

**BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES– MAY 2, 2023**  
**BOARDMAN CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA ZOOM**

Mayor Keefer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilors Present: Paul Keefer, Isaac Williams, Heather Baumgartner, Cristina Cuevas, Karen Pettigrew, Brenda Profitt, and Richard Rockwell

Staff: Rick Stokoe- City Manager Pro Tem, Jackie McCauley-Acting Recorder/ Building Clerk, Marta Barajas-Finance Director, Loren Dieter-Interim Police Chief, Toni Connell-Utility Clerk, Kevin Kennedy-Public Works Director, and George Shimer-School Resource Officer

Audience: Cadence Ferguson, Lisa Ferguson, Stephen Fuss, Samantha Weiss, Kalie Davis-AWS, Brandon Hammond, L-Anders, Sheena Sharma, Lee, and RHS Students: Stephanie Booker, Alissa Kennedy, Diana Ramirez, Erika Rodriguez, Juliet Montes Cobian, April Angel Mendieta, Brenda Mendoza, Dulce Frausto, Emmanuel Mendoza, Nataly Martir, and Zane Kennedy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Councilor Williams made a motion to approved the April 11, 2023 minutes as presented. Councilor Profitt seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ending March 31, 2023

Finance Director Barajas said this report shows three quarters of the fiscal year's numbers. The General Fund had an expenditure of 1.4 million, which was the PERS payment for the Unfunded Actuarial Liability. The city has received the proceeds from the sale of the NE Front Street property. The G.O. Bonds project is getting ready to close phase 1 of the project.

The 2021 Audit is finished. She reminded the council of the May 16, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lisa Ferguson, Cadence Ferguson and Samantha Weiss – Chickens within City Limits. Ms. Ferguson gave the council a handout on reasons to allow chickens in the city limits. She read the list aloud. She said her main goal in asking for the council to allow chickens in the city limits is for citizens to feed their families. The price of eggs has gone up. Samantha Weiss said she too wanted the council to allow chickens in the city limits. They are asking for an ordinance to allow chickens, with rules, as other cities such as Umatilla allow.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No. 7-2023 – CREZ III/Amazon Data Services, Inc. Agreement

Councilor Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 7-2023, a resolution approving agreements between the sponsors of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone III and Amazon Data Services, Inc. Councilor Rockwell seconded the motion. City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said the CREZ III Board met on April 17, 2023 and agreed to approve five agreements with Amazon Data Services, Inc. The city would need to formalize, the agreements. The motion passed 7-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

America's Best Value Inn – Appeal of Transient Room Tax Penalty and Interest Fees

Finance Director Barajas said the current owners of the America's Best Value Inn purchased the property in 2020 and did not pay their Transient Room Tax until recently, incurring penalties and interest. They are appealing the fees to the city council. A letter asking for a waiver of those fees was provided in the council packet. The fees total \$6,150.38. Finance Director Barajas outlined the steps she has taken to

collect the delinquent tax, penalties and interest fee. The customer has since paid all outstanding taxes, however did not pay the penalty and interest fees.

Mayor Keefer asked if it was a situation where the customer needed more time to pay. Councilor Williams said Finance Director Barajas has put a lot of time into trying to work with the customer to collect fees, it would be disrespectful to waive the fees or to give a grace period.

Councilor Pettigrew wanted the other councilors to consider that the lodging owner collects the transient room tax right away from their customers. The lodging owner collected the money, used the city's money for a year or two; that is why the penalty is in place. The money is not to be used for business expenses.

Councilor Rockwell made a motion not to waive the America's Best Value Inn's transient room tax penalties and interest fees. Councilor Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

#### City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Keefer relayed the process the city council has taken to recruit a new city manager. After the panel interviews, and reading the comment cards from the Meet & Greet, he is asking for a motion on how to proceed. Councilor Pettigrew made a motion to authorize the city manager pro tem to offer a conditional offer to Candidate #1. Councilor Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe will contact Candidate #1 right away.

### **REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION:**

#### Police Report

Interim Police Chief Dieter asked if there were any questions regarding the police report provided in the packet. There were none. He said there has been a slight increase in activity since the weather has been nicer and people are out more. The shooting in April is still under investigation and the officer is still on administrative leave until completed.

#### Building Department Report

Building Clerk McCauley asked if there were any questions regarding the building department report provide in the packet. There were none.

#### Public Works Department Report

City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said public works is still waiting on the new radio read system. It has been a slow process due to manufacturing.

#### City Manager Report

City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe reviewed with the council some of the items listed on his report from the packet.

He asked for a moment of silence for the police officer killed in the line of duty for the Nyssa, Oregon Police Department. The city's police department sent representatives to Nyssa for the funeral.

He asked the councilors to sign a non-disclosure agreement for Amazon and one for the City of Boardman.

Several areas throughout Boardman do not have sidewalks on developed properties, as is required by development code. He would like the council to consider using some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help property owners install sidewalks. Perhaps a 60/40 split with the property owners. He said it is a safety issue to not have sidewalks. It could be something that is offered until the funds run out. Finance Director Barajas said this is an allowable use of these funds.

Anderson Perry & Associates will have a street inventory, grading the city streets in the next couple of months for the council's consideration. Some of the streets can be saved by chip sealing or top coating.

Councilor Profitt asked if the recent traffic study conducted included the intersection of Faler Road and SW Mt. Hood. City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said no, but the study is still being worked on. The priority is Main Street.

Councilor Cuevas said some of the existing sidewalks have standing water issues. City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said drainage issues might be looked into.

City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said if property owners have a hard time coming up with funds to help pay for sidewalks, perhaps the city could work out a payment plan added to their utility bill.

Councilor Profitt asked if there was a way to work with the county and West Extension Irrigation District to build sidewalks along Paul Smith Road since the irrigation district is redoing the canal along that road. City Manager Pro Tem Stokoe said the city would be a willing partner.

The FFA has approached the city about property to use for farming. This may be something the 4H groups might be able to do also. The council agreed the FFA and 4H should work together to come up with a way to make this project possible.

Councilor Cuevas asked if the ARPA funds could be used to replace mail boxes. Finance Director Barajas said that type of a project would not be big enough to be considered infrastructure.

#### Councilors

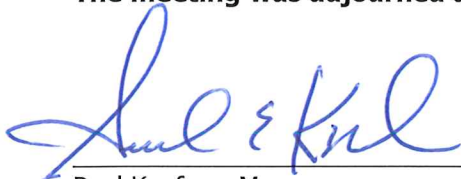
Councilor Pettigrew – Attended Small Cities with LOC. She said the league is offering any training the council would like to have for elected officials. She said the county requires their commissioners to attend training on being an elected official. Councilor Profitt suggested training on Urban Renewal Districts. Councilor Pettigrew said consultant Elaine Howard would soon be coming to the city council to discuss another URA on the north side of the freeway. Councilor Pettigrew would like to have this accomplished by November.

Councilor Pettigrew asked for a show of hands from staff, who was a RHS graduate; there were five in the meeting. She told the RHS Students in attendance that many local graduates are willing to work for their community.

#### Mayor

Mayor Keefer thanked the RHS students for attending. He thanked the citizens who gave public comment at the meeting. He said it is important to get involved in the community. He said he was happy the NE Columbia Avenue sidewalk project was coming to an end. He said it was a good project. He encouraged everyone to get out to the port and see what is all going on there; to be informed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.**



Paul Keefer – Mayor



Jackie McCauley – Acting Recorder