



CITY OF LYONS

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025

Council Present: Councilors: Jessica Ritchie, Amy Thrasher, Diane Hyde, & Mayor Mike Wagner

Council Absent:

Employees Present: PW Richard Berkey, CM Micki Valentine

Public Present: Mel Hanna, Ned Holt, Eric Gjonnes, Teresa Gjonnes, Liz Penney

Opened w/pledge: @ 6:30 pm by Mayor Mike Wagner

Roll Call: Taken

Councilor Vacancy: The four applicants for the vacant council position are present. They are Mel Hanna, Ned Holt, Eric Gjonnes, and Liz Penney. All meet the qualifications. The council members each ask the applicants four questions about their interest in the position. Ned Holt decided to withdraw and leaves the meeting. The remaining three applicants answer the questions. Diane Hyde votes for Mel Hanna. Amy Thrasher, Jessica Ritchie, and Mike Wagner vote for Eric Gjonnes. Eric Gjonnes takes the oath of office then is seated at the council table. The four-year term will expire 12/31/2028.

Announcements (Additions to Agenda/Conflict of Interest/Ex-Parte/Bias): none

Presentations: Travis Cannoy is not present. If he comes in late, he will be given time for his presentation. North Santiam Watershed Council treats the ponds for invasives and has mentioned a possible volunteer project to plant native plants around the pond. He will be notified when that happens. We will consider, adding to the budget, having another batch of fish delivered.

Public Comment: none

Sheriff's Report: Reviewed

Consent Agenda: Council Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025 and Bills Paid January 28, 2025 – February 25, 2025. *Councilor Hyde motioned to approve – Councilor Thrasher second – Wagner, Ritchie, Thrasher, Hyde – approved – Gjonnes abstained (He hasn't had an opportunity to review.) – approved.*

Public Hearings: none

Unfinished Business:

- **Safe Routes to School Update** – Civil West and ODOT continue to work on the design. It is taking longer than initially anticipated to get the plan approved by ODOT, so the

construction start date may be pushed out. It was planned to start in June. The new utility pole was set back further out of the way of the project. Still waiting to see if the old pole will be removed.

- **Portapots** – Received two quotes, Best Pots and Oregon Portable Toilets. Their quotes are a little less than Ace Chemical Toilets. Two council members have experience with Best Pots, who provided the cheapest price. Councilor Gjonnes recommended contacting Best Pots about emptying the vault toilet.
- **Audit Update** – The audit report has been provided. There was one over-expenditure in the ALA grant fund. The interest was spent without a budget adjustment authorized. The AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) submission to the State, was late. Our auditor has taken responsibility due to it taking longer than expected to complete. The AUP is a new process for them and for us.
- **Budget** – We are starting the budget process and obtaining budget requests. Some ideas are additional bark chips, fish for the pond, wage adjustments, increase clean-up expenses, cemetery fencing, emergency generator. The annual minimum wage increase has not been announced yet. The latest available library wage report, for cities with population similar to ours, was reviewed. Consider hiring a year-round employee for public works to cover Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

New Business:

- **Resolution 606-2025** – this is amending the resolution to close the Library and Cemetery funds due to, after completion of the AUP, the balances were different than budgeted. This resolution is amending the actual amount of each fund. *Hyde motioned to approve – Ritchie seconded – Wagner, Thrasher, Hyde, Ritchie approve – Gjonnes abstained – approved.*
- **OR Government Ethics Annual Reporting** – Reminder of the upcoming annual reporting, which will open March 15th. They should receive an email from OGEC when it opens. Reminded about fines if they are late in reporting.
- **Laundromat Business** – Reviewed city code which would allow a laundromat business. The septic system may be of concern. The inquirer was informed.

Correspondence:

- Received a letter from the City of Mill City looking for support and volunteers for their 4th of July celebration.
- Received notification from Linn County of the foreclosed property sale for 251 Dogwood.

Library Director Report: Library Director Wilcox is not present. She has returned from leave and submitted the report, which was reviewed. She has also submitted her two-week's notice.

City Manager Report: CM Valentine gives the report. PW Berkey lots of storm debris clean-up. Graffiti cleaned up on boulders. Pacific Power continues to replace poles, most recently on 13th Street. One cemetery plot was sold. The library board meeting was cancelled. The library door installation has been delayed to March. Working on getting estimates for installation of a drinking fountain at the library. No building permits issued. One plumbing permit. The LGIP interest rate held at 4.73%. Attended the Budget training in Albany. No new complaints.

Planning Commission Report: The Planning Commission (PC) held a meeting on February 11, 2025. The hardship renewal was approved. The property line adjustment (PLA) was approved. The public hearing for the PICM ordinance was held. Deliberations were postponed to March or April. We received another PLA. The PC meeting for that will likely be in May. Minutes of the meeting are provided.

Financial Reports: Reports were available for review and no questions were asked.

Commissioner Report/Councilor Questions/Comments:

- Mayor Wagner, Building Improvements –No comments to add.
- Councilor Ritchie, Library – No comments to add.
- Councilor Hyde, Police/Safety – No comments to add.
- Councilor Thrasher, Transportation, Parks & Recreation – No comments to add.
- Councilor Gjonnes, Cemetery – Looking forward to help in this area.

Executive Session: None

Requests – Councilor Requests/Future Agenda Items/Announcements: none requested

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 @ 6:30 pm Regular Council Meeting

Adjourned @ 8:32 pm

Summarized by CM Valentine