



Harrisburg City Council Minutes April 08, 2025

Mayor:	Robert Duncan, Presiding
Council President:	Mike Caughey, Present
Councilors Present:	Kimberly Downey, Randy Klemm, Charlotte Thomas, Cindy Knox, Dana Henry and Youth Advisor Nolan Malpass
Staff Present:	City Administrator Michele Eldridge, Public Works Director Chuck Scholz, Finance Director/Deputy City Recorder Cathy Nelson and City Recorder/Municipal Court Administrator Lori Ross
Meeting Location:	Harrisburg Municipal Center Located at 354 Smith St

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Robert Duncan

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL by Mayor, Robert Duncan at the hour of 6:32pm

CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE: All in attendance were there for items on the agenda.

THE MATTER OF THE MAYOR PROCLAIMING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH: Council President Mike Caughey read the Proclamation on behalf of Mayor Robert Duncan, proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

THE MATTER OF HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DECLARE A DANGEROUS HOUSE AT 790 BURTON ST. Eldridge reviewed the staff report which outlined the reason for tonight's public hearing. After this emergency abatement, the City currently has \$55,424 in liens on the property with a RMV of \$212,880. Eldridge informed Council that the son-in-law of the property owner; Dan Schroeder, has stated the family might be interested in paying off the City liens. Eldridge commented she is in favor of a solution that reduces staff time and reduces the liens on the

property. Eldridge pointed out the suggested solutions on page no. 8 of the agenda adding the 90 day time frame mentioned, is negotiable. Eldridge also informed the audience, if they would like to review the pictures of the home, she has them available upon request.

Mayor Duncan opened the Public Hearing at the hour of 6:43pm.

Testimony:

- Randy Tegge, of Burton St, commented that he appreciates the City taking action on this property. He is concerned about the tree in the front yard by the house and thinks it could be a safety issue. Tegge would like to make sure the tree is part of the mitigation plan moving forward.
- Dan Schroeder, son-in-law of the property owner, informed Council he just recently learned about the home. He added that the immediate family is not willing to engage in the abatement process. Schroeder stated that he has gotten ahold of an asbestos company, a contractor and a structural engineer and they will be meeting at the residence on April 17th at 1pm to determine if the home is dangerous. His belief is the house is structurally sound but there is a major roof problem and clutter problem inside. He added there are some family members who might be willing to assist with the financial side if it makes sense and if it doesn't make sense, they will speak with the fire department about burning the home. Schroeder stated that Atez will be looking for asbestos and lead paint. Schroeder inquired about being able to access the property on more of a regular basis if it is deemed safe or if they would need to get permission from the City each time. Eldridge responded that the City doesn't own the property and cannot say who can or cannot access the property. Eldridge added the City can create something indicating the owner has given her family permission to access the property to abate the home. Schroeder offered his contact information to anyone who wants to discuss it further and assured Council that this will be handled.
- Eldridge voiced her appreciation for Schroeder stepping forward.
- Henry asked for clarification on whether Schroeder could access the property to mow or clean up vegetation. Eldridge clarified the owner would just need to give permission.

Mayor Duncan closed the Public Hearing at the hour of 6:52pm

- Thomas **made a motion to return at the next Council Session with a resolution and process to negotiate with the owner and family to prescribe what must be done to make the building safe and was seconded by Henry.**
- Klemm asked if the motion was clear enough. *The consensus from Council felt it was.*
- **The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.** (Yes: Thomas, Henry, Caughey, Downey, Klemm, and Knox. Youth Advisor Nolan Malpass also voted in favor. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING A RESTRICTIVE COVENANT TO APPLY TO THE EAGLE PARK PROPERTY: Eldridge informed Council that applying a Restrictive Covenant was a condition of approval from our agreement with Linn County for our Conditional Use Permit and Greenway Development Permit for Eagle Park. She added once authorized, it will be placed on our Deed Declaration and submitted to the county for recording.

- Thomas inquired about someone possibly appealing. Eldridge responded that as of today, she hasn't been notified of an appeal. Eldridge to verify with Linn County tomorrow. The only thing left is to apply for the Floodplain Development Permit.

- Thomas **motioned to authorize a Restrictive Covenant to apply to the deed for Eagle Park Property and was seconded by Klemm. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.** (Yes: Thomas, Klemm, Caughey, Downey, Knox and Henry. Youth Advisor Nolan Malpass also voted in favor. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF IDENTIFYING A NEW OBJECTIVE FOR THE 2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN:

Eldridge stated that after discussions with Scholz, it was decided to add the water line improvements project to the Draft Strategic Plan as it is an important project covering three major streets. This waterline replacements project has an estimated cost of \$5.5M. Eldridge added they don't feel it should be a priority at this time until the no.1 priority is completed.

- Knox **motioned to add the Waterline Improvement Project to the Draft Strategic Plan and was seconded by Klemm. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.** (Yes: Knox, Klemm, Caughey, Downey, Knox and Henry. Youth Advisor Nolan Malpas also voted in favor. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE 2nd QUARTER 2024/2025 EXPENSE REPORT: Nelson informed Council this is the halfway point with the budget through December 31, 2024 so we want to be around 50% on expenditures or even more on the revenues.

- Caughey questioned page no. 37, the investment revenue, and why the percentage was so low compared to others. Nelson reminded Council that in October or November of last year, the City had an Arbitrage Process to review the water bond and due to receiving too much interest since 2017, the City was required to pay back around \$322,000 which was taken out of this year's funds. Nelson added that due to the pandemic, unusual circumstance allowed us not to have pay for three years.
- Thomas asked if the \$322,000 was accumulated since the beginning of the bond. Nelson replied that it was and commented that if we were able to start the project about one year early, it might have cut down on the amount of the penalty. Nelson stated the funds go back to the federal treasury where the interest originally came from.
- Klemm **motioned to approve the 2nd Quarter 2024/2025 Expense Report and was seconded by Henry. The motioned passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.** (Yes: Klemm, Henry, Caughey, Downey, Thomas and Knox. Youth Advisor Nolan Malpass also voted in favor. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CONSENT LIST: After discussion between Caughey and Ross, it was decided to remove the opening paragraph of the minutes from February 11th referring to his attendance.

- Caughey also inquired about the payment to Synergy on page no. 66 for the amount of \$6,201. Nelson informed Council it was for a server and security cameras for the sewer plant and added this was a one-time cost, besides maintenance, that was budgeted for.
- Henry asked if Scholz would continue to live at the property once the cameras were in place. Eldridge responded as a requirement from the Department of Homeland Security, we would still be required to have him live there until we can put in place about \$300,000 worth of fencing and additional security.
- Klemm **motioned to approve the consent list as amended and was seconded by Downey. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.** (Yes: Klemm, Downey, Caughey, Thomas, Knox and Henry. Youth Advisor Nolan Malpass also voted in favor. No: None.) **A motion to approve the consent list approved the following:**
 - **Minutes from the February 11th and the March 11th, 2025 City Council Meetings**

- **The Payment Approval Report for March 2025**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR VERBAL REPORT:

- Eldridge pointed out the expense report shows the majority of expenses are well under 50%, which is a good place for the City to be.
- Nelson informed Council that the City has not yet received their FY 2023-2024 audit findings but hopes to have it by the end of the week. Nelson commented that the delay is due to a shortage of auditors currently performing government audits. Nelson also contributed this problem to GASB, (Government Accounting Standards Board) as well. Nelson also pointed out that City Auditor Steve Tuchscherer discovered about \$157,000 of funds, in the positive, for the City. She noted that it first appeared about 8 to 9 years ago. They were able to pinpoint that it originated from utilities, but it will be placed in the water fund, and the beginning balance will be adjusted to reflect it. Tuchscherer to provide more details at the next audit. Eldridge added the City is late with our last audit and the Auditor asked the Oregon Department of Revenue for an extension but was denied.
- Eldridge will be on vacation from April 23rd to the 30th.
- Eldridge showed Council the framed Proclamation (**Addendum 1**) that will be sent to Jean Paul Favrais along with a French version. She then referred to **Addendum 2** which indicates that Breal City Council is scheduled to discuss the subject of sister-cities on April 24, 2025. Eldridge also noted the five points they have created for us to follow. Thomas thought item no. 3 was vague and would like more information.

With no further business, the City Council Meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:26pm

Mayor

City Recorder



Proclamation of Honorary Harrisburg Citizen

THE FOLLOWING HONORARY CITIZEN AWARD IS GIVEN TO

Jean - Paul Favrais

This certificate is awarded to Mr. Favrais for his extraordinary devotion to honoring the memory and family of 1st Lieutenant Russell Quinn, and for the recognition of all he has done to honor the sacrifices that helped to provide our nations with freedom.

LORI ROSS
CITY RECORDER

ROBERT DUNCAN
MAYOR

A quick update on our progress. For now, we are still waiting for the official decision from the Bréal-sous-Montfort City Council, even though the mayor and his deputies are enthusiastic about the idea of the sister-cities project. Indeed, they cannot move forward concretely until the entire council approves the idea. Unfortunately, we are a little behind you. The issue could not be placed on the February council agenda because it was too late to prepare a resolution. It cannot be discussed in March because, as is the case every year, the March council meeting is devoted solely to budgetary matters. Therefore, the subject of sister-cities can only be put on the agenda at the council meeting on April 24, 2025.

To formalize the sister-cities agreement in a document, the idea we propose is to create a simple text in which the two towns can commit to the following points:

- 1 – Continue to honor the memory of Lieutenant Quinn and to pay tribute each year, during our respective patriotic ceremonies, to all those who fought to defend freedom in the world.
- 2 – Pass on the duty of remembrance to younger generations by involving schoolchildren in commemorative ceremonies and organizing exhibitions or lectures for their benefit in schools.
- 3 – Facilitate the reception of people who wish to travel to Harrisburg or Bréal-sous-Montfort to visit Oregon or Brittany, respectively, during tourist trips or possible school exchanges.
- 4 – Allow the residents of Harrisburg and Bréal-sous-Montfort to get to know each other better, for example by publishing articles submitted by the sister city in municipal newsletters.
- 5 - Encourage and facilitate any other complementary action to strengthen ties between the two cities.