

City of Falls City
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2019 6:00 PM
Meeting Location: 320 N Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344

Council Present: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

Staff Present: Mac Corthell, City Manager; Jamie Ward, City Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Roll Call

Clerk Ward took roll call.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gordon led the pledge.

4. Motion to adopt the entire Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Meier and seconded by Councilor D. Sickles to adopt the entire agenda. Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

5. Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments

- a. Mayor Gordon read and presented a Proclamation to express gratitude to Polk County, the Board of Commissioners, and Commissioner Pope in particular for partnership, support and funding of the Falls City direct Connect and other public transportation related efforts.

6. Community & Government Organizations

- a. Polk County Sheriff's Office Report
No comments
- b. Falls City Public Works Report
No comments.
- c. Falls City Fire Report
No comments.

7. Reports

a. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the Breadboard and the Luckiamute Watershed Council for hosting the "Sip N Science" event. The event covered the geological history of the Little Luckiamute Falls. Mayor Gordon would like everyone to know the Falls City Facebook page is up and running and would welcome community input in form of pictures, stories and feedback to help keep it fresh.

b. Council Reports

Councilor C. Lauder- Has had multiple people ask when the sewer system study will be done for the new wastewater lagoon. Manager Corthell stated that it was a part of the first leg but was unsure when exactly that would be done. Councilor Lauder would like to acknowledge that numerous community members have made the suggestion to turn the old Clinic into City Hall. He believes it could be beneficial for the community and if we invested a little money into the small apartment next door the RARE applicant could use that as housing quarters. Manager Corthell stated that he would follow up with Don and Sara and is if it looks like the October occupying date may be pushed out longer. Manager Corthell wanted to make it clear that although there has been extensive talk with Don and Sara there has not been a lease signed and he is more than willing to except other suggestions and or offers.

Councilor L. Sickles acknowledged the great turnout at the Summer Celebration. She was thankful for the help and support from all the volunteers.

c. Manager Report

Councilor J. Drill asked what the odds were in receiving the Special City Allotment Grant for 2020. Manager Corthell felt that he believes we have very high odds for receiving this grant. Applications are due in August. Manager Corthell acknowledged all the hard work Polk Cemetery Savers have been doing. He encouraged everyone to stop by, say hello and check it out.

8. Public Communications

None

9. Consent Agenda

A motion made by Councilor Meier and Seconded by Councilor L. Sickles to adopt the consent agenda excluding the minute's draft. Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

10. Public Comments

Lisa Johnstone of Falls City stated a slight concern of an incident that began outside of City Hall and then continued inside the building. She drove her vehicle down the gravel walking path towards the 3rd St. Footbridge. She stated that the path was not marked for pedestrian traffic only. She heard talking and realized it was coming from inside the City Hall building. Manager Corthell told her to move her car and that she could not park there. Ms. Johnstone exited the park and came inside to speak with him. The situation escalated. Manager Corthell asked if she had any business to take care of inside City Hall and if not she needed to leave. After multiple requests for her to leave the building, Manager Corthell instructed Assistant City Clerk Ward to call the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Johnstone still refused to leave and waited for the Officer to arrive. Upon arrival of the Deputy from the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Ms. Johnstone was escorted out of the building. She feels that this issue needs to be addressed. Mayor Gordon recommend against any action by Council. Mayor Gordon agreed to set up a meeting time via email to discuss this situation with her.

Commissioner Pope spoke about his is appreciation for the recognition and proclamation. He is happy to help and is committed to roll up his sleeves to help this community. Commissioner Pope also praised Council and staff for doing an outstanding job. He is very pleased with the positive working relationship

the City has with the County Commissioners. He added that this community is out of the mainstream of Polk County and he advocates for Falls City a lot. Commissioner Pope has also encouraged joining forces on Public Works projects for the past eight and one half years as they benefit the County as a whole whether the project is within Falls City limits or not. He offered open contact if there were ever anything he or the other two Commissioner's Offices could assist with. Commissioner Pope then praised Mayor Gordon for attending Commission meetings and his engagement in other areas of County government.

11. Citizen Committees

No Comments

12. New Business

- a. Councilor Drill noted page 22 items 12 in the packet regarding June minutes. She brought attention to an error on a motion with no recorded votes. Mayor Gordon asked that in the future items such as this should be addressed to city Manager Corthell in an email in advance of the meeting. He added that we will run into typos and these should be handled appropriately.

A motion was made by Councilor D. Sickles and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles to accept the Consent Agenda with minute corrections. Motion carried: 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

- b. Resolution 19-2019 Community Event Sanctioning, Falls City Pride
City Manager Corthell read his staff report addressing the sanctioning of the event. Mayor Gordon announced scheduling and activities. (Exhibit A) He added that 99% of the funds are either provided or raised by the organizers of the event. Mayor Gordon then opened the floor to public comments. [The following are somewhat paraphrased and not verbatim.]

Dana Schowalter, resident of Falls City addressed Council in support of Falls City Pride. She went on to describe her experience moving to Falls City: "When Jeremy and I first purchased our home in Falls City, residents came to our home quite often to introduce themselves. The love we've received in this town, the love we've quickly developed for this place, this forever home we found whereas was also dotted with people making disparaging comments about the business owners in town based on their sexual orientation. These business owners quickly became our best friends. We love and appreciate them not because they make the best pizza in the world even though they do, or not because they have a great space for us to unwind or let our son dance and ride his bike indoors, because they do provide that space for us and many others. And not because they are members of the LGBT community though they are and we love them just as we love anyone else. They became our friends because they share the same values, love, care, compassion for those less fortunate and a drive to make this community the best version of itself it can be. A dedication to serving that community that gave them so much. In short, we value them not because of the service they provide to us, but because of who they are as cool people and how much they have contribute to our lives and to this town. When we were first asked to help organize Falls City Pride, we were so excited to see what this quirky town's Pride Festival might be. My first year attending the festivities was quite magical. We saw Harley riders hanging out with hipsters. Loggers sharing stories with drag queens and staple town residents mingling with international tourists. We have the pleasure of being more involved in this event each year. And year after year we hear the same thing: What a gem of a

town we have, how much people felt welcomed and included here. That no matter where they came from or what their identity, they value the diversity that each person brought to this event whether local or not, whether a member of the LGBTQ community or just someone here from this town to see what it was all about. Like other pride festivals this event also brings money into our community with people spending money on lodging and camping which could bring monetary benefits for our city. As a member of the Budget Committee, I can attest that would be welcomed. People traveling purchase meals and supplies from our local businesses, those businesses contribute to our school fundraisers, they help cover costs for local events and employ our local residents. We see and will continue to see economic benefits of this event as it grows. The inclusive vision of Falls City Pride is perhaps the most beautiful result of pride festivals that began fifty years ago. In case you are unaware of that history, Pride began as a protest of violence happening to LGBTQ people; harassment, physical violence, sexual assault and other forms of dehumanizing humiliation. Pride festivals represent not a quest to attain some special treatment but instead an effort to live safely and peacefully. The ability to live life just as anyone else with love, openness and community. In short, people are fighting for the basic chance to be themselves. In my experience, Falls City Pride has been that space. This event has created community for a diverse group of LGBTQ people young and old. (inaudible wording) Studies consistently show that this type of support are vital to LGBTQ people of all ages and backgrounds, this form of community support can reduce rates of suicide among LGBTQ youth by 40 to 70% depending on the study. This form of community can connect aging LGBTQ residents with vital resources ranging from finding a friend who understands their living experience to providing knowledge of health and wellness resources that increase life expectancy and decrease overall health expenditures. As a study on LGBTQ people who live in rural areas shows, this sense of community is vital to health and well-being. I also want to be clear that being a member of the LGBTQ community does not make someone more happy or depressed or attempt suicide. When members of this community receive the same regular support granted straight people there is no statistical difference what so ever in rates of depression and self-harm. This community only suffers when their larger community sees them less than fully human and we have a chance today to show people that we see them. We see them as full people. Full people who deserve to live their lives and live their lives as themselves. We all have parts of our identity that make us different, make us feel alienated from our environment. Falls City Pride welcomes everyone wherever they are in their life's journey and aims to create a safe space for everyone to be themselves. Unapologetically themselves no matter what that looks like, you're always welcome here. I understand that talking about and voting on these issues can be challenging, but I also know that accepting this proposal as a community event will send a message that our town welcomes people just as they are and values their contributions they make here. It is for those reasons I wholeheartedly recommend voting in favor of Falls City Pride making it a community event. Thank you."

Michael Burton of Dallas addressed Council. "My wife and I live at the other end of Frost Road and we get into town often. We spend about \$100.00 in the various businesses here, more so now that we are retired from our jobs in Salem. I used to be the Assistant Director of the Oregon Economic Department and after I got tired of working for the state governments I went to work for a tribal group, I was Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation (inaudible wording). I spent over thirty years as an economic development professional. He has probably been to 100 city council and planning commission meetings and I can tell you without exception, every community is trying to figure out how to get people to come to town and drop some bucks so that people who painstakingly run their businesses can make some money,

employ people and pay some taxes in the community. In my argument, bottom level is that businesses pay the taxes. Business pays the bills. We sat in on one of the visioning sessions for the community vision process and I mostly kept my mouth shut because it's my work to me and I don't have to do that anymore, I'm retired. But I do think the best thing you can do for economic growth is to take care of what you've already got. We have participated in the Pride event for four years, including one of us had an active role as a presenter. I strongly encourage you to support what we understand is one of the only events of its kind taking place in town, the kind of event that every community that I've ever worked in would like to see happen in theirs. Unless somebody has questions, I'm done."

Lynn Bailey of Falls City addressed Council. "So it should be no surprise I've come to talk about kids, because that's what I do. I want you to consider what you're voting for today could possibly be saving the lives of the kids in our community. There are some dark statistics that exist around suicide and self-harm amongst LGBTQ youth. As Dana said, when there is someone there to support them they are happy just like anyone else. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24 years old. LGBT youth are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide (inaudible). There is a lot more and the Trevor Project is a great place to go and educate yourself about what these youth are facing. Having just one positive support person in their life can reduce the incidents of suicide by between 40 and 70%. Your support of this event builds an entire community around these kids and I want you to really consider the impact that might have on their lives and their happiness and their feeling accepted. I urge you to be inclusive, empathetic, accepting and I urge you to fully support this event and build a community that allows everyone to feel welcome and accepted in our town.

John Volkmann of Falls City addressed Council. "When I think of Falls City Pride, it goes way back to when Keith and I first moved here thirteen or fourteen years ago. I think it's more about being proud of Falls City. We didn't know anyone when we moved here. We didn't even know much about Falls City, we were just looking for a nice little place for our lives and figure out what our future looked like. I think that in maybe just three weeks of us just being on the ground and working on our old house, two citizens of town were walking by. They walked onto our property and wanted to know who we were and get to know these people who moved to town. As we went on talking and must have chit chatted for an hour and half, at the end, one of the women said 'Hey, why don't we go down to the Boondocks and have a beer sometime?' And I said really? And she said 'Yeah.' I said, but it kind of seems like a hate crime waiting to happen to me from what I've heard about the Boondocks. She really sobered up and asked 'Why would you say that?' I said well, it's no secret. We're a couple of guys moving into town, you know small town America and I've experienced violence and harassment for being gay. She said 'No. You're wrong about Falls City. The people of Falls City would be way more concerned if you judged them for who they are than they are at all interested in judging you for who you are.' That's exactly the truth. We have never had trouble in this town at all. We've had love and support and from that moment, from then until now, I have been, I don't know that I am the biggest cheerleader for Falls City.... But I meet lots of people and I like to say things like (asked if Falls City is by Dallas) you know what? We like to think Dallas is by Falls City. I love this town. I am proud of this town. It has given us wonderful opportunities. We've met the best friends in our lives in this town. It is community at its best. So, that's what Falls City Pride means to me. I love this town, I'm proud of this town and proud of the people I love. Thank you, Falls City. If any of you have any questions about this stuff, I'm happy to answer.

Ervin Bathke of Falls City addressed Council. "I appreciate what you just said, because that is Falls City. It's community and always has been ever since I've lived here we've been community. Fighting fires together threatening our City, we've seen other things threaten individuals, house fires where the community came together and supported one another. I like that about Falls City. Falls City is a community. I'm not a gay person, I'm a straight person and that's my take but I still love every person in this community. Every single person. So thank you for what you said. This is a loving community and I've never heard of such a thing as people coming against other people. Most of us have grown up in this City; this is an awesome community and awesome City. I hate to see these schisms; I would not want to see any schisms. (inaudible wording) So, if this creates a schism, I'm sorry. I wish it didn't because we don't need any schisms. We are Falls City community that's all I'm saying."

Janet Propp of Falls City addressed Council. "I don't do well with speaking, but I want to say Jeff and I moved to this town twenty five years ago. We loved the town because it is a community. If there's something I can't stand, its intolerance. So yes, I'm very supportive of this."

Cori Brownell of Falls City addressed Council. "I really appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight. I've been a resident with my family here for twenty six years. My involvement with the community has been mostly on the County level. I've served on the Commission for Children and Families for eight years. I ran the first Child Development Center at the elementary school for the first few years (inaudible wording). When Dana alerted me to this recently, I wrote up something that only took about five minutes. It just came crying out and I thought I better make it quick. It's not too long. Posted on the outside of my office door at work is a quote by Martin Luther King Jr. It states 'our lives begin to end the day we become we become silent on the things that matter.' This is one of those times I see its time to speak up for a traditionally oppressed community. In this case the LGBT community. We are all part of the larger American culture; Beit a positive or negative experience. We all belong to committee subcultures. We have our family culture, work culture and often in family and friends we choose to spend time with on a regular basis. Because they all know the unique joys, hopes and challenges we face. The LGBT community is one of those unique cultures and/or communities. I am proud to live in a community that embraces diversity in its many forms. Especially, in a small town where traditionally, many, most small towns in America do not. Being who you are regardless of your income, color, religion ability or sexual orientation is what makes America great. Of course, that is still a dream for our country. Falls City can be a role model. We can be a role model by standing by our LGBT community and supporting Pride. So we want to open our doors to all people and show our humanity or do we want to shut them and become known for a city of hate? This is a rare opportunity to support one of the most oppressed communities in the history of our country. Let's show the rest of the country that Falls City sees people as people first and that labels don't have a place here. Please do the right thing by supporting Falls City Pride as a community event. Thank you."

Ervin Bathke added a footnote. "The reason I said I don't like schisms, I see the pain because they are isolated and persecuted. The only thing I worry about in this whole thing is sitting inside our schism tree and making factions where maybe there aren't factions. Are we residents of Falls City and community members together. To build and love life here. Or are we creating schisms where we have one pitted against the other. That's the only thing I have cautions or fears about. Thank you.

Mayor Gordon then addressed Council and asked for thoughts and questions beginning with Councilor Radke. "The only thing I have is my spiritual side says God say's hey, love me with all thy strength and all thy mind and all thy soul. Secondly, is love thy neighbor as thy self. I'll never forget when you two guys brought all that food over [referring to John and Keith] when Cheryl and I came to town. It spoke volumes as to the community. I think they've got this pretty organized.

Councilor Lauder spoke next. "I think it's a very positive thing for Falls City because it brings the community together. Maybe at least for a little while, we can quit worrying about drug dealers and the bad things that people like to talk about like small towns like ours and for a little while talk about the good things in a small town like ours.

Councilor Drill responded. "Uh yeah, actually I do. Um, my concern is um, first I want to say, I just want to say I so love the fact you all love one another. Your support for one another and other community members. You're um, words of encouragement and adaptation. I mean you guys are truly a phenomenal community and I like think that's phenomenal. Um, I appreciate just all the words of encouragement and positiveness of what you spoke forth for our community and I just want to say thank you. Because our community is a community of love and Falls City has an amazing purpose here more so than most of us know. And um, with that said, we also represent the city as a whole. And so, my concern is that this represents a small portion of our community and whereas we still have the majority of community that has had no say or input into this because then we're identifying we support and we're an LGBT community. And not part of Ervin, as you were saying, schisms, uh creating conflict. You know, where there hasn't been that for quite a few years as so forth. There's really been a turn around the last I'd say five years since I've been on Council and so forth and we've overcome a lot. Um, so that's my concern is um identifying with that and being that community on the map that, that says this is who we are when that's not who we are as a whole. Um, we're a community that loves and I don't, I just, I just don't feel comfortable um, you know as far as saying yes on this fact representing the community as a whole. I think you guys did a phenomenal job creating the event and so forth. It looks great. I'm looking forward future wise and you know, what this could do and I just, I... I see conflict."

Councilor L. Sickles gave input. "I think it's a great thing. The funny thing I just heard is, this has been going on for five years and you just said in the last five years you haven't seen conflict, so it seems it's been bringing the town together. So, that's all I see, is that it's a positive thing.

A motion was made by Councilor Meier and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles the City Council of the City of Falls City, Oregon adopt resolution 19-2019, A RESOLUTION SANCTIONING THE "FALLS CITY PRIDE CELEBRATION" EVENT AS PROPOSED IN ATTACHMENT A.

Mayor Gordon opened the floor for discussion among Council. He stated he would adhere to Robert's Rules of Order for this portion.

Councilor D. Sickles spoke. "I just want to point out that we are sanctioning the Pride Celebration though a lot of people came and spoke in favor of us approving this that doesn't mean that voting in favor of it doesn't mean the other people don't matter. I think obviously they do, everyone here is in favor of the Pride celebration and it has been going on for five years and I just believe this needs to pass."

Mayor Gordon said his thoughts on community events are that no community event is going to appeal to everyone. "As Mayor, I have been involved in many events and I champion events of all kinds. I know how important it is for community building and community solidarity. I didn't especially like picking blackberry briars at the Solve/Arbor Day event. But I think the river looks great. I helped gather people together at the last minute because it's a community duty that I feel. So I think it's okay that not every event is going to appeal to everybody.

Councilor Drill had another question. "I just have one more thing. As far as opening you up sanctioning, saying we're going to sanction this event, um and other community leader's events and they come to us with events that maybe are... I don't know... sensitive? Um, does this open us up if we deny them?"

Mayor Gordon "No, Mac can tell you about 1st Amendment Rights and things like that. This Council can deny sanctioning any event it wants as far as I can tell. As far as access to public facilities we cannot discriminate based on certain protected classes and there are laws on the books for that." Mayor Gordon asked Councilor Drill to wait until he could finish answering present question. Mayor Gordon discussed the Oregon Equality Act. Example; a Neo Nazi group wants to use the park. We could deny sanctioning the event but could not deny them access to the facilities.

Councilor Drill continued. "So Mayor, I just want to make my concern clear on the liability aspect moving forward and so forth. Does this open us up being one of the first and so forth because I notice we're waving fees? Um is that correct Mac? We're going to go ahead and waive the fee for the Community Center (inaudible wording).

City Manager Corthell responded. "The noise permit doesn't actually have a fee yet. I put that on the original and we are getting to that one. As far as the fee for the use of the Community Center, yes, that would be waived as requested."

Councilor Drill asked "So is there a reason it's being waived? Does this open us up? I just want to make sure that moving forward that we're not opening ourselves up."

Mayor Gordon asked to clarification. "To what?"

Councilor Drill said "Liability."

Mayor Gordon responded "No."

City Manager Corthell addressed the issue. "No. There is no ripple effect from this. This is simply sanctioning an event. The City is allowed to sanction which events they want or don't want. I think that was a fitting example of what if a Neo Nazi group wanted to use the park. We would have no say, it's a community park and free speech is allowed there. Now if they wanted us to ensure an event they were having, reserve the park, of course that's something we wouldn't want."

Councilor Drill reiterated. "I know but my question and please don't get mad or upset, I just I'm just trying to understand here. If the Neo Nazis wanted to sanction an event and they found

out that we approved this event would you open your arms too, you love all, you embrace all and so forth and we deny them?"

Manager Corthell responded. "Cities have free speech rights too. As a collective thought to say hey, we don't want to sanction this. Now public place, is different alright? You as a body are the City of Falls City. You have their funds, you decide where those go, how they are used etcetera. In that way, you're able to say 'No. We're not going to pay for that.' However a public space that preexists that anyone can go at any time can't be cut off to something like that. It can have time management restrictions and I won't get too far into 1st Amendment law but the point is, no. There are no ill effects."

Mayor Gordon requested the question be brought to vote. Councilor Radke asked about the waived fee. Mayor Gordon explained the group is hiring three staff to clean-up and are spending thousands of dollars to put on this event and it is a good opportunity for the City. Mayor Gordon announced he was calling the question to vote unless there was a majority objection from Council.

A motion was made by Councilor Meier and seconded by Councilor L. Sickles the City Council of the City of Falls City, Oregon adopt resolution 19-2019, A RESOLUTION SANCTIONING THE "FALLS CITY PRIDE CELEBRATION" EVENT AS PROPOSED IN ATTACHMENT A. Motion carried 5-1-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke Nays: Jennifer Drill

13. Old Business

Presentation by Retired Code Services Officer/Salem Police Lieutenant Birr

Mayor Gordon thanked Lt. Birr for attending the meeting and all of the work he's done for the City as essentially a volunteer job and how appreciative the city is. Lt. Birr prepared a presentation on Code Enforcement in Falls City which will help inform Council discussions moving forward. Mr. Birr greeted Council.

"My name is Steve Birr; I was hired the first of August as a Code Compliance Officer here in Falls City. During the course of my employment over approximately 7 months and I appreciate the volunteer aspect but as many of you don't know, I was paid \$11.00 per hour which is \$0 .25 cents over minimum wage. This is really an investment in my own safety in Falls City because you don't have a huge law enforcement presence here and in fact, there were times when I called for cover and it didn't arrive in a timely manner and in fact, got lost. So at the end of the day, I had to reassess how much my life was worth. There are some really nice people in town and then there are some really hateful people in town.

During the course of that employment, I issued eight (8) citations. Six (6) of which have been adjudicated with 100% conviction rate. I have two (2) more that are scheduled for trial next week. Unfortunately it was my observation that previous administrations have been really big on abatement and posting properties and warning people over, and over and over to the point where people didn't feel there were any teeth to anything the city had to say. In my background in law enforcement, I was taught: you ask somebody to do something. You tell them to do something. Then you make them do something. That was the philosophy we took here. We're not short on timelines, contracted with Independence municipal court, the judge over there especially lately said 'my gosh! The city has gone out of their way' and he full bailed people on their citations because we gave them 45 day or more to show they were making minimal steps or more to rectify their situation. And at the

end of the day, when they didn't, we didn't have a choice but to issue a citation. It is my observation, if the city wants to revisit this, you need to have a committed program, so eventually people get the understanding that there are teeth to the ordinances and that we're not just firing off certified letters that will never be followed up on."

Council thanked Lt. Birr. Mayor Gordon asked how Mr. Birr prioritized violations and how information came in and was processed. Mr. Birr responded "Yes. When I was initially hired, I suggested Council may want to rethink the complaint driven process. There were actually people I contacted that said 'Well, my place is bad but it not as bad as that persons' place. When you have a complaint driven process it's like, well, I don't disagree with you but I don't have a complaint on Jimmy Jones, until a month later when I did finally get one. Also, we had people that abused the municipal code as a means to piss back and forth at their neighbors. Frankly we had some really minor things arise and when you only work one day a week... We actually had people come in the next week and say well where is my complaint? Where are you with that? What's being done to resolve it? Well, that was last week; I haven't even worked a full day. So, you really need some discretion in how you manage those things.

Mayor Gordon asked if he found himself spending a lot of time individually with complaints and said he would want the most bang for his \$11.00 per hour, or how long were you in the field processing and of course there will be some public interaction, but did you find yourself spending a lot of time talking to folks like that?

Mr. Birr responded "Some. And I got chewed out by some." So at the end of the day, it doesn't become very powerful for \$11.00 per hour.

Councilor Drill addressed Mr. Birr. "I know before you left the city, right? It's already happened, your last day?" Mr. Birr said "Well, it will probably be next week when they go to trial." She said "Is there any way that we can get some bullet points from you of what you're bringing tonight?"

Mr. Birr said "I believe I've already expressed that with him." I understand the economics of Falls City, I just tell you, it's going to be a real challenge to find somebody else to do code for \$11.00 per hour."

Mayor Gordon replied "Just funding out of our general fund will be difficult enough so when brainstorming our revenue generating options we may have to include that. I'm hearing lack of funding, lack of pay to get someone qualified. You're so over qualified its laughable, you're the retired Lieutenant of the Salem Police Department. So safety concerns, no teeth behind ordinance enforcements, people (not audible) with abatement warnings and problems with a complaint driven process.

Councilor D. Sickles presented his question. "My question is, you had eight citations. How many success stories did you have where it didn't reach the point of a citation?"

Mr. Birr answered "That is a good question! Several."

Councilor D. Sickles " So we weren't wasting our time necessarily in doing this, and I understand your bullet points but obviously it was advantageous having you around do the things that you did and I think I speak for Falls City, I appreciate you doing what you did and your willingness to do it."

Mr. Birr "Thank you Councilor, and your absolutely right though. In my eyes a citation is a failure to communicate. Albeit, it's hard as we tried, my phone calls, certified letters and everything else at the point of citation, it really is a failure of somebody to do what they needed to do to resolve the problem without being cited."

Councilor Lauder said "Take the scenario where you cited someone because they needed to cleanup and they went all the way to court. And I guess the phrase would be 'we won', do you know if after court did the people clean the place up?"

Mr. Birr "My fear is that will never happen unless you have a continuous program. Some of those people got \$500.00 citations and ended up fined \$500.00 but unless you have a continuous program where someone goes back a month from now... because under the ordinance, every single day is a new violation. So you can pound somebody into the ground if you want to. But, if there isn't me, or somebody else doing my job, they're going to go 'Oh well. It cost me \$500.00 bucks.'

Councilor Radke asked what Mr. Birr thought the money number would be to keep someone in that spot. Mr. Birr "I wouldn't even put even put a wage, that's out of my wheelhouse! I'm sorry Councilor.

One of the greatest difficulties here in Falls City is lack of law enforcement. The one trooper one fight doesn't exactly get it here, whereas in the City of Salem where I worked before, when a code services officer calls for cover, they can get it within two minutes. Here, I generally had to call ahead and say 'Hey, can I get somebody about 1 O'clock today to cover me because I want to go to this drug house?'"

Mayor Gordon said it's tough and the city has to do its part. "I think the County Sheriff's Department has been a good partner with us and we can look for ways to maximize that partnership too through an IGA agreement perhaps. Are there any other questions for Steve?" Councilor Drill thanked Mr. Birr.

Mr. Birr said "Thank you, I just feel like I'm letting everybody down. I can just no longer continue to do it."

Mayor Gordon "This gives us a good baseline to assess needs for a sustainable program."


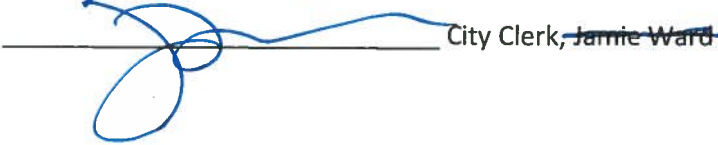
14. Late Additions

- a. A noise permit was issued for Dani Haviland and Mountain Gospel Fellowship Church for an outdoor public event they are hosting on July 26, 2019 from six (6) to ten (10) pm in the Church Parking lot. There will be live music and an Action Sports Tour demonstration.

A motion made by Councilor D. Sickles and Seconded by Councilor L. Sickles that the City Council of the City of Falls City grant the noise permit to Dani Haviland and Mountain Gospel Fellowship Church and is subject to all conditions therein. Motion carried 6-0-0. Ayes: Lori Jean Sickles Jennifer Drill, Tony Meier, Cliff Lauder, Dennis Sickles, David Radke

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Attested:  _____ Mayor, Jeremy Gordon
 _____ City Clerk, ~~Jamie Ward~~ Jostanna Birt