



CITY OF WINLOCK
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM
August 23, 2021

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Svenson, Marty Poirrier, Council Position #1; Eric Contreras, Council Position #2; Lonnie Dowell, Council Position #3, Jeramy Allman, Council Position #4, Council Position #5, Vacant.

Penny Jo Haney Deputy Clerk, Marissa Jay, City Attorney

2. Call to Order

Mayor Svenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Svenson led the flag salute.

4. Interview for Position #5 Candidates

Mayor Svenson announced that they would interview candidates for the vacant position #5. Each council member had a specific question that they asked each candidate. Lindsey Alvord was the first candidate interview.

Mayor Svenson called Ms. Alvord up first and asked the other two (2) candidates to wait outside the chambers. He then invited Lindsey to say why she wanted to serve on the council. She said that right now, she was the only one who ran in the election for the position and thought that it would be good to fill in, in the meantime. Council member Allman asked what drove her to apply for city council other than getting involved in the community. She said that before she had children she was pretty involved in the community. She went on to say that she was originally interested in the school board, but then heard the position for council was vacant and decided to go for that instead. Council member Dowell asked what her ten (10) year vision for Winlock is, and what she thought were the top three (3) priorities for Winlock. Lindsey replied that she already sees all the positive changes in Winlock, and that she would like it to continue on a positive note. She mentioned the growth of Winlock and said that her hope was for the local connections and community to remain. People getting along and helping each other out and being part of that. Her three (3) priorities would be the before mentioned positive community environment, making sure everything is up to code, and making sure that the growth coming in is managed well so that all the people can be accommodated. She also would like to see more businesses. Mayor Svenson was next to address her with a question. She started with the statement that staying positive and keeping the peace in town has a lot to do with keeping city business in house. He iterated that he did not mean what happened in the council chambers as that is for the public to know about but rather, matters of personal

issues. In the past people have taken to Facebook and instead of taking issues to other council members, the mayor, or the staff, that it ends up winding up with folks in town. Svenson stated that his question to her was, could she keep that kind of stuff in house, and take it to who she would need to, and resolve it in house. Lindsey said that she could answer that. She said that she has no Facebook or other social medias. She had deleted everything four (4) months ago because she was working to get a job with the state, and thought it was wise to delete her socials. Council member Contreras asks what she would see herself doing to make the city better in the next term if she were to be elected. Lindsey said that she would be involved as she can be, know what she was talking about, study what was going on, and whatever else that she could do to help people out, come up with ideas, and listen to other people's ideas. Council member Marty Poirrier asked Lindsey to tell him about a time that she had to make a difficult decision in a small amount of time. Lindsey briefly explained that the best, and quickest decision that she had made was leaving an abusive marriage. She briefly explained why, and how she left in a very short amount of time. She also explained that in her current job she makes a lot of little decisions in a short amount of time. Due to the nature of the job, she needs to be accurate, and honest and make those decisions and calls quickly. The council thanked Lindsey and called in the next candidate.

The next candidate was Jeff Baughman. Mr. Baughman states his name, and Svenson asks him to tell the council why he would be interested in council position number 5. Jeff replied saying that for pretty much his whole life, he served the community in one capacity or another. He has served on internal committees, external committees at the national level. He has been in other forms of over-site positions with churches, volunteer fire fighting, and overall has been in leadership type positions. He was a liaison with a lot of his fellow residents in the mountain view estates and talking with them about the roads and speeding. Council member Allman asked Jeff what drove him to apply for city council other than getting involved in the community. Jeff said that lots of issues were going on in the city. He said that Penny Jo was nice enough to give him copies of the minutes going back to June of this year and he was able to review them. He is currently in a development where it is very rapidly growing, and he believes that other people in the community need to be aware of what is going on in the city and out in the community. Jeff says that he has only been here for just over a year. In that time, he has lots of interactions with the people who work at the city, with the developers, and the community, as well as some of the utility people, and police. He is interested in keeping up on the current happenings for the people in our community. Council member Dowell asks what his ten (10) year vision for Winlock is, and what he thinks are the top three (3) priorities. Jeff said that with the ten (10) year view, the city would need to expand the services. He sees that they are already being developed to take in the new developments coming in. He goes on to say that this is something that will have to be carefully monitored to keep it within the budget, and keep the tax revenues coming in. He says with the second one, he is big on law enforcement. He likes things that are run in good order, and laws being upheld. Third priority regards the well, and city water. He believes keeping an eye on how much is going in and coming out is important. Mayor Svenson says that the council is very transparent and an open book, but there have been people in the past who have taken to Facebook rather than taking things to the mayor, council, or staff that they should have, and it has caused a lot of problems. Svenson's question to Jeff was, will he keep things like that

inhouse. Jeff said that he is not on social media. He may bounce things off his wife, but it goes no further than the house. Any issues he may have, he will take to the council, mayor, or staff respectively. Eric Contreras said that Jeff pretty much answered his question when he answered Dowell's. Council member Poirrier asked Jeff to tell him about a time that he had to make a difficult decision in a short amount of time. Jeff said that this happens often with his position at work. In insurance, when deciding whether to take someone's likelihood from them by revoking their insurance license. All the facts need to be gathered, no decisions made hastily, every decision stands, everything decided on merit. The council of legal staff can weigh in, and all final decisions are made so that the consumers of the state do not get harmed. The council thanks Jeff and calls in the final candidate.

Jeffrey Hunter states his name for the council, and answers mayor Svenson's question about why he would like to run for council position number 5. He said that he is a community minded civil servant who would like to be involved in community growth. He said that we (he and his wife) have always done little things to help the community like picking up trash by the garbage bag full. He and his wife are new people in the community and have been here a little over a year. They bought a house across from the Methodist Church and have been fixing it up. They like to maintain a good community presence and have a respect for the property. He is in outside sales and so his schedule is flexible. They decided that from a past experience running for city council, back in his home town south of Rochester New York, he decided to run again. He was encouraged to run back in New York. Jeffery said that the town clerk there was willing to endorse him because he was even keeled, patient, willing to hear both sides in a discussion, and work together in a team. His job history has always been about working with other people, keeping costumers happy. In these positions it would be the towns folk, and other council members he would be working with in this way. For the position here, his wife saw the advertisement in the Lewis County News and prompted him to run for position number 5 in Winlock. He said there has been a lot of growth going on, the current council has done a commendable job, and it seems like a time to be a part of all this. Council member Allman said that he already answered his question when he answered Svenson's, but he will ask anyway. Why did he apply for council position number 5 other than to get involved in the community? Jeffrey stated that they would not be getting just a single person for this position but two, because his wife is not currently employed and does a lot of volunteer work on local farms. She would and he would do a lot of work together on whatever the city was working on at the time. Jeffery explained that she is a back-office type person, and he is the front office type, which is why he is applying at this time and not her. Council member Dowell asks what his ten (10) year vision for Winlock, and what does he think are the top three (3) priorities. He said that he'd like to see a sustainably managed growth model. He said that he sees a migration going on into Lewis County from both the north and south. It has a rural and pleasant significance and is now on the radar. Jeffrey says that this calls for responsibly managed growth. Jeffery says that his three (3) visions would be sustainable growth. He is concerned about the environment and would like to see this all done with a low carbon footprint. Being a part of the council leadership is something that he is attracted to doing. He says that he has not been here long enough to have a crystal-clear top three (3), but he has a definite idea of what is going on around this area and what he would like to see. Mayor Svenson starts his question with a

statement and says that in the past there have been issues with people taking their issues to the public Facebook forums rather than keeping it in house and working with staff, council, or mayor on the issue, and this has caused some problems. His question for Jeffery was, would he keep things inhouse and off of Facebook if there were an issue. Jeffery said that he does not have any socials. The only social media he has is LinkedIn and he keeps that strictly business. He said that he does not blab, gossip, or blare anything. He said that anything in this room stays in this room. Dowell reminded in that anything in the meetings is public knowledge, anything in executive meeting is private. Jeffery asks if this all is being recorded and for public review, and the council confirms that yes, it is. He asks if there will be written transcript also which the council also confirmed was a yes. Poirrier added that we (the council and mayor) work for the public. Council member Poirrier asks to tell him about a time that he had to make a difficult decision in a small amount of time. Jeffery tells the council about how him and his wife came to move to Winlock. They decided in the matter of two (2) weeks, to pack up and move here. They talked about it, made a game plan, sold their home, and purchased an RV. It was a big decision and mostly for her because she had grown up in their original area in western New York and had never traveled this far west in her life. Jeffery stated that it was bumpy at first, but they talked it through, made it through, and it all worked out. They made this decision because the area of rural western New York had not been going in a direction that they were happy with and had been for a decade. The council thanked Jeffery. Before leaving, Jeffery stated that he was hearing impaired. He reiterated that he has no problem hearing and communicating however, and he did not want this to impact their decision. The council said that it would not.

At this time the council asked Jeffery to have the other two candidates come back in.

5. Executive Session – Council Candidates

Mayor Brandon Svenson recesses the meeting to go into an executive session for fifteen (15) minutes to discuss council position number 5 candidates. The council recessed the meeting at 6:28 pm for executive session to discuss council position number 5 candidates.

Council returned from executive session and the Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6:43 pm. Stating that no decisions were made.

6. Vote for Council Position #5

Mayor Svenson asked if there was a nomination for council position #5.

Council member Eric Contreras motions to nominate Lindsey Alvord for council position #5. Council member Jeramy Allman 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- ***Council member Contreras – Motion***
- ***Council member Allman – 2nd***
- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***
- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***
- ***Council member Contreras – Approve***

- ***Council member Allman – Approve***

The council welcomed and congratulated Lindsey. They also thanked the other two candidates for applying and interviewing and said that they would very much like to have them apply for the Planning Commission or the Parks Board. Jeff Hunter asked who he would speak with about that. Kirsten Stalnaker said that he could speak with her about the parks, and Brandon Svenson said that he was going to give them both a call tomorrow because the council and himself would very much like to have them both involved in the city. Council member Dowell mentioned that two (2) council positions are up in a year, and it would be good for them to apply again. Dowell said that he would not be running again, and he hoped to see one of their names on the ballot.

Mayor Svenson swore in Lindsey Alvord for Council Position #5 and asked that she take her place with council for the remainder of the meeting.

7. Approval of Agenda

Council member Jeramy Allman makes a motion to approve the agenda as written. Council member Contreras 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- ***Council member Allman – Motion***

- ***Council member Contreras – 2nd***

- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***

- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***

- ***Council member Contreras – Approve***

- ***Council member Allman – Approve***

- ***Council member Poirrier – Approve***

8. Old Business

Council member Allman said that he talked to School Superintendent Cameron about the traffic problems they were having at the elementary school. They were not doing the screening this year like they were last year so the traffic should not be as bad this year. Everything should be back to normal.

9. Mayor Comments

Mayor Svenson said that he missed the last meeting but that the town was still here. He read about the plaza in the minutes and agreed that it does look great along with the flowerpots and baskets around town, and the plaza, and that he appreciates all of the volunteers who worked on these.

10. Council Comments

Council member Dowell said that there was a carwash in the plaza this last weekend and wondered if they were hooked up to city water for it. He wondered if Rodney authorized it. Mayor Svenson said that it was pastor Jared's church, and that he had authorized Jared last year for the car wash.

He was not sure about this one, but Jared has always been good about coming in, and Svenson imagines that he did, but will check on that.

Council member Dowell mentioned that someone had asked him what the deadline was to have something put in on the agenda and wanted to confirm that it was Wednesday. City Clerk Penny Jo confirmed that it was Wednesday by Noon.

Council member Poirrier said how good it is to see the community moving forward. The plaza looks great, the “trunk or treating” will happen again this year, and he thanked everyone who has been involved in helping keep the community moving forward and making it look great.

11. Committee Reports

a. Finance

Poirrier said this year is looking pretty good. He says the permit fees have finally hit, and more has come in than expected, and it’s looking good. Penny Jo added that the funds from FEMA that the city had requested are in, and the ecology grant has come in.

b. Grants

Dowel asked about the grant for help with the sink hole on Nevil Rd. Mayor Svenson said that nothing has been investigated, and no one he has talked to so far. Council member Dowell then asks about the sink hole near the Shell station to which Svenson replied that he spoke with the state, and the state said that is the responsibility of the owner of the shell station.

Contreras said that he did find a grant that is more for the citizens than the city. It is for an emergency broadband benefit program. If you have a child enrolled in the Winlock school district, you can apply. It will pay for up to \$50 off the total bill. The website for that is www.getemergencybroadband.org

Svenson stated that he is working with the EDC and Toledo Tel on fiberoptic lines. They have a meeting later this week. He does not have the date yet. After that, he will have a little bit better idea for the time frame for this. He thinks the rough estimate is five (5) years.

Contreras asks Svenson if he has heard any more about the grant for the fire department. Svenson said that he has not, and thanked Contreras for reminding him.

c. Parks

Kirsten Stalnaker, park board chair, gives the committee report for parks in lieu of former council member Anne Randt.

“The Park Board met on August 9th at Winolequa park. There had been a public input invitation advertised weeks prior, inviting the community to attend the meeting for the purpose of giving input on what individuals would like to see added or changed in the park over the coming years. Any

input from the public is something the park board plans to keep in mind in the future as we plan for grants. No one from the community attended that meeting, but Mayor Brandon Svenson and Winlock councilman Marty Poirrier were in attendance. Marty was there to represent Winlock Youth Sports and the parents of children in youth sports. He relayed to the park board how badly the fields need repaired and explained that they are close to being unplayable with the amount of mole holes throughout both fields. Since that meeting, the park board has shifted its focus to the fields and at this time, the fields will likely be the first area of Winolequa Park to be worked on when grant money is obtained. In the meantime, discussion of volunteer days to fill holes and create a drainage ditch to keep the fields playable is on the table for discussion. This is something that can be done to help the situation until a contractor can be hired.

The board has been in contact with Kim Sellers, a grant manager from RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office.) She will be meeting with the members in person on Wednesday September 2nd at 1:00 pm to view parks and further help with the preparations for the grant processes. Winlock City Council members are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on September 6, 10:00 am at Winolequa Park.

Penny Jo Haney tells Lindsey and reminds Mayor Svenson that Anne Randt was covering parks as a liaison. Mayor Svenson said that they should re-assign someone and asked Lindsey if she would like to. Kirsten said that the park board meets the first Monday of every month at 10:00 am. Lindsey said that she works at that time. Kirsten said that if she would like, she could write a short meeting dissertation for Lindsey to present at council meetings and Lindsey said she would.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Consent Agenda

Council member Party Poirrier motions to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council member Dowell 2nd. Passed unanimously.

a. Minutes of August 9, 2021, and Vouchers

Council member Poirrier – Motion

- *Council member Dowell – 2nd*
- *Mayor Svenson – N/A*
- *Council member Dowell – Approve*
- *Council member Contreras – Approve*
- *Council member Allman – Approve*
- *Council member Poirrier - Approve*

14. Agenda

a. Vote and Appoint Vacant Council Position #5

Was done under 6.

b. McClure and Sons Contract, Diffuser System

Mayor Svenson said that this was money the council already approved for Rodney, but he wanted everyone to have a chance to look at it before it went through. He asked city Attorney Marissa Jay if she had a chance to look at it. Her recommendations were to have a few things changed such as the clarification on taxes (the rest was hard to hear on audio)

Council member Lonnie Dowell makes a motion to authorize the mayor to sign the McClure and Sons Contract diffuser system pending the previously advised changes. Council member Jeramy Allman 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- ***Council member Dowell – Motion***
- ***Council member Allman – 2nd***
- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***
- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***
- ***Council member Contreras – Approve***
- ***Council member Allman – Approve***
- ***Council member Poirrier - Approve***

c. Transfer \$177,769.73

Dowell says that if we can only request once a month, then they won't be able to request again until October and he feels that is a long wait. Mayor Svenson says everything with Nutter has gone as smooth as butter. He also said that the county has been fantastic, and Dowell agreed that the turnaround has been great. Svenson said that it's getting down to the point where it is almost completely paid for.

Council member Marty Poirrier motions to a transfer \$177,769.73 from LGIP. Council member Jeramy Allman 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- ***Council member Poirrier – Motion***
- ***Council member Allman – 2nd***
- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***
- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***
- ***Council member Allman – Approve***
- ***Council member Poirrier - Approve***

d. Jones Road Sale

Mayor Svenson brings up the Jones Road slide, but because everyone knows the story, he does not rehash it. However, it raises the question, as to what to do with the property. It has been there since the 80's. Looking at the map of the areas around it, and it's very nice fir trees but, the area the city owns does not look too great. It's too straight up and down on the sides to be a park, it's too far out to be UGA. Svenson would like to entertain selling the property and possibly use some of the proceeds to help clean up the slides and put into the Winolequa park to use as a match grant. Lonnie Dowell mentions that if the current timber is cleared now and replanted, the city could have a renewable resource. Council member Poirrier voiced his concern about the citizens who live near

that area. What would the city be able to do to ensure it continues to be a safe area? Council member Allman said that it would be nice to know if there is a decent amount of marketable timber that could be harvested and used now by the city. Regarding the dumping, Dowell says that there could be increased police presence. Mayor Svenson asked if the council would like to have someone go out there and look to at the timber to see if any of it is marketable before making any decisions on keeping or selling. The value of timber is at a current high. The property is assessed at \$110,000?. The council decides to table decision until after finding out how much, if any is marketable timber.

Council member Marty Poirrier motioned to table the subject until after the timber has been looked at. Council member Eric Contreras 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- ***Council member Poirrier – Motion***
- ***Council member Contreras – 2nd***
- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***
- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***
- ***Council member Contreras – Approve***
- ***Council member Allman – Approve***
- ***Council member Poirrier – Approve***

15. Correspondence

- a. Financial Reports
- b. AWC City Voice
- c. AWC Legislative Bulletin
- d. MRCS

16. Adjournment

Council member Jeramy Allman motions to adjourn. Council member Lonnie Dowell 2nd. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

- ***Council member Allman – Motion***
- ***Council member Dowell – 2nd***
- ***Mayor Svenson – N/A***
- ***Council member Dowell – Approve***
- ***Council member Contreras – Approve***
- ***Council member Allman – Approve***
- ***Council member Poirrier - Approve***

Brandon Svenson, Mayor

Attest:

Penny Jo Haney, Clerk-Treasurer