MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF OAKLEY
October 12, 2023

Mayor: Larry Mickelsen

Council Members:
Ralph Barnard (absent)
Tuck West
Al Lowe
Buffy Cooper

City Attorney: Peter Wells (absent)
Public Works Director: Jared Mitton
City Clerk: Dannika Colson
Cassia County Deputy: Tyler Matthews
City Engineer: Dave Waldron (absent)

Visitors: Angela Davis, LaGrande Whittle

Public Comment: Angela Davis (OJHS Cross Country Coach) presented the council with the map of this year's proposed Monster Dash. She reported that she had already spoken to the sheriff's office about the sections where the race will cross major intersections. She asked the council for any concerns and their approval for the 2nd annual Monster Dash. The council had no concerns. Al moved to approve the race as proposed, Buffy seconded and the vote was unanimous.

LaGrande Whittle came before the council to inquire about the status of the city technician position. He had turned in an application and was wondering if any decisions had been made. The council told him that an offer was extended to a candidate, but the offer was not accepted, therefore the position is still open. The council and Jared are taking a harder look at the candidates to find the right fit for the position. With winter approaching, things are beginning to slow down, and rather than hire someone and not be able to really begin training them until springtime, they may wait till then to hire for the position.

Sheriff's Dept: 1fire, 1 boat rescue, 1 vehicle theft, 2 911 call hang ups, 1 business check, 1 welfare check, 1 vicious dog. Tyler reported that the sheriff's department will no longer be responding to dog at large calls. They found that these calls were taking up too much of their time and manpower. Now, the dog at large calls will be forwarded to the animal control and become the responsibility of the city. They will still respond if there is a vicious dog or a dog that has bitten/attacked someone, but dogs that are just stray and running will be the responsibility of the city. Jared reported that the Burley Animal Shelter was taking all our strays, but upon becoming a no kill shelter, they no

longer have the room to facilitate these dogs and have since stopped taking them in. In this case, the city will need to come up with a solution to this issue. Al asked for recommendations from Tyler as to what can be done, Tyler mentioned that the Minidoka animal shelter may be a possible solution as their facility is bigger. All in all, Oakley does not have the means to facilitate stray dogs, so this will become an issue that the council will need to address in the coming future.
Al inquired about the 911 hang ups, and what the policy was for handling those. Tyler told the council that when a hang up is received, that the number is called back and they try to contact the person responsible. If they can't get ahold of the person, they initiate contact and try to physically locate the person.

First Item of Business: 2nd annual Monster Dash. This item was taken care of during the public comment.

Second Item of Business: OVAC contacted Jared to see about the use of the Heritage Station for a fundraising costume party on October 27th. They were wondering if the city would be willing to donate the use for this event. Al moved to approve the waiving of the rental fee for the OVAC fund raising event, Buffy seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Third Item of Business: The storage tank project is progressing. Right now, the construction crew is tying a lot of rebar. There will be 4 columns within the tank, the closer two have been set, but the further were not able to be set, as the crane they were using was not quite tall enough. To get a taller crane will be a month wait, so the ramp into the construction site was widened to allow their crane access to the back 2 columns. This hopefully will eliminate the need to have a larger crane. When this storage tank is finished It will hold 725,000 Gallons of water. Al moved that the first pay request be approved for Gary Jones Construction on this stage of the project, Buffy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
On the well project, the change order went through for additional casing to go down the open hole to a place where the casing can be supported by the surrounding rock layer. They stopped drilling at 1100ft because they hit another solid rock layer. They will push the casing to 960-980ft and see if it will support itself. The next step will be to do the pump test.

Fourth Item of Business: Water Rate discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Fifth Item of Business: RV Park Regulations. Jared mentioned the need to update the regulations for the RV park to include information about watering days and even provide tenants with a link to find the rules. Buffy suggested that something be added about viewing the events of the 24th Celebration from the RV park is not allowed unless you have paid for the events and your space fee does not include ticket prices. Tuck suggested posting this information at the gate as not everyone will use the bathrooms if they have a self-contained rig. Jared to continue working on those regulations.

Sixth Item of Business: Buffy brought to the council for consideration the "I See You"

Fundraising event for the QRU. This event helps to raise funds and awareness for individuals and families suffering from PTSD. The event would take place in June and a representative would come to a council meeting before then, to promote the event and talk about ways that the community can help. Buffy wanted to get it out there for the council to start thinking about.

Seventh Item of Business: Tuck has been approached by community members about the situation on Poplar St and Worthington Ave. The intersection does not line up and the ditch is in the middle of the right of way. Residents have allowed their property to also encroach on the right of way. Tuck was told by the Oakley Canal Company that if the city would buy the 30' 16'' culvert, then the canal company would do the work to replace the existing culvert, allowing the city to then pave the road over the culvert so the ditch isn't in the middle of the right of way. Jared mentioned that Poplar is a project that is on the horizon and that when that project begins, it would be a good time to address the ditch and culvert issue. But not before, it would make more sense to tackle that project as part of the bigger project so they don't have to tear out the work on the ditches and culvert when Poplar street is re-done. Al raised the question of the ditch and culverts belonging to the canal company, so wondered if the canal company should be the ones buying the culvert and the city can do the work to replace it as part of the Poplar Project.
As far as the residents allowing their property to encroach on the right of way, Jared says that Oakley currently has an ordinance that states that no unregistered or unlicensed vehicle is allowed to impede the right of way, but there is nothing that prohibits someone from parking their vehicle that is licensed and registered on the streets. Jared will investigate where Right of Ways are and talk with the owners to get them to move their fences and cars.

Eighth Item of Business: Tuck brought up a concern that there isn't enough publicity around elections. I told him of the legal obligation that the clerk must publish notice of candidacy filing in the newspaper. He wondered if it would be beneficial to post it on the website and social media as well.

Ninth Item of Business: Tuck brought forth the issue of his ability to continue to fill his seat on the city council. He mentioned that in his current profession as a truck owner and operator, it is difficult for him to be here for every meeting, he can call in, but he understands that this is not ideal for conducting business, and if he must park his truck to be present at a meeting, then he is missing out on a substantial portion of his annual income. So, he proposed that he step down and find someone else with a more forgiving schedule to fill his position but wanted to get the rest of the council's feedback. Al agrees that Tuck shouldn't have to miss out on annual income, and that the council does operate best when all members can be present, but ultimately it is Tuck's call on whether he wants to vacate his seat.
Jared too, mentioned that there are times when decisions MUST be made in meetings and things cannot be done without a quorum.
Tuck will hang around until he can find someone to fill his seat.
Names for consideration: Mike Jenks, Rogelio Magana, Beckie Clark.

Tenth Item of Business: Tuck moved to approve September's meeting minutes, Al seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Eleventh Item of Business: Buffy moved to approve the bills, Al seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Twelfth Item of Business: Buffy moved to adjourn the meeting, Al seconded and the vote was unanimous.