

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF MAYWOOD PARK
22 April 2019 7:00-8:00 PM

- COUNCIL MEETING -

In Attendance: Mayor Matthew Castor, Councilor Jim Akers, Councilor Michelle Montross, Councilor Chris Williams.

Absent: Council President Art Winslow

Staff Present: City Recorder – Bonnie Davey; City Treasurer – Wendy Irwin; Transcriptionist – Lisa Higgins

Residents present: Dana Akers, Nathan Montross, Kate Lamb, Mike Reynolds, Kim Hutchinson and Renee Sanders, Jeff and Mary Jo Steffen, Tim Adams, Maria and Brit Mathis

The City Council Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

Approval of the April 8, 2019 City Council minutes and April 8, 2019 Budget Meeting minutes. Approved as presented.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sargent Jesse Brown: Dispatch calls were at average, about 25 calls. Self-initiated activities were above average at 24. Nine non-emergency calls, 4 emergency calls. One assault in the last 30 days, 3 area checks, 2 welfare checks, no traffic accidents. One burglary call, 2 vandalism calls, 10 other calls.

N. Montross: That one assault, was that in Maywood Park?

Sargent Brown: Yes, I'm not sure what it was, it could have just been an argument.

Kim Hutchison: As our homeless situation continues to grow, will our stats tick up?

Brown: As the weather gets hotter, the homeless population tends to move out east, like toward Thousand Acres, they camp out there, where they have more freedom. If they stay here, they have to deal with us more often, and we're a nuisance to them.

Hutchison: Do you want us to call you if I see, in the early morning, people rummaging through the trash cans?

Castor: We do have an ordinance about that. You're within your right to call non-emergency, but when they are prioritizing calls, it's probably low.

Brown: You can call and then it will be on the record that there is an area check. Because of title nine the cops have less options for removing them, we have to use more verbal judo to resolve the situations.

Castor: It definitely depends on the situation, every week I see a gentleman in a red truck and I tell him about the ordinance and he nods and he leaves, and then I see him again next week. There have been cases where people get verbally hostile and aggressive and I'd be more concerned about those situations, when you don't know if people are under the influence of something and may be a threat.

Brown: It's best to not confront them, if they look angry or agitated, just call and tell dispatch. Communication is important, so the deputy knows what they are getting into.

Castor: Also, since I've been in Maywood, we see an uptick in car prowls every summer. It's not necessarily the homeless population, but just the warmer weather, more people out prowling. It's why Michelle wants to re-invigorate Park Watch.

Williams: It also peaks around garage sale time, it's a good time to keep an eye out and have Park Watch.

Sue Price: There was a report on TV about Thousand Acres and the homeless camps, and 3 agencies were having a dispute over whose responsibility it was. How was that resolved?

Brown: The County did resolve it. It's State Parks, Federal and County. The problem was where the cost lies, and we did work that out. Every year we do a clean out, hazmat crews have to come out for the drug paraphernalia. It gets done every year, but every summer they filter back in and we repeat.

Tim Adams: I wanted to talk about the Street Roots program instead of having police attend to homeless calls that they are inundated with to have an EMT teamed up with a special caseworker attend to the homeless calls. Has the County heard about that?

Brown: Yes, HOPE team typically is our response to the homeless population and the will team up with trained professionals to respond to those calls. I do know that there are talks about training for that within the County.

Castor: Every time we have had some report of a camp with Maywood Park, the response has been a deputy as well as the HOPE team to go out and make sure people are okay and see if they need services, so I know that effort is being made at the County level.

Sue Price: Was there a response yesterday to someone setting up camp on the berm?

Castor: Yes, the Sheriff knows about that.

OLD BUSINESS

Castor: Wendy, treasurer's report?

Irwin: The report for the month of March, first page is cash balances by fund for March 2019. Ending cash balance was \$444,939.56. Pages 2-4 are the budget versus actuals for July through March, the rest is ins and outs, what checks were issued and what deposits were made. There was nothing unusual. Any questions based on your review or the financials? (No.)

Kim: Does the city have invested funds?

Irwin: We have CD's.

Kim: Are they included in the cash?

Irwin: Yes. That's basically all of our assets. The funds that have the CD's are the failing street fund and the Storm Drain Fund. And we have some Money Market accounts too.

Treasurer's Report for March approved unanimously as presented with an ending cash balance of \$444,939.56.

Castor: I believe we need to renew approval of the Storm Drain Fund?

Irwin: The funds that are set up by the council and have a 10 year life, then they come up for renewal. Then they are approved for another 10 years or are moved back into the general fund. Resolution 268 will renew the Storm Drain fund for another 10 years, which is money set aside in case we have problems with the storm drains in the future.

Resolution 268 approved unanimously as presented.

PBOT / TRIMET / ZONING / WASTE WATER

Castor: PBOT/102nd status, our portion of that is essentially done, you may notice traffic counting bands back in the city, they wanted more traffic data before they implement the pilot program is implemented this summer. They are slated to move forward starting in June, with temporary barriers where concrete medians would go, and some road striping. In terms of public safety and the multi-use path, Art has been talking to Tri-met and I have been talking to Multnomah County about coordinating a meeting between the County and City of Portland. We've been waiting for the HOPE coordinators so we can get to the table at the same time to have a conversation about how that path to the Tri-met station, how we can continue to patrol and keep clear and safe. We want the HOPE people involved with that. Nothing new with waste water systems, I spoke with Art and he is speaking with Tri-met about coordinating that meeting, and we have a work session tonight to continue to work on zoning. Jim?

PUBLIC SAFETY / EVENTS

Akers: The street roots on 96th and Skidmore, I'd like to pass to Ben Harrison.

Castor: Ben do you know the one we're talking about? Is there anything we can do? Would trimming the roots have a negative impact on the tree?

Harrison: You could probably pare the root back, you might see some die back on the tree, but it's a large tree and it has lots of other roots. It's the root that is pushing up the asphalt.

Steffen: Could you lay more asphalt down and thicken the road to save the roots?

Castor: Potentially, but it's right where it hits Skidmore and it drops down and correcting it that way we'd have to add a lot of asphalt on the front side and it would affect traffic.

Akers: And probably change the drainage.

Williams: It's been there for 20 years.

Akers: I'll talk to the County and see what our options are. I haven't had a chance to deal with the fence at Prescott.

Castor: Let us know if you want us to put together a work party.

Akers: At Park Watch we talked about someone who had 2 bicycles stolen and I found one in the hedge line at Mason and returned it.

M. Montross: I don't have anything at this time, except I need volunteers for Park Watch.

Castor: If anyone is interested in Park Watch, please come see her after the meeting. A note on Public Safety, Deputy Kaiser has been reassigned due to budget cutbacks, but we do have a new liaison, Lt. Brightbill will be our new point of contact starting next month.

Michelle, we should have an update from them in a week or two about who will help for National Night Out at the Street Dance and 4th of July.

CODIFICATION / TREE LIGHTS / IT POLICY

Williams: First I want to say thanks to everyone who came and helped out with the Easter Egg Hunt, it was highly successful. I'm exploring other options for getting someone to come put to remove the tree lights. The codification process for the ordinances, I just got the quote back and it's about a 30-page report, and I've only had time to skim it. It's definitely within our budget and will reach a lot of our goals, so I'll go over it and decide if we want to go with it. For the IT policy that we have been talking about, I'm working with Bonnie to get that drafted, it will mainly be around our password policies, but also acceptable use for our devices and peripherals, if you use City property to access the internet there are certain parameters in which you can do so.

Davey: The March reconciliation check is done.

NEW BUSINESS

Castor: Any new business?

Sue Price: On NextDoor there was a posting about the homeless moving back in at the base of Rocky Butte. I know there a lot of issues with the groups trying to save the area and I've been contacting the news stations to get some help or attention to the situation. I think what most of us are feeling is that it is such a beautiful area, and the chances of it being set on fire, there were several camp fires going last week. It's supposedly campers from Seattle moved in? I think Maywood is not involved with that property?

Castor: Right at the end of that cul-de-sac is where our jurisdiction ends, we don't have any legal authority to go up to the Butte area and demand cleanup. I know Mark had some success getting attention to it via Multnomah County in terms of bringing attention to it and getting clean up crews in there. I'm happy to work with them to try to do the same. I think Volunteer and grassroots organization to clean up is great to do what we can.

Price: I hope that will continue. At this point there has been some changes in who is handling that, City of Portland and ODOT has signed that responsibility over to another organization, One Point Contact. The Grotto has a new head who is ex-military and he is gung-ho, but at this point there is no infringement on the Grotto's 7 or 8 acres, and so he's like "So?" We have concern about fire and we don't want that to happen. I'd just like to bring it to your attention, and if there is a time when we need to help with clean-up.

Castor: Though it's outside our bounds, I want to stay up pn heling maintain that area, as volunteers, because knowing how much debris and refuse was hauled out of there last time, and knowing that some of those campfires have translated into larger fires. Do you know if Evan has a cleanup scheduled?

Price: Yeah and because of all the trash and needles. They have to get the campers out first and it's growing by the day. It's getting taken over. There's a danger to that. I just think that for the people who do want to use it, and as a draw for the Grotto, it's disheartening.

Castor: This becomes a thing every year and we move into spring and summer. I'll talk to Lt. Lazure and see if we can get the HOPE team out there and we can help with a cleanup if one is set up. We aren't always monitoring NextDoor, so feel free to email the City office to alert us about these things.

Price: We had that first meeting and the Grotto didn't seem to be very concerned. And the NW has gotten the brunt of the homeless situation I think, longer than some other areas, and they are moving into Mt Tabor now.

Reynolds: The East County Neighborhood Association is working on that too, dealing with confusion on jurisdictions and the Grotto is private property.

Kim: And in the meantime, the trash keeps growing and growing.

Reynolds: One of the points at the East County meeting is why are they allowing a re-establishment of the camps? They clean it out and then instead of being proactive it grows again. They said it was staffing.

Castor: They can't keep up with it. People are engaged by HOPE or law enforcement and they move on and they come back again. It's a transient population and the folks out on the street don't have a place to go so they keep moving around and it's a cycle. But they are definitely understaffed in terms of clean up crews.

Kim: Rats. I walk in the morning and we have so many rats. It seems like it has gotten worse the last couple of years, and I'm not sure what we can do about it, but it continues to grow.

N. Montross: Glendoveer golf course had a big rat problem and they got rid of them and maybe someone there can help us figure it out and tell what they did?

Harrison: You can go to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and it's their jurisdiction, so there is a rub there in terms of jurisdiction and wildlife management.

Higgins: I'd like to put on the record that if you do have rats, using rat poison is so bad for dogs. We've had an issue with finding sick rats around our house. If dogs find a poisoned dead rat or squirrel it can poison them and it's not the best option.

Williams: Another option is rabbit and deer deterrent, which is so foul smelling, but it's biodegradable and pet safe, it's another option if you're having your yard destroyed and it's pet safe.

Reynolds: The stuff my wife uses is safe for kids, but they don't eat her roses they go to the next house.

Castor: Other comment?

Tim Adams: I just wanted to see if you guys were aware of this program, I came to hand out flyers, and see if you were comfortable with the current system and see if we could cooperate with Portland on this and help.

Castor: When we have our contract with Multnomah County Sheriff, we encourage them to engage with not only law enforcement officer but also the HOPE team, and look after people's welfare and not just chasing people away. That's how we try to approach it in Maywood.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

FINAL