City Council Regular Meeting
220 N. Main St
Phoenix Plaza Civic Center
Monday, November 18, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Luz called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: **Chris Luz, Angie Vermillion, Robert Crawford, Terry Baker, Stuart Warren, Jim Snyder, and Sarah Westover**

STAFF PRESENT:
Aaron Prunty, City Manager
Bonnie Pickett, City Recorder
Douglas McGeary, City Attorney
Matias Mendez, Public Works Superintendent
Derek Bowker, Police Chief
JC Boothe, Finance/HR Director

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

J.C. Boothe, Finance Director gave an update on the General, Street and Water funds. She reviewed the new layout for City's revenues for the General Fund.

Councilor Vermillion stated the LB-1 forms were amended with the State. Ms. Boothe attempted to seek clarification about what she was referring to. After further discussion, Mayor Luz inquired whether the LB-1 forms were amended and Ms. Boothe replied that the form was not amended.

As the discussion progressed, Councilor Vermillion inquired about whether the insurance company was contacted regarding the health insurance benefits for two prior employees to follow up on the prior meeting discussion. Ms. Boothe expressed she had contacted the company to verify that the premiums paid were not applied to either of the employees. Councilor Vermillion insisted that someone had contacted the health insurance company to reverse the benefit paid for the two prior employees. Both Ms. Boothe and Mr. Prunty denied Councilor Vermillion's assertion and stated that it was not true.

Mayor Luz interjected and stated it is inappropriate for Council to discuss an individual employee's benefit package.

Motion: To Agendize a Brainstorming Session to Lower Expenses Before Considering Raising Fees. **MOVED BY BAKER, SECONDED BY VERMILLION**. No further discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:
Ayes: Snyder, Baker, Vermillion, Crawford, Westover, Warren
MOTION APPROVED WITH SIX AYES

Mayor Luz noted that most other small cities don't live stream their meetings. He stated that the City of Phoenix by doing the live streaming ensures the information is available to the public making the City more transparent than other cities. Mayor Luz noted that the proposed Jail Bond will cover the cost of operations for the jail.

Councilor Westover noted that she has received information stating that over the life of the twenty-three-year bond the cost to the taxpayers is closer to one billion dollars rather than the one hundred and seventy million that was presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandy Wine, Phoenix, stated that there has been an issue with homeless camping in the Community Garden. She noted per the advice of code enforcement and with approval from public works, no trespassing signs were installed. She requested that the Council direct Public Works to work with Pacific Power to establish power in the garden for lighting and the use of electric tools.

Daria Land, Talent, stated how the City of Talent made changes to make things more transparent. She noted all staff heads are required to be present at the Council meetings and they have decided to outsource Human Resources to Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG). She thanked the City of Phoenix for allowing the Farmer's Market to happen at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center on Tuesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm starting December 3, 2019, through February 25, 2020.

Carolyna Marshall, Phoenix, stated that the 1st Presbyterian Church and the City of Phoenix are collaborating on the Annual Christmas Tree lighting. This year the event will be held at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center. She noted the Community Dinners in December will be held on the 12th and the 23rd. Ms. Marshall noted that there will be no Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

Mike Stitt, Phoenix, thanked the Council for all that they do.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Reports for Information & Possible Action:
   1. None

b. Minutes to Approve and File:
   1. Minutes from City Council Meeting, October 7, 2019

2. Minutes from City Council Meeting, November 4, 2019

Motion: To Approve the Consent Agenda. **MOVED BY SYNDER, SECONDED BY WARREN**. No further discussion.

MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion – Future Meetings through 2019

Aaron Prunty, City Manager, stated that December 9, 2019, the Planning Commission and the City Council will meet to discuss the comprehensive plan. He noted December 16, 2019, Council meeting will include a meeting of the PHURA.

The Council agreed to add a brainstorming session on the December 2, 2019, council meeting regarding the reduction of expenses.

b. Council/Staff Roles – Doug McGeary

Mr. McGeary discussed with the Council the routes information should be obtained. He noted there has been some confusion in the roles of councilors and staff. Mr. McGeary stated when an individual member of the Council contacts outside contracted entities, the impression given is that they are representing the Council as a whole. The appropriate steps would be to contact the City Manager or to seek approval by the Council at a meeting.

10. STAFF REPORTS:

No reports

11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/ REPORTS:

Councilor Baker no comment

Councilor Crawford no comment

Councilor Snyder stated when visiting the Farmers Market in Medford he has met really nice vendors. He stated that everyone should come out and make them welcome on December 3, 2019, at 10:00 am at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center.

Councilor Warren asked about the finances of the Church St. project. He also asked for better signage for the bumps in the road at Church St. and Third St. Councilor Warren asked that all the affected residents of the Church St. project get door hangers.

Councilor Vermillion stated she was very excited about the Winter Farmers Market. She gave props to Kimberlyn Collins for all the work she did with Talent Councilor Land to coordinate the Winter Farmers Market.

Councilor Westover stated that the Council needs to determine if they can commit Phoenix residents to the tax for the jail due to the fact that the City is limited in property taxes that can be assessed. Councilor Westover discussed that there is no budget in place for the new jail proposal. She noted that she obtained an email through a public record request, that the levy leaves a large deficit in funding for the jail that will be picked up by Jackson County.

Mayor Luz noted all the good things that are going on in Phoenix. Which includes the new "Welcome to Phoenix" monument signs that have been received, booking of the Civic Center exceeding expectations, the hiring of a new public works employee and that the Comprehensive plan changes are continuing to move forward. (Please see attached page for a list good thing going on in Phoenix provided by the Mayor)

14. RECESS OPEN MEETING:

15. CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. ORS 192.660 (3), Labor negotiations shall be conducted in open meetings unless negotiations for both sides request that negotiations be conducted in executive session. Labor negotiations conducted in executive session are not subject to the notification requirements of ORS 192.640 (Public notice required).

16. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Mayor Luz stated that the Executive Session was to discuss labor negotiations and direction the Council gave staff in regard to the negotiations.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Bonnie Pickett

Bonnie Pickett
City Recorder

Good Things Happening in Phoenix

- Both "Welcome to Phoenix" monument signs are here and will be installed soon.
- New Christmas/Holiday lights are being delivered soon and will be installed this season.
- Transition to two lanes on Main Street is underway with engineering plans almost complete.
- Bookings at the Civic Center are far exceeding expectations with fiscal year-to-date revenue already exceeding all of last years revenue.
- The Rogue Valley Growers Market is coming to the Phoenix Civic Center starting Tuesday, December 3rd.
- New City Recorder has been hired and is doing well.
- New Public Works employee has been hired and is doing well.
- Comprehensive plan changes are moving along and a land use element meeting is scheduled for December.