City Manager
Megan Greisen	Council President	Steven Lougal	Police Chief
Jeannet Santiago	Councilor	Isaac Butman	Assistant to City Manager
Kim Holmes	Councilor	Susan M. Reeves	City Recorder
Andrew Lafrenz	Councilor		
Marisa Jacobs	Councilor		

Remote: Councilor Tyler Miller; Legal Counsel Ashley Driscoll (left at 7:13pm); JAXSON (left at 7:15pm); S. Smith; and Karl Fenstermaker (joined at 7:17pm and left at 7:55pm).

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Backus explained agenda item # 4. CGI Video will be on the next City Council meeting agenda.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Holmes seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Mayor Backus thanked Jeff Weiss for organizing the Halloween trick or treating event, it was a smashing success.

Public Comments

William St. Sure, Scappoose, wanted to address a couple of concerns. The first one is the cost of living is high and going up. He explained the water and sewer rates have increased again. He is wondering why there isn't a senior citizen discount and why his sewer rate is the same as a family of six. He also talked about how fast people drive on EM Watts Road and how it doesn't seem like there is any enforcement in that area.

Chief Lougal explained they are addressing the issue on EM Watts Road; it is one of their priorities.

Consent Agenda – October 16, 2023 City Council work session minutes; October 16, 2023 City Council meeting minutes

Councilor Holmes moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda – October 16, 2023 City Council work session minutes; October 16, 2023 City Council meeting minutes. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

New Business

Proclamation ~ Recognizing October 9, 2023, As Indigenous Peoples' Day

Mayor Backus read the Recognizing October 9, 2023, As Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation.

Scappoose Response to CCFDB

Legal Counsel Ashley Driscoll went over the draft response letter. She explained if this letter or any amended letter meets the Council's needs, Council would just need to make a motion to authorize Mayor Backus to sign and send the City's response letter to the Columbia County Fire Defense Board.

Mayor Backus stated he personally appreciates the letter, and he thinks it is to what he believes and feels. He doesn't have any changes to the letter. He is hoping we can work through this and continue to work in that relationship that we have moving forward.

Councilor Santiago moved, and Councilor Jacobs seconded the motion that Council approve Mayor Backus sign the letter. Motion passed (7-0). Mayor Backus, aye; Council President Greisen, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Santiago, aye; Councilor Holmes, aye; Councilor Lafrenz, aye; and Councilor Jacobs, aye.

Council thanked Legal Counsel Ashley Driscoll.

Scappoose Adventure Festival 2023 ~ Post Event Report

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman explained on October 2 he came before Council to talk about this year's Adventure Festival, and he was asked to kind of go to our citizen committees and ask for some feedback about the event. His understanding was that Council was interested in understanding what the committees thought about the 2023 adventure festival, the event generally, then kind of looking at rebranding it. He explained one of the potential learning points from this year which came out is that the name adventure festival doesn't really align with what this event is. He went to the Economic Development Committee meeting and the Park & Rec Committee meeting, and he did get some feedback, but things also took a different kind of turn while he was at those meetings. He went over the general feedback. He thinks the biggest feedback that he got was that committee members felt that the community in the event was lacking. He explained there were some suggestions about how to bring the community back into the event. He explained there were concerns that it wasn't community oriented. He explained there were some people who are potentially interested in running this event themselves. Aligned with that also was a feeling that the event was too big or too expensive, and that the sponsorship tiers that were proposed were too expensive for the community. He explained the Committees feel like the event should be scaled back but at the same time people were really positive as they said it was great to be able to go out and get food that we don't have here. They also said it was great to go out and enjoy the activities and to spend time with family and friends. He explained they generally like the touch a truck event. He stated the Committees talked about how the integration with the Run for Neil was important. He stated but on the other hand there was kind of this larger sort of undefined lack of community. He explained there were some suggestions from parties about how that could be addressed. He explained JJ, who is a member of the Park Committee said she was interested in potentially taking this on as a community festival where the City wouldn't necessarily be doing it. He explained JJ is interested in potentially coming before Council and doing some kind of a proposal on what the event might look like. He explained in the staff report he wrote a lot about the history of how this event came about, why we're here, and why we used Treadway Events, and he thinks that still stands true today and really what it is, is we just don't really have the staff time to commit to having somebody manage and coordinate it. He explained the process that took place when planning and preparing for the Centennial Event. He explained what his role was for the last two events.

Mayor Backus explained he really did enjoy the event. He does really enjoy having a Citywide event with the music and everyone getting together. He thinks it is very important. He

personally has trouble with spending the \$90,000 especially at this time where there are a lot of other things that we can be using that money for. He stated if we could keep that big even, but somehow find a way to pay for it, that is one thing. He explained if we do have a big event, he agrees that we need a planner. He would like to see the community more involved other than just going to the event. He explained an option could be the City could sponsor and donate some money to an outside community group to do this. He talked to JJ and others and if they would like to come in and propose what their option could be and we could offer that option if anyone else wants to come in and propose a plan, we could listen to it and see which way we want to go. He would like to know how the rest of the Council feels about this topic. He stated he feels it is important to have that community event but there are a lot of different ways we can do it.

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman explained while the event was budgeted at \$90,000, the total event cost was \$130,000 and that was offset by sponsors.

Councilor Santiago gave her perspective as one of the Committee Members and a resident that was there during the Centennial. She stated her recollection was that they worked really hard to plan it. She explained Susie Wilson got most of the sponsorships of that \$75,000. She explained when Treadway came in, which was her experience at that time, was they came in and she feels they bamboozled the current volunteers that were helping out. She explained that is why she feels like a lot of the volunteers left. She explained the volunteers that stuck around were not treated very nicely and this is her opinion because she was there, it was not obvious at that time. She explained she doesn't feel the event is worth \$90,000. She explained JJ and others have shared that they want to participate. She would want to participate again and help out. She also thinks that whoever decides to put the event together should have a budget committee within that group to make sure of the cost, just to double check and to make sure it is not just one person taking care of the budgeting. She talked about how in the report it states that Treadway want to do smaller events and that the current status of the event is the smallest that they would go. She explained it doesn't even seem that our future events would be something that they would be interested in. She doesn't see the fact that we should invite them to a proposal.

Councilor Holmes explained by having more community members engaged we have a chance to really highlight some of the things that will make us as residents feel good about the community and celebrate the community but also like showcase to others who might come and visit what's great about the community and what there is to do here and bring back repeat visitors. She explained she would be in favor of kind of doing more of a community-oriented type of event but yes, also recognize that there's no way that staff could take this on. She asked is there a way to take some of the money from the budget and maybe hire a halftime person that could maybe do this plus something else.

City Manager Rains explained there are still a lot of costs that we would have to put out money for, depending on how you want this to look.

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman went over the cost of items, which would be over hiring a staff member. She talked about the idea of the City being a sponsor or we could find a way to donate money to an event to help out.

Mayor Backus would like to have JJ come to a December Council meeting to present her idea about a future event. He said we could tell Treadway what we are thinking and see if they want to present something at a much lower scale.

Councilor Jacobs asked if we could have another vendor besides Treadway?

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman replied he can most certainly look. He explained there are not a lot of local vendors in the area that do this type of work. He explained he will need a little more definition on the dollar amount.

Councilor Jacobs explained she thinks we need to understand how much we are willing to commit from a budgetary perspective to this type of event.

Mayor Backus explained the dollar amount depends on the event.

Jeff Weiss explained with planning the next event you are up against time. Ideally, he sees this being an event before school lets out because once school lets out you can't get participation from the High School or Middle School.

Mayor Backus asked Council about inviting JJ to come do a proposal at one of the December meetings or the next meeting in November.

City Manager Rains stated the only concern from our perspective is that it might be too soon for them however to Jeff's point, it is already really late in the season to be planning something for the summer so that's the other concern we have. She explained from a staff perspective we don't have any qualms about someone else doing the event and if it can be done for cheaper that is great.

Council President Greisen explained based upon the feedback that we received from the Parks and Rec Committee and the Economic Development Committee and what she is hearing from Council is that it is more of a detriment to have an outside company run an event like this. It feels less community based, they don't have local vendors, they're trying to remove that piece of the puzzle and they think by having more local organization leadership planning this event that would help get community into it. She personally doesn't know if it is in our best interest to take the time to look for an outside company that we are going to pay to do this. She really thinks that in the past we have had other events that were all community led, and the City was just a sponsor. She personally would rather be a sponsor to a group that is willing to take this one, it's community based, it's volunteer-based, without paying somebody's paycheck to put it on. She would rather donate the money and have it used directly for the event.

Mayor Backus suggested offering JJ the November 20 date to come present if she is ready.

Councilor Santiago asked Jeff Weiss if the Library is willing to take this on?

Jeff Weiss explained they have talked about this informally and he believes they are willing to take this one. He explained basically the Library would be the fiscal agent. He explained any event that the Library sponsors would have to take place at Heritage Park due to their liability insurance. He also stated there would be no beer garden.

Mayor Backus explained he has had a conversation regarding a golf tournament tied into the event.

Jeff Weiss explained the Library Board will be discussing this next week.

Announcements – information only

Calendar

Mayor Backus went over the calendar.

Updates: City Manager; Police Chief; Councilors; and Mayor

City Manager Rains thanked the Police Department for putting on the Halloween drive thru event.

Chief Lougal gave an update on the Police Department staff.

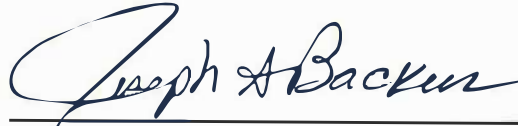
Councilor Santiago mentioned that November is Native American Month.

Council President Greisen thanked the Police Department for putting on the Halloween drive-thru, she really appreciates it. She stated great bags again this year, as Timmi Sue always nails it on the bags and her kids love getting them. She explained tomorrow they have a Traffic Safety Committee meeting, and they will have representatives from the School District to address some of the issues regarding areas around the schools and traffic safety. She stated she has her ballot in the car. Don't forget to vote. She explained she had the pleasure of working with first graders today and they talked about Veterans Day and our freedom. She explained their activity was "Because of you, I can do this" and they talked about the sacrifices that have been made from Veterans. She explained it was very sweet as students were saying I can go to my friends house; or I can go to Fred Meyer whenever I want, or I can go camping. She explained it was very lovely to see kids embrace the small things, like going to school and not taking those things for granted, because of the sacrifices that our Military has made.

Mayor Backus talked about attending the Fall Festival at Grant Watts and how it was a lot of fun. He thanked Chief Lougal for the Halloween event. He explained he had a sneak of Who-Ville at the Watts House, and it is coming along really nice. It will be open December 2, and should be a lot of fun.

Adjournment

Mayor Backus adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.



Mayor Joseph A. Backus

Attest:



City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC