

**MINUTES FROM
A MEETING OF THE HINES COMMON COUNCIL
January 14, 2020**

Present:

Mayor:

Nikki Morgan

Council:

Councilors Gary Miller, Duane Hutchins, Robert Beers and Ray Breshears were all present. Councilors Ron Williams and Hilda Allison were excused as absent.

City Staff:

Police Chief, Ryan DeLange, Acting Public Works Superintendent, Jerry Lewellen, Fire Chief, Robert Spence and City Administrator, Kirby Letham.

Public Audience:

David Sneddon, Bettina Bowman, Kerry Boggs, Lola Johnson

***Mayor Nikki Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the flag salute.**

Approval of January 14, 2020 Agenda:

The agenda for January 14, 2020, was reviewed by the Council. Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Hutchins seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes for December 10, 2019:

The minutes for December 10, 2019, were reviewed by the Council.

Councilor Hutchins made a motion to approve the December 10, 2019 minutes as presented. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Accounts Payable:

Accounts Payable for December 19, 2019, in the amount of \$10,227.41 and Accounts Payable for January 14, 2020, in the amount of \$207,576.37 were considered. Councilor Hutchins asked about the cemetery bill and if it was an annual payment, which Administrator Letham confirmed. Councilor Beers asked for a total that had been paid to Anderson Perry so far. Administrator Letham said that not including the current draw payments, we have paid Anderson Perry \$293,613.00. With the current draws from the January 14, 2020 AP run included we will have paid \$480,020.00.

Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the December 19, 2019, Accounts Payable, in the amount of \$10,227.41 and Accounts Payable for January 14, 2020, in the amount of \$207,576.37 Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

Department Heads Report:

Police Chief, Ryan DeLange

The police department has been working on several domestic calls, a continuation of last month. Chief DeLange stated 1 call can take up to 5 days of work, adding that their overtime, as a department, was up quite a bit. They have responded to many calls of youth/students vaping at schools. Chief DeLange brought to the Council's attention that Dan Jenkins has taken over as Interim Sheriff for Harney County. Said that he is doing a good job and hopes that the next 11 months are a positive change for both the county and the Hines Police Department. Chief DeLange introduced an email that he received earlier that day regarding a proposed ordinance before the County Court that declaring Harney County will uphold, sustain & support the 2nd amendment. If any state law was to pass that violates or inhibits the 2nd amendment, the county will not enforce it. Chief DeLange reminded everyone that the roads are slick and to drive slowly. Councilor Beers asked about vaping being illegal. Chief DeLange confirmed it is illegal for anyone under

18 to vape. If a minor in the school district has been caught vaping, the police are called in. If the student is 18, but still in school, the school district handles it.

Fire Chief, Robert Spence

Chief Spence stated that it has been slow the last month. Did attend to one flue fire, the roof was very icy due the homeowner spraying it before their arrival, but it worked out okay as they have the equipment to handle roof calls. The department has approximately 25 smoke detectors that they can install throughout the community. The new thermal imaging camera has arrived and is twice as small as the previous one that had gone bad, but works very well. Hines Fire Department is also continuing their on-going training with Burns Fire Department. Councilor Hutchins asked about the machine being battery powered or rechargeable in the truck. Chief Spence confirmed that it does charge in the truck. A discussion ensued about what the machine can see and the uses of the machine.

Acting Public Works Superintendent, Jerry Lewellen

Been moving a lot of snow. ODOT is no longer plowing the snow up onto the sidewalks, but are now slowly going along scraping it into the gutters along the sidewalks. Takes the public works guys a little longer now to remove all the snow from the roads. The overflow pumps are pumping approximately 125,000 gallons a day into the overflow as the water is not evaporating this time of year. The transfer pump is down, due to a broken screen. Alan's Repair is building a new screen for the pump and once it is complete, it will be installed. Pumps are pumping approximately 190,000 gallons of drinking water. The handheld for the meter readings no longer talks to the computer. All the bills will be averaged until a solution can be implemented. Councilor Miller asked if there were any problems with cars being parked on the road and plowing of side streets. A discussion about snow plowing ensued.

City Administrator, Kirby Letham

The City of Burns revised an agreement regarding the judicial services they provide regarding civil matters. The fee Burns charges for judicial services has increased from \$150.00 to \$300.00. The City of Hines did budget for the increase. The City of Hines has no other

choice at this present time. The Small City Allotment contract has been changed to deal with the ADA compliance legalities. Paving of certain roads that meet Hwy 20 must be rewritten in the contract, however the grant money most likely won't reach that paving project. Administrator Letham will get with Mayor Morgan to have the contracts re-signed. The grant money amount will not change and most will be used for the first project on the list. A contractor has contacted Administrator Letham regarding designing and building the park bathroom. He will also be applying for grants through the State of Oregon Parks Dept. Possibly using the money that has been raised for the bathrooms and grant money for other areas of the park. Councilor Miller asked about the lights from the mill site. Administrator Letham stated that the lights are being stored in Councilor Allison's garage. Need to come up with ideas on the how and where to use them. Brian Wall has been in contact with Administrator Letham regarding the skate park. There has been talk of a committee being put together and working with High Desert Park and Rec to upgrade the park. Discussion ensued of grants, private grants and other avenues of funding. In December the meter reader failed, staff are working on avenues of how to remedy that problem. Currently staff are working with Chaves to update the new water rates in the financial software. This project is on track for the February billings.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items:

Kerry Boggs

Announced that he was running for Harney County Sheriff. He gave his personal history and qualifications. Council members and city staff asked general questions. Councilor Miller asked about the refuge standoff. Councilor Hutchins asked about the 2nd amendment.

Old Business:

Police Car - Administrator Letham included in the council packets a breakdown of interest rates and payments from US Bank and Old West Federal Credit Union. One

option with US Bank and two options from Old West. A discussion ensued about details of each loan and each bank. The Council asked Administrator Letham to speak with US Bank to see if they would match the terms from OWFCU. The Council also asked Administrator Letham to speak with OWFCU about opening a savings account specifically for the loan payments and if they would be willing to waive any annual fees. Final decision tabled until questions answered. To be handled via email to council members.

Sale of Property (1992 Ford F250) – Bid that won was \$1,253.00 to Justin Hoffman. Councilor Beers made a motion to accept the winning bid in the amount of \$1,253.00 for the 1992 Ford F250 pickup. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.

New Business:

Donation request from Crossroads of Harney County – Bettina Bowman asked for donations for building improvements at the Crossroads. There will be an annual fundraiser dinner on February 29, 2020. They are asking for donations outside of Harney County as well to reduce over asking within the community. Mrs. Bowman asked if the city would be a \$200.00 table sponsor, which includes two dinner tickets or \$100.00 food sponsor which one dinner ticket. Mrs. Bowman asked the Hines Fire Department to donate “a ride to school in a fire truck” as a silent auction item, Chief Spence agreed. Councilor Breshears made a motion to donate \$200.00 for table sponsorship. Councilor Hutchins seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried.


Auditor – Administrator Letham brought to the Council’s attention to an email from Oster’s Professional Group, stating that they have not finished our current audit, and will not be doing audits anymore. The City will need to put out bids for a new auditor before April 2020.

Planning Commission Applicant – David Sneddon, shared his interest in filling the Planning Commission vacancy, gave his background and credentials. Mayor Morgan asked Mr. Sneddon questions and they had a discussion. Mayor Morgan appointed David Sneddon to the Planning Commission.

Public Comment:

Lola Johnson, Director of the Chamber of Commerce was given the floor for comment. She let the council know of upcoming events, including the chamber dinner on the 25th, a health fair on February and the bird festival. She expressed thoughts of maybe holding an event here at City Hall. On February 20th at 6pm, the Chamber is holding the State of the County and she would like the Administrator and the Mayor to both speak.

Council Comments:

Councilor Miller – Stated he called **Administrator Letham**, regarding the deer and about the City flyer which said a dog had been stomped. **Councilor Miller** stated he did some research with local veterinarians, and there were three dog stomping incidents as of record which all happened in the springtime. **Administrator Letham** stated that the lady that he talked to said that her dog was stomped in September. **Councilor Miller** also mentioned that the paving of West Hanley needs to be done first, so it doesn't get behind another year. 

Councilor Hutchins – Would like past issues (such as the gas tax) that have been discussed with no decision made, to be left on the “old business” portion of the agenda, so they won't be forgotten and never dealt with.

Councilor Beers – Department heads are doing a great job and keep it up. Still would like to review the water rates.

Councilor Breshears - Department heads are doing a great job and keep up the good work.

Adjournment:

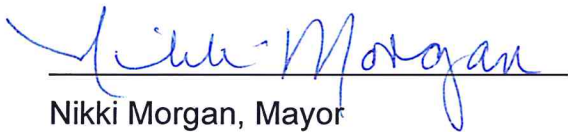
There being no further business, Councilor Beers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kirby Letham

City Administrator

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 28, 2020


Nikki Morgan, Mayor