
City of Falls City
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday March 29, 2021 6:00 PM
COVID-19 Related Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91876982425?pwd=K1EzNkw5OTNlRVpyNVZnQldncE94QT09>

Call in #1-253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 918 7698 2425 Passcode: 998762

Council Present: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Amy Houghtaling, T.J. Bailey

Staff Present: AJ Foscoli, City Manager; Jamie Ward, City Recorder

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Gordon took roll call. Dennis Sickles arrived at 6:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gordon led the pledge.

3. Motion to adopt the entire Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor A. Houghtaling and seconded by Councilor T. Meier to adopt the entire agenda. Motion carried 4-0-0-2. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Amy Houghtaling, T.J. Bailey.

4. Good of the Order

5. New Business

- a. Public Hearing Resolution 05-2021 Community Development Block Grant Package to fund required assessments for USDA Rural Development's funding package for the construction of the new city wastewater facility.

Public Hearing opened at 6:08 p.m.

Public comments

None

The Public Hearing closed at 6:09 p.m.

City Manager Foscoli read his managers' report detailing the needs for the interim funding from Business Oregon as part of the USDA Rural Development's funding with this stage of the City's new wastewater facility project.

Councilor Bailey wanted to make sure that this ask for more money is for costs that may come up in this next phase of the project to elevate financial pressure to residents.

This grant will help fund the additional funding that was not expected in the beginning of this process without adding more costs to citizens. The city is applying for a grant in the amount of \$120,000.00, Foscoli said that we may not need to use all of the funds.

Councilor A. Houghtaling asked if all of the funds were not used could they be applied to help ease pressure off of city staff with some sort of project assistance.

Mayor Gordon added that the maximum amount that the City can draw from HUD is \$2.5 million.

Mayor Gordon recognized that the Public Notice had not been read into record, A second Public Hearing was opened.

Public Hearing opened at 6:26 p.m.

City Manager Foscoli read the public notice into the record and provided a brief explanation regarding the Community Development Block Grant Package to fund required assessments for USDA Rural development's funding package for the construction of a new city wastewater facility (*see attached Notice*).

Public comments

None

The Public Hearing closed at 6:27 p.m.

A motion made by A. Houghtaling and Seconded by T. Bailey that the City Council of the City of Falls City adopt Resolution 05-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE AND ADMINISTER AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S BLOCK GRANT PACKAGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY WASTEWATER FACILITY. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, , Tony Meier, Amy Houghtaling, Dennis Sickles, TJ Bailey. Nays:

b. Resolution 06-2021 Travel Oregon Grant Application

Travel Oregon's competitive and Recovery Grants Program will allow the city to apply for up to \$100,000.00 without any match to build treehouses in the George Kitchin' Park to enhance Falls City tourism-facing impression a travel destination, as well to generate an overnight stay venue.

City Manager Foscoli stated this grant was created to help those communities affected by COVID by increasing local assets to attract visitors to the city. City Council added tourism to Falls City was one of council goals and Foscoli said this is a way to add to this goal.

Councilor L. Sickle asked if we were going to charge for this? And what was the liability for charging this?

Councilor D. Sickles How much damage would this cause to the trees and how many units would we build.

City manager Foscoli stated the treehouses would be built around the trees and we would not build more than three.

Councilor A. Houghtaling asked if the city could budget in an upgrade to the playground that already exists in the park or if we should look at other avenues for that.

Councilor T. Bailey added that he has been researching upgrades to park features and how most sites range from \$1000.00 per child using the equipment.

A motion made by Councilor T. Bailey and Seconded by T. Meier that the City Council of the City of Falls City adopt Resolution 06-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE TRAVEL OREGON'S COMPETITIVE & RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM. Motion carried 5-0-0-1. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Amy Houghtaling, Dennis Sickles, TJ Bailey.

Councilor A. Houghtaling added that she wanted to make sure that city staff was not adding too much to current job descriptions and to please ask for help if they were ever feeling overwhelmed.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Attested:  _____ Mayor, Jeremy Gordon
 _____ City Recorder, Jamie Ward

Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Falls City is eligible to apply for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department. Community Development Block Grant funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants can be used for public facilities and housing improvements, primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Approximately \$12 million will be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2021. The maximum grant that a city or county can receive is \$2,500,000.

The City of Falls City is preparing an application for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department for Wastewater system improvements project in order to upgrade the system and address serious compliance issues within the City of Falls City, Polk County, Oregon. It is estimated that the proposed project will benefit at least 500 persons, of whom 53.77% will be low or moderate income.

A public hearing will be held by the Falls City Council at 6:00 pm on the 29th of March 2021 via Zoom. The link and phone number are on the City of Falls City website at www.fallscityoregon.gov. The purpose of this hearing is for the City Council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about: community development and housing needs, especially the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be assisted with a Community Development Block Grant project; and the proposed project.

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by March 29, 2021 at Falls City, City Hall, 299 Mill Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344. Both oral and written comments will be considered by the City Council in deciding whether to apply.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact Jamie Ward at 503-787-3631 if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting.

More information about Oregon Community Development Block Grants, the proposed project, and records about the City's past use of Community Development Block Grant funds is available for public review at City Hall during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested. If special accommodations are needed, please notify Jamie Ward at 503-787-3631 so that appropriate assistance can be provided.

Permanent involuntary displacement of persons or businesses is not anticipated as a result from the proposed project. If displacement becomes necessary, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement and provide required/reasonable benefits to those displaced. Any low- and moderate-income housing which is demolished or converted to another use will be replaced.