

CITY OF CENTRAL POINT

Oregon

City Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 9, 2023

I. REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Hank Williams

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Hank Williams	Mayor	Present	
Neil Olsen	Ward I	Present	
Kelley Johnson	Ward II	Present	
Melody Thueson	Ward III	Present	
Taneea Browning	Ward IV	Present	
Rob Hernandez	At Large	Present	
Michael Parsons	At Large	Present	

Staff members present: City Manager Chris Clayton; City Attorney Sydnee Dreyer; Police Chief Scott Logue; Parks and Public Works Director Matt Samitore; Finance Director Steve Weber; City Recorder Rachel Neuenschwander

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. June 30, 2021 Audit Report Presentation

Finance Director Steve Weber introduced Gatlin Hawkins from Isler CPA who presented to Council the June 30, 2021 Annual Audit.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Crater Rotary Student of the month Abigail Foster presented to the Council an update on Crater High School activities.

Ms. Lyons spoke to the council regarding an excessive amount of cars parking on her street and blocking the sidewalks.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rob Hernandez, At Large
SECONDER:	Taneea Browning, Ward IV
AYES:	Williams, Olsen, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons

- A. Approval of February 23, 2023 City Council Minutes
- B. Arbor Week Proclamation 2023

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. ORDINANCES, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance No _____ Ordinance Amending Transportation Utility Fee Service Charge Adjustments in Part Pg(s)

Parks & Public Works Director Matt Samitore presented to the council the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Transportation Utility Fee Service Charge Adjustments in part. There are a small number of non-residential properties within the city limits that have remained vacant for more than 6-months. Property owners have approached the City over the years to request a reduction or waiver of the transportation utility fee during extended vacancy periods. Currently, the City allows a reduction of the fee for non-residential properties where the owner provides evidence that actual trips generated are less than the applied average daily trip estimate, but there is no mechanism to temporarily reduce the fee during an extended vacancy.

A discussion was made on handling the requests for the reduction of the fees and, when the property becomes occupied again, ensuring that the proper fee is reinstated. Staff responded that these properties would be reviewed during the Business License approval process.

Council Member Tanea Browning moved to forward the Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1910 Section 1 (in part) Regarding Service Charge Adjustments of Transportation Utility Fee to second reading.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tanea Browning, Ward IV
SECONDER:	Kelley Johnson, Ward II
AYES:	Williams, Olsen, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons

B. Ordinance No. _____ An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1907 (in part) and Ordinance No. 1949 Regarding Fire Lanes - Page(s) 16-19

Parks and Public Works Director Matt Samitore presented the second reading on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1907 (in part) and Ordinance No. 1949 regarding fire lanes. No changes were made since the first reading.

Council Member Melody Thueson moved to approve Ordinance No. 2094 an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1907 (in part) and Ordinance No. 1949 regarding fire lanes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Melody Thueson, Ward III
SECONDER:	Tanea Browning, Ward IV
AYES:	Williams, Olsen, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons

C. Ordinance No _____ An Ordinance Amending Ch. 3.26 Public Safety Fee - Page(s) 20-23

Parks and Public Works Director Matt Samitore presented to Council the second reading an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2009 (in part) regarding Public Safety Fee. There were no changes made since the first reading.

Council Member Mike Parsons moved to approve Ordinance No. 2095 an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2009 (in part) regarding Public Safety Fee.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Michael Parsons, At Large
SECONDER:	Rob Hernandez, At Large
AYES:	Williams, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons
NAYS:	Neil Olsen

D. Ordinance No _____ Ordinance Amending Ch. 3.25 in Part Parks Maintenance Fee - Page(s) 24-27

Parks and Public Works Director Matt Samitore presented to Council the second reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2008 (in part) regarding Parks Maintenance Fee. There were no changes made since the first reading.

Council Member Melody Thueson moved to approve Ordinance No. 2096 an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2008 (in part) regarding Parks Maintenance Fee.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Melody Thueson, Ward III
SECONDER:	Kelley Johnson, Ward II
AYES:	Williams, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons
NAYS:	Neil Olsen

E. Resolution No _____ Resolution Authorizing Public Safety Fee Increase Effective 4-1-23 - Page(s) 28-31

City Manager Chris Clayton presented to the Council a Resolution authorizing an increase to the Public Safety Fee. The Public Safety Fee was established in 2015, and codified at Chapter 3.26 of the Central Point Municipal Code. The City has not increased the fee, nor adjusted for inflation, despite an increase of at least three public safety officers and increased CPI of 35% since the inception of the Public Safety Fee.

Per the Council's January study session, staff presented information regarding the need to increase the City's public safety fee from its current rate of \$1.00 per utility account holder for single-family residential and nonresidential accounts, and from \$.50 for multifamily accounts.

At the present rate, the City is unable to keep its public safety budget below the 80% threshold for all property taxes received. In the most recent year of collection, the public safety fee generated \$90,000 to support a police department annual budget averaging 5.5 million dollars.

Under the proposed resolution, the public safety fee would increase by \$1.00 for each utility account holder to \$2.00 per month for single-family residential and nonresidential accounts and to \$1.50 per month for multifamily residential accounts.

A discussion was made of the need for the increase, the affordability to the citizens, and what the additional funds would go towards; the Council supports the community's safety. Staff responded that the additional revenue would go to the materials and services budget, and as an example, the cost of fuel has exceeded the current biennial budgeted amount.

Council member Mike Parsons moved to approve Resolution No. 1737 a Resolution approving and authorizing Public Safety Fee increase effective April 1, 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Michael Parsons, At Large
SECONDER:	Rob Hernandez, At Large
AYES:	Williams, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons
NAYS:	Neil Olsen

F. Resolution No _____ Resolution Authorizing Parks Maintenance Fee Increase - Page(s) 32-35

City Manager Chris Clayton presented to the Council a resolution authorizing an increase to the parks maintenance fee. The Parks Maintenance Fee was established in 2015, and codified at Chapter 3.25 of the Central Point Municipal Code. Since the fee was adopted, the City has increased the fee on only one occasion, to help offset the City's additional maintenance responsibilities for the Bear Creek Greenway and the Central Point Cemetery. The Parks Maintenance Fee has never been increased for inflation, despite a 35% increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Staff proposed an increase to the fee to account for the City's increased administration and costs. Per the Council's January study session, for the 23/25 fiscal year budget, parks will be adding amenities including over 30 acres open space in Twin Creeks, 6 acres of manicured park area in Willow Bend Park, increased costs for playground equipment (up 28% in the past 24-months), and a planned addition of a new general park staff person beginning May 2024.

Currently the Parks Maintenance Fee is \$1.85 per utility account holder for single-family residential units and nonresidential units and \$.50 per multiple family unit. Under the proposed resolution, that fee would increase by \$.65 to \$2.50 per single family and nonresidential units and to \$1.15 per multiple family units beginning April 1, 2023.

Matt Samitore addressed the council regarding the increase to the parkland the city will maintain by taking over the additional open space in Twin Creeks and Willow Bend Park. If the city did not increase the fee, the city would not have the funds or staff available to maintain these other parks to current city standards.

Council Member Melody Thueson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1738 a Resolution approving and authorizing Parks Maintenance Fee increase effective April 1, 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Melody Thueson, Ward III
SECONDER:	Taneea Browning, Ward IV
AYES:	Williams, Johnson, Thueson, Browning, Hernandez, Parsons
NAYS:	Neil Olsen

IX. BUSINESS

X. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Williams had nothing to report.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Chris Clayton reported that:

- Staff is working on budget preparation.
- Two properties on Beebe Rd that have been a chronic nuisance to the city, the new owners have been cleaning them up. This week we were informed that the County will most likely be foreclosing on the properties soon. This may benefit the City with the future alignments of connecting Beebe Road to Pine St.
- The March Study session will be a presentation about the Greenway.
- The April Study session will be a tour of the new School District 6 Early learning center.
- The Columbia Care building that is being remodeled will be a residential treatment facility.
- He has joined the LOC Finance Committee and attended a meeting they will be making recommendations about their budget to the LOC board.
- He and Matt met with Steve Vincent with Avista Utilities this week, he will share the Annual Report in his weekly informational report.

XII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Melody Thueson reported that she attended the School Board meeting at Hanby Middle School's new building.

Mike Parsons reported that:

- He attended the Retirement and Birthday Celebration for retired Police Chief Kris Allison.
- He attended the joint Study Session with the CAC and Planning Commission.

Rob Hernandez reported that:

- He attended the Airport Advisory Committee meeting.
- He attended the Study Session.
- He attended the School District 6 Bond Oversight Committee meeting.

Taneeea Browning reported that:

- She attended the LOC Presidential round table in Phoenix today.
- She attended the Innovation Hub work group three-hour session to discuss assets and opportunities in the Grants Pass and Medford area. Business Oregon funded the feasibility study that SOREDI is facilitating.
- She attended the Bear Creek Restoration Initiative public meeting about the ecological work along the burn scar. The meeting was held at the Talent Library.
- She attended the BCRI group to keep up to speed on the happenings.
- She attended the Legislative meetings with LOC to assist lobbyists in navigating the changing landscape at the capitol.
- She attended the Medford Water Commission meeting.
- She attended the study session.

Kelley Johnson reported had nothing report.

Neil Olsen reported that:

- He attended the Study Session.
- The cheese festival is this weekend.

XIII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Scott Logue reported that:

- He has been attending meetings with the Columbia Care group.
- He and Lt Griffin attended leadership training up in Salem.
- They are currently conducting backgrounds to fill open vacancies.

Parks and Public Works Director Matt Samitore reported that:

- The 863 S Haskell St, the sidewalk parking is more difficult in the area.
- The waterline on Hanley is done; they have started working on the sewer line.
- Knife River has been making progress on the construction at Hamrick and Biddle.
- The Hwy 99 & Scenic construction project is behind schedule.
- He has been attending regular meetings on Community Center. The Federal Government may require all contractors to be unionized; there is some height issues with the building design.
- He met with the Cow Creek tribe and what they are planning to do with the property will work well with the Community Center. They are willing to work with the city on the road realignment for the bridge.

Steve Weber reported that he would mention budget preparation but Chris already did so he has nothing else to report.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(i)

Mike Parsons made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the Parks and Public Works Director. All said Aye and the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:37 pm.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mike Parsons moved to adjourn. Tanea Browning seconded. All said Aye and the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM

The foregoing minutes of the March 9, 2023, Council meeting were approved by the City Council at its meeting of March 23, 2023.

Dated:


Mayor Hank Williams

Council President Tanea Browning

ATTEST:


City Recorder