**CITY OF MORO**

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 04, 2020**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

*Written minutes may not contain a verbatim record of meeting events. If clarification or additional specific information is desired, please reference any available audio recording*

The Moro City Council met for a regular Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 04, 2020, 7:00 p.m. The following were present Mayor Perry Thurston, Councilors Seth vonBorstel, Bryan Cranston, Andy Anderson, James Alley, Erik Glover-City Administrator (CA), John English-Director of Public Works (DPW);, Moro Residents: Bert Perisho, Sharon Simantel, Shirley Meyer, Marvin Meyer, Pat Gabriel, Kim Stadeli, Janet Pinkerton, Ernie Moore, Vada Demoss, Abbey Phelps, Cindy Heater-Judah, Jeff Judah, Lee Langston, Carrie Hughes, Marcus Henrickson- Moro Fire, Kyle Bender-OSU Extension, Steve Hainline, Tyler Bledsoe-Moro Fire, Dufur; Nathaniel Stelzer- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, Nathan Stelzer- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, David Stelzer- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, Michelle Stelzer- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, Obed Stelzer- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, Ariel Nelson- Azure Farms/Azure Standard, Condon; AD Irzyk-Times Journal.

**Mayor Thurston Resignation/City of Moro Mayor**

Mayor Thurston spoke, and read a letter regarding his resignation as Moro Mayor. City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that according to the Moro Charter, Council President Cranston would preside as Mayor, in times of a vacancy in office; the next order of business would be to accept the resignation and declare the position vacant. Councilor Cranston requested clarification from Mayor Thurston as to if he was tendering a resignation tonight, or not. Mayor Thurston advised that he was confirming his resignation as Moro Mayor tonight. Council requested clarification as to if they had to accept the resignation. City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that City more or less, had to accept the resignation. A motion was made (**vonBorstel/Alley**) to accept the resignation of Mayor Perry Thurston. **Motion Carried**

City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that according to the Charter, in the absence of Mayor the Council President would be acting Mayor, until such time as the vacancy is filled. A motion was made (**vonBorstel/Alley**) to declare position of Mayor vacant pursuant to the Charter, and to advertise for letters of interest from the public, with a deadline of March 03, 2020 at the close of business. **Motion Carried**

**CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES-BILLS-FINANCIAL REPORT**-

There was a motion **(vonBorstel/Anderson)** to approve the January 07, 2020 Regular Council Meeting minutes**. Motion Carried**

There was a motion **(Anderson/vonBorstel)** to approve January’s bills totaling $25,919.74, check #’s 12460-12480, and 15093. **Motion Carried**

**Visitors/Correspondence**

**Letter’s Regarding Nuisance Weeds in Moro**

CA Glover shared that the City had received additional correspondence, and pictures of nuisance Jim Hill Mustard, they were added to the record.

**Citizens Comment Items on Agenda**

**Abbey Phelps- Moro**- Inquired about the proposed business license ordinance for discussion later tonight. Shared that she hoped the ordinance would have a clear definition of crafters/home based businesses.

**Carrie Hughes- Moro-** Requested additional clarification on the business license ordinance.

Council advised this item would be discussed in further detail later in the meeting.

**Ernie Moore**, **Kim Stadeli, Bert Perisho, Carrie Hughes, Nathaniel Stelzer, David Stelzer, Perry Thurston, Shirley Meyer, Abbey Phelps and Steve Hainline**. – All shared various thoughts and comments on the nuisance tumbleweeds, impacts to the City, motoring public and efforts to remediate them.

**PROJECT PRIORITIES** –

**WATER SYSTEM** –DPW English advised that he was primarily focusing on City Hall Well. Pacific Power had issues with the installation of a voltage data recorder, and it was reinstalled on 30th of January and he expected a report soon. DPW English also advised well motor was under warranty, but the initial installing contractor would have to install it under warranty. DPW English advised he would be discussing the well with Anderson Perry, and would have more details later. Brief discussion was held by Council, and it was concluded to receive engineering update prior to proceeding.

**MAINSTREET FAÇADE AND STREETSCAPE PROGRAM**– Agenda Item skipped, no discussion.

**2019 ODOT Small City Grant, Sidewalks Project**

CA Glover provided a summary, he advised grant amendment had been submitted and approved by ODOT. DPW English advised Anderson Perry would be on site, and project was slated to go out for bid at the end of the month.

**Welcome to Moro Signs**

DPW English advised that the signs were under construction, and further updates would be provided later.

**Nathan Stelzer- Ecclesia of Sinai-Azure Farms/Azure Standard Appeal of Notice to Abate**

City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that following the decision in previous meeting the City sent an abatement notice to Azure Farms/Ecclesia of Sinai. He advised that Azure appealed in writing in accordance with Ordinance 246, within the required time frame, and that the appeal would be considered by Council tonight. He suggested that the Council take comment from a representative of Azure Farms, and to declare a timeframe for abatement if they find a nuisance still exists. Council opened the floor for discussion from Azure Farms. Nathan Stelzer of Azure Farms spoke of the appeal. Nathan Stelzer advised that he saw the posted abatement signs, and received notices from the City. He faced difficulty in reaching the City for clarification and contacted the Fire Department. Nathan advised he spoke to Moro Fire Assist Chief Scott Belshe, and he knew nothing of the abatement. Nathan Stelzer added that pictures were taken, and he was unable to see overgrowth that would contribute to fire danger.

CA Glover read verbatim the notice to abate sent to Azure Farms, and Ecclesia of Sinai. Council provided the pictures of current status of nuisances, received earlier tonight in correspondence, to Azure Farms. Brief discussion was held by Council, who concluded that a nuisance in-fact still exists. A motion was made (**vonBorstel/Anderson**) to issue a determination that a nuisance in fact exists, for an order of abatement to be issued. **Motion Carried**. Brief discussion was held on Azure going onto private property to abate/clean up the weeds. Council clarified that if a landowner does not provide permission, or refuses to have Azure perform cleanup, to get a written letter attesting to that fact. Nathan Stelzer requested clear guidance on what a landowner is. Council directed CA Glover to get notices out via utility bills, website, and standard posting to Moro residents regarding cleanup assistance. The City would accept written forms for assistance from residents, and coordinate with Azure Farms and citizens to facilitate cleanup. A motion was made (**vonBorstel/Anderson**) to issue an order of abatement to Azure Farms for abatement within 30 days, and the City may monitor the nuisance conditions subject to abatement, for the next 6 months. Motion Carried.

Council clarified that any citizen who was impacted would have until March 03, 2020 to request assistance, and would remain on the list for the next 6 months. Anyone who did not submit a written form for consideration by that date may be precluded for consideration as part of this special arrangement.

**PAST DUE WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS** – Erik Glover (CA) shared that there were 11 disconnect notices delivered. One service account was disconnected due to non-payment, and not making arrangements, but that they paid following shutoff and service was reinstated.

**Ordinance # 270, an ordinance to establish business license requirements for all businesses conducting business within Moro City limits**

CA Glover advised that he put together a draft of a business license ordinance following Council request at the last meeting. He explained that he took the model business license ordinance from the League of Oregon Cities and suggested some changes in red, to make it fit a small community better. CA Glover read the purpose section of the business license ordinance in full. City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that business license ordinances are very common across the State. He advised that they are great tools for consumer protection, development purposes, and for knowing who is doing business in the City. Brief discussion was held on the purpose of the ordinance. Council was generally in favor with proceeding, but wanted clarification on the home based business issue.

***Moro Cemetery Policy Revision***

CA Glover advised that he had clarified a few points in the document, and has been in discussion with legal regarding the policy, and a few changes were proposed. CA Glover advised that he would like to incorporate all the changes into the document and bring it back for Council review at March meeting.

**CEDS- COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY LIST**

CA Glover advised that it was time for the City to submit projects for prioritization by the County Court, and submittal of the list to MCEDD for potential funding opportunities. He advised that the City had submitted water system telemetry, water tower reservoir fence, and water system backup generator last year. The City had completed the water tower reservoir fence with its own funds, and he would remove that from the list. CA Glover shared that he proposed keeping the two previous projects, and adding in Main Street Façade and Streetscape Funding. CA Glover advised that he thought that this could be used as funds match, if the City received grants from the Oregon Main Street program. Council approved the CEDS list, and directed CA Glover to proceed with list as presented.

**Review/Revision of City of Moro General Fee Schedule**

CA Glover shared that as discussed in the last meeting, with the City accepting credit card/debit cards via online bill pay or mobile app, he proposed adding a penalty/charge/late payment fee of $10.00 per month/per service account to the fee schedule, which would be in addition to the current delinquent notice/door hanger fee ,proposed establishing a cemetery ownership fee transfer fee of $75.00, and proposed establishing an interment authorization form fee of $10.00, as discussed in the last Council meeting. He added that he proposed small increases in lot purchase prices to better match market averages and inflation, and clarification of options available to purchasers. Following discussion a motion was made (***Anderson/vonBorstel***), to accept Resolution 2020-01 City of Moro General Fee Resolution, adopt/amend the fee schedule as presented. **Motion Carried**

***City Administrator Report* (Credit Card Billing, FEMA Generator Grant Update, Utility Statements**)

CA Glover advised that following Council decision in the last meeting, the City had signed a services agreement with Paygov.us, to accept credit/debit cards via online bill pay, or mobile pay app, and he estimated the new system would be online/operable within 60 calendar days.

CA Glover advised that the City had finally received an update regarding the FEMA grant submitted for a backup generator. He advised that he understood the State of Oregon Emergency Management department to have had some turnover, which contributed to additional delays. He shared that the City received a status email, and it would take probably 8-12 months before a decision was made.

CA Glover shared that office had been having some technical challenges with the copier, and he had been doing some research on outsourcing the folding/mailing of utility statements, and it appeared to be more cost effective than current practice. Council inquired about privacy concerns with outsourcing the utility statements. City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised it would not be an issue. Council concluded they would like additional information, on the agreements, cancellation times and comparable quotes from other vendors, and before they discussed it further.

**Discussion of Nuisance Ordinance 246**

Brief discussion was held by Council, on amending the fine for Nuisance Ordinance 246 from not less than $50.00 per occurrence/per day, to something more in-line with other cities $500.00 per occurrence/per day. City Attorney Ruben Cleveland advised that he felt $500.00 per day was appropriate, and the City can potentially cite below its fine amount. Following discussion the Council felt current language of not less than $50.00 per day was appropriate for a small community, and wanted to leave the ordinance as is.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA  
Bert Perisho- Moro** -Shared that he wanted to thank Council for doing good work for the community, and handling two difficult situations in a professional manner tonight.

**Abbey Phelps Moro-** Shared that she wanted to make sure that the removal of weeds on vacant properties was on the Cities radar.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Councilor vonBorstel**- Shared that he wanted to thank CA Glover for all the hard work and preparation for the numerous agenda items tonight, and he wanted to thank City Attorney Ruben Cleveland for attending. Councilor Cranston seconded that.

**Councilor Anderson**- Shared that he wanted to thank Azure Farms for its willingness to help citizens of Moro with cleanup of tumbleweeds, and for attending the meeting tonight.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned (vonBorstel/Anderson) at 09:02 PM**

**The Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 03, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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Bryan Cranston, *Acting Mayor*

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Date

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Attest, Erik Glover, City Administrator

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Date