



Harrisburg City Council Work Session Minutes  
May 25, 2021  
6:30 PM

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Mayor: Robert Duncan  
Council President: Mike Caughey  
Councilors: Kimberly Downey, Adam Keaton, Randy Klemm  
Councilors Absent: Charlotte Thomas and Rob Boese  
Staff Present: City Administrator Michele Eldridge, Public Works Director  
Chuck Scholz, Finance Officer Cathy Nelson, and City Recorder  
Lori Ross  
Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center @ 354 Smith St.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** by Mayor, Robert Duncan at the hour of 6:31pm

**CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE.** All present were there for the meeting and for items on the agenda.

**THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH A MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FROM LCSO**

**LCSO REPORT:** Sergeant Beth Miller reviewed the report for the month of April and elaborated on a few of the standout reports. There were no questions or comments.

**THE MATTER OF A DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO A RESOLUTION AND LETTER OF ADVOCATION FOR THE CITY OF HARRISBURG**

Before opening up the discussion, Duncan started by thanking the ad-hoc committee for taking initiative on this topic. In the past, he has refrained from responding to emergencies on social media but felt like he wanted to write an open letter regarding this issue and asked that we indulge him while he read aloud a letter addressed to all in attendance. (Addendum 1)

**STAFF REPORT:** Eldridge addressed her staff report stating it took the ad-hoc committee about three hours to complete the proposed resolution based on the resolution done in Baker City and also created a letter. There were a few things that were part of the resolution language that they didn't agree on, so it was brought to City Council. Eldridge stated that she contacted local businesses and asked if they supported the language. The committee did not want to speak for

them, if this was not what they were saying. Eldridge did hear from 10 businesses, and they all agreed. Mike Hurd stated to Eldridge that they are firmly in support of the resolution and appreciate what the City is doing.

Eldridge addressed the highlighted areas of the proposed resolution and asked the Council if they were okay with those words. Eldridge asked if ad-hoc members Keaton or Caughey would like to comment on the highlighted sentences.

- Keaton addressed the first two areas. He stated that the language was modified and toned down a bit and feels that the sentence now, is a good representative of where we are now. For the second sentence, he stated the committee agreed that original projections were blown out of the water and the most recent are more accurate. He is happy with it as is and was also happy with the stronger wording.
- Caughey stated that the first sentence does warrant that it is survivable and that lockdowns did reduce the number, or we would be in worse shape. He does agree that there were some inaccurate statements because of lack of knowledge and wouldn't grumble about the second.
- Duncan asked about the wording prolonged or unjustified or unnecessary referring to the lockdowns. Keaton replied that's why there stating that lockdowns don't work and used Sweden and Europe as an example and also Texas stating they have not had another spike since lifting the shutdown.
- Downey's argument is she doesn't like the way the lockdown happened for the businesses. She never saw any data that restaurants caused this and that's why she liked the statement. The second sentence she's all for, but the first she doesn't know. She asked if the shut down helped reduce the spread.
- Caughey answered be believed that was true and stated that things opened up, and the cases shot up. Keaton commented that cases went up, but hospitalizations didn't due to knowing the treatment and the signs of Covid.
- Duncan asked what she thought of the resolution as a whole? Downey answered that she loved it.
- Klemm's would like to have something in the first section referencing the length of lockdowns and would like to have something in the first section stating the continual lockdowns do not stop the spread and the metric used was insufficient. Since we do mention it later on in the resolution, he is fine with the way it is.
- Eldridge informed Council that we do have a business that has closed, and others are barely hanging on. The County is also in another week of high risk, and she also verified that Linn County is our local jail and the are only keeping felony cases.
- Heather Keaton, of N 6<sup>th</sup> PI, asked if the Gridiron counted as two business's or one? Eldridge and Ross responded that it was one business.
- Duncan commented that we are doing this resolution to let the citizens know that we have their back, so did it meet the need? Downey answered yes. She felt we should have been able to govern our town and felt helpless as a City Councilor. Keaton commented that this year has shown how little power the County and Cities have.
- Keaton stated that he was happy with it but would like to hear Klemm's general overview and Duncan's part as well.
- Klemm stated that after relying on the state and CDC for information on Covid, and over that nine-month period he came to realize that there are government entities, that do not have our best interest in mind. The City needs to use whatever tools they have to bring light to this. Klemm stated he was keeping track of all negative, positive and the total number cases tested and the media and government were only reporting positive cases, and not how many people were tested. Klemm

reached out to OHA and wanted to know why we weren't getting that information and got no response. He also asked how the state website could say that one million Oregonians had been tested in a four month period, then overnight, another million were. Again, no response. Klemm stated that he has lost faith and that we should use any tool we have to raise concern with the issue for our citizens.

- Caughey commented that the letter was phenomenal and addresses the problem. Small town businesses have been affected negatively way more than bigger chains. Caughey felt that the letter addressed it very well.
- Eldridge stated that if she had everyone's consensus, she would make the changes and have the Mayor sign it.

#### **THE MATTER OF REVIEWING AND APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) WITH THE STATE OF OREGON BUILDING CODE DIVISION (BCD)**

**STAFF REPORT:** Eldridge commented that it was a straightforward agreement with Oregon Building Codes Division and the agreement needs to be signed to assume our new permit program. The new program will allow our citizens to get permits a little easier.

- Klemm **motioned to approve the IGA with the Oregon Building Code Division and to authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Harrisburg and was seconded by Caughey. The Council voted unanimously to approve the IGA with the Oregon Building Code Division and to authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement on the behalf of the City of Harrisburg.**

#### **THE MATTER OF A DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO COUNCIL POLICY 18-1.04**

**STAFF REPORT:** Eldridge stated that the City Attorney was going to provide a memo and she was not able to get it before the meeting, but he did give her some information regarding the code of conduct; sleeping or loitering. They pointed out that if someone is at City Hall and they are just sitting, disrupting staff, or not using any City services, it is not allowing staff to effectively conduct City business. It was also suggested removing the word loitering and felt that the rest of the policy will support what we want.

#### **THE MATTER OF DISCUSSING RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY/ACCESS AND NEW SIGNS FOR THE 132-ACRE PARK**

**STAFF REPORT:** Eldridge started by informing Council that the park is indeed 132 acres and not 100 acres. The park has no trespassing signs but they continue to be vandalized or stolen. Staff and LCSO have noticed that there are people using the park and the gate cannot be locked due to it being an easement. Eldridge stated that Duncan did have some safety concerns with how deep the north pond was. She pointed out page 51 of the packet, which showed the north pond. The pond is adjacent to the access road and was unsure of the depth.

- Duncan asked if it was a continual thing that Knife River would need to come back and do reclamation. Eldridge responded that it is with the southern ponds only and they would need to keep up with the trees and the channels between the ponds. Duncan is concerned that if someone falls in or jumps in, that they can't get out because it's too steep.
- Eldridge spoke with the City Attorney and he felt that if our sign stated "undeveloped and unsupervised area and enter at your own risk" instead of "no trespassing", that it would be more effective and recreational immunity would still apply. Recreational immunity applies to a natural area and puts the risk onto the

person who goes onto the property for recreational purposes. It won't stop people from going onto the property, but the signs are there to warn them that it's at your own risk.

- Eldridge mentioned that there are some suggestions from League of Oregon Cities about signage to inform residents about hazards.
- Eldridge commented that she reached out to the HFD asking if the park was a fire danger and Fire Chief Griffith responded in severe drought, they might start checking the area since it's owned by the City.
- Duncan asked about signage for the park in case of an emergency and someone needed to call 911. Should we get together with Griffith and 911 to let them know that is it the 100 Acre Park? Eldridge responded that we could go through and name the park if we wanted to going forward.
- Scholz commented that if it's an undeveloped park, let it continue to be undeveloped until we can find the funds to develop it. The City has had no less than 60 signs stolen from the property this last year and two hunting cameras stolen or vandalized. He is all for signing for liability purposes at the main entrance and mentioned that you can access the ponds from other areas not including the river access. His opinion is to leave it as an undeveloped park until we can come up with something and to quit throwing money at it for signs.

#### **THE MATTER OF APPROVING A PARADE PERMIT WITH TWO DIFFERENT ROUTES FOR THE OLD-FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY PARADE**

**STAFF REPORT:** Eldridge informed Council that they are applying for two different routes this year. The first being the normal route and the second without leaving the highway if ODOT doesn't approve the permit.

- **Caughey motioned to approve the two parade routes for the 2021 Old-Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and was seconded by Klemm. The Council voted unanimously to approve the two parade routes for the 2021 Old-Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.**

#### **THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2020/2021 EXPENSE REPORT**

**STAFF REPORT:** No concerns or questions.

- **Caughey motioned to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020/2021 Expense Report and was seconded by Downey. The City Council voted unanimously to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020/ 2021 Expense Report.**

#### **OTHER ITEMS.**

- 895 S 6<sup>th</sup> St: Eldridge responded to a previous inquiry regarding 895 S 6<sup>th</sup> St and said that the scaffolding has been up since 2017/2018. The owner started with the roof and then the siding in 2020. She sent off for information to Linn County about if the permits are still open. She also spoke with City Attorney and said that part of our code might apply to the timeline concern. Downey said if they're moving along and within their permits, she's okay with it. Eldridge stated he is doing the work himself and that he works several hours a week while having a family. Eldridge commented that it's on the Historical Resource and the porch was not historical to that goal. He will be putting it back to be more traditional to what was originally there.

**ADJOURN: At the hour of 8:07pm**

**From:** [Michele Eldridge](#)  
**To:** [Lori Ross](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Presented to the City Council of the City of Harrisburg Oregon.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:29:25 PM

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[REDACTED];

[REDACTED]

Michele Eldridge, CMC  
 City Administrator  
 PO Box 378  
 120 Smith St.  
 Harrisburg, OR 97446  
 541-995-2200

Any mail to and from this address may be subject to Public Records Disclosure Laws

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Duncan [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:35 PM  
 To: Michele Eldridge [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Presented to the City Council of the City of Harrisburg Oregon.

[REDACTED]

Presented to the City Council of the City of Harrisburg Oregon.  
 May 25th,2021

To All in Attendance;

Growing up in the 50's and 60's I never really got into the meaning of the protests of that time. I just like the music and how do I discreetly say the entertainment value at the time, plus I looked good in long hair and bell bottoms. The older I got though I began to hear the real music more clearly, maybe it was the lack of entertainment that cleared my head and I began to hear things as time progressed,,,, the Tet offensive, the pentagon papers, Watergate, Iran/Contra, read my lips, white water, Monica, Missing WMD's, If you like your Dr. you can keep your Dr., Benghazi, of course not the CIA or the NSA would never spy on US citizens stated their respective former directors as they lied to Congress and a political party would never weaponize the IRS or Justice Dept to go after the enemies on their lists and the full power of the white house would never go after a journalists or his family for reporting on something they didn't want made public, then Russia, Russia, Russia, Russia, Ukraine, Ukraine.

Do I really even need to waste your time mentioning the lying decrepted institutions that call themselves the objective press, the open graves of what's mislabeled as the mainstream media, the ones that pee on our legs and tell us it's raining while they smile through their lily white teeth hiding the stench of their fraudulent objectivity. So where am I going with all of this, bare with me, I will try and make the bow at the end tied up neatly, no promises though.

We've sat through 2020 and now into 2021 behind masks looking into people with unrecognizable eyes and to an unknown future filled with lies and subjugation. We've absorbed tainted information and half truths fertilized from the mouths of politicians bent on reelection and making the opposite party look bad at the cost of the truth and to the detriment of millions. Our leaders have looked toward book deals, TV appearances, glowing adulation from Hollywood and sports teams, my dog leaves more intelligent information on the grass in my backyard than any athlete or movie star I've heard in the last year and a half. We receive emails and fliers in our mail from our elected officials spinning the yarn with one hand of what wonderful things their doing for us and with the other filling their pockets with stock options and funds from the very corporations that think us uneducated Bible toting gun loving rubes. I'm not too cold I know many of them started out with good intentions only to be ensnared with power and

the daunting task of getting and keeping power so their ends can justify their means. Many of those in leadership positions have made our whole nation suffer through so very much just to make the former president look bad, the policy of “the end justifies the means”, I would describe that policy as pure evil incarnate to let so many suffer to meet that sick and worthless need, it was beyond shameful, but those who would practice that policy would have no shame.

The summer of love; what came out of our elected representatives’ mouths during this time can only be described as, well I can’t, I can’t find a word that would be fitting, it was like their very own human waste was emanating from the wrong ends of their bodies, flowing freely, like we would just believe and accept it as truth and the sad thing is that some did, some thought it was unicorn and rainbows that torching a minority owned business was somehow a noble endeavor. The only difference with the press reporting at that time was they spewed their filth with that platinum smile, those amazing “mostly” peaceful protests, look out watch your legs here comes that rain again!!! Our cities burned due to lies and misstated statistics bent on filling a despicable narrative and the poor once again took the brunt of the violence, all as the press and their sycophants filled their coffers with internet clicks and TV adds for rating boosts and book deals.

Systematic Racism?; this one is probably the most dangerous for all of us no matter what your skin color,, those who call ourselves proud Americans. This is one type of evil plan our former greats warned us about, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln Dr. Martin Luther King all spoke of our nation falling from within, the race baiters who profit from division are the true enemies of us all. When we speak of the past great men and women of our great nation we say “we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us” the great ones who endured hardship and suffering, those who chose to take a stand at all cost in order to make it better than they found it. Some paid higher costs than others but together they form the foundation on which we stand. I’ve been thinking hard trying to come up with an emotional word picture to depict how I feel about what is taking place in our nation as far as those who are bent on separating us into groups or tribes. Picture if you will people like MLK, Rosa Parkers, The Tuskegee Airmen, Harriet Tubman, all those that marched in Selma Alabama, black, white and brown, now picture if you will the generations that have followed them standing next to them, those from the sixties and seventies building and making strides as they all hold us up today, now look around today at the race haters and baiters the critical race theorist, the lairs of the 1619 project, the political who seek only hate and destruction, now picture those same racists standing on that foundation of greatness spewing their hate out of their mouths down on top of all the great people whose shoulders they stand on. Their filth and excrement that is their policy and ideology falling down on those who gave so much for them and now they are returning to and embracing the very hatred that those foundational people fought so hard against. Those that came before them et al would be ashamed of them for they foment hate and division their outright lies and spin seek to bring a lairs wedge into our schools and institutions to weave their hate into every aspect of our existence, why? In most cases follow the money and smell the hate.

So now comes the bow I was talking about earlier, so what do we do about all the corruption and hypocrisy we see on a daily basis. Thomas Sowell wonderfully stated, “its amazing how much panic one honest man can spread among a multitude of hypocrites”. I send you amongst them, go forth, speak boldly and hold close the truth of this great nation warts and all.

I have full confidence in you citizens of Harrisburg Oregon and in you as city staff and the elected city council and other leadership of this great city. You will continue on in truth, you will stand firm against the lies of those whose goal is destruction of the American way of liberty for all, all the same under the law, Councilors I know you will stand firm in your oath of office to the constitution of the United States of America, you will look on all others as more important than yourselves and each day you will strive to leave this place, this life better than you found it. It’s the least we can do for those whos shoulders “WE” stand on. So what’s left of the haters, will I’m sick of them, they can just go piss up a rope, remember earlier I said no promises.

Mayor Robert (Bobby) Duncan  
City of Harrisburg Oregon  
May 25th, 2021

