

**CITY OF SUTHERLIN**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Civic Auditorium**  
**Monday, March 14, 2022 – 7:00pm**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Tom Boggs, Gary Dagel, Joe Groussman, Debbie Hamilton, Shawn Smalley and Larry Whitaker

**MAYOR:** Michelle Sumner

**CITY STAFF:** City Manager, Jerry Gillham  
Finance Director, Tami Trowbridge  
City Recorder, Diane Harris  
Public Works Director, Aaron Swan  
Community Development Director, Brian Elliott  
Community Development Supervisor, Kristi Gilbert  
Chief of Police, Troy Mills  
Police Captain, Kurt Sorenson  
Deputy Fire Chief, Scott McKnight  
Livability Services Director, Pat Lynch  
City Attorney, Chad Jacobs (via Zoom)

**Audience:** Wayne Ellsworth, Michelle Ellsworth, and Terry Brock

**Via Zoom:** Jim Houseman and Larry Bahr

Meeting called to order by Mayor Sumner at 7:04 p.m.

**Flag Salute:**

**Roll Call:** All present

**Introduction of Media:** None

**\*\*Mayor made an announcement for Zoom attendees\*\***

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (agenda items only)

- No comments

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Award Recognition – Kurt Sorenson**

Staff Report – Chief of Police, Troy Mills, recognized Captain, Kurt Sorenson, for receiving the Honorary Advocate Award from Peace at Home Advocacy Center. Sorenson was recognized for the countless hours he spends coordinating child abuse, sexual assaults, stalking, and human trafficking cases for Sutherlin as part of Douglas County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). Mills expressed appreciation for Captain Sorenson’s support at Sutherlin Police Department. Mayor Sumner read a certificate of appreciation followed by a round of applause.

- **Wayne Ellsworth – Homeless Report**

Wayne Ellsworth – Sutherlin resident, Adapt Homeless Outreach Coordinator and Homeless Transition Action Group Representative provided a presentation on Sutherlin’s Homeless Initiative.

Ellsworth provided updates and statistics regarding the Hasting’s Road Homeless Camp and its residents. Acknowledgements were made to the wide range of community partnerships with local churches, businesses, agencies, as well as, citizens. Some of the homeless residents have transitioned, acquired jobs, and received assistance for their special needs.

Ellsworth reported that we are currently in the developmental stages of the centrally located initiative to take on homelessness as a whole in Douglas County. The team is already looking into available funding streams to make this happen. Sutherlin is taking the lead in these efforts and he’s happy to be part of it. “We’ve been able to do something in Douglas County that has never been done and it’s working.” Ellsworth concluded his presentation by stating “please ask questions, reach out to some of these folks and make a difference in someone’s life.”

Councilor Hamilton – One of the women has frostbite, is she being cared for? *Ellsworth – She doesn't have frostbite, it's actually foot-rot due to living conditions, she is being cared for and has improved.*

Councilor Groussman – Are some of the homeless, vets? *Yes, one, he is VA connected; they have housing options available, however, there is a long waiting list.*

Councilor Dagal – When is this regional center going to open? *Hopefully in the next year.* After it opens, what is the guarantee that the resident won't still stay here? *There is nothing that can make them move.*

City Manager, Jerry Gillham, explained staff is working with the city attorney to create code language with the intent to provide appropriate alternatives. Our team is putting a program structure and proposal together. We have received very positive responses from various agencies. We will be meeting with additional community stakeholders this Friday to further present the regional center concept.

Councilor Hamilton – Thanked Ellsworth for everything he is doing for the cause and commented on how good the new mesh looks on the fence around the homeless camp.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- **February 14, 2022 Minutes – Regular Meeting**

**MOTION** made by Councilor Dagal to approve Consent Agenda as presented; second by Councilor Hamilton.

Discussion: None

In favor: Councilors Groussman, Hamilton, Boggs, Dagal, Whitaker, Smalley, and Mayor Sumner.

Opposed: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

- **Bid Award – Central Avenue Repairs**

Staff Report – Public Works Director, Aaron Swan – There are portions on Central Avenue breaking down and in need of repair. Umpqua Aggregate Resources was the only bid received in the amount of \$68,810 for the repairs. The City received \$50,000 to put towards these repairs in the form of a grant.

**MOTION** made by Councilor Whitaker to award the bid to Umpqua Aggregate Resources for Central Avenue Repairs in the amount of \$68,810 as presented; second by Councilor Hamilton.

Discussion: Councilor Dagal – Are we ok with the funding on this? *Swan – The \$50,000 is ARPA money, the balance will come out of the street maintenance budget.*

Councilor Smalley – Will this be repaired differently than the original job? *Swan explained the plans for the repairs. The vast majority of the damage is believed to be from the large volume of trucks hauling burnt logs from the fires.*

Councilor Dagal suggested writing the specs differently in the future to avoid potential issues.

In favor: Councilors Groussman, Hamilton, Boggs, Dagal, Whitaker, Smalley, and Mayor Sumner.

Opposed: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- **Resolution No. 2022.04 – LG (Local Government) Grant Approval – Ford's Pond**

Staff Report – Community Development Director, Brian Elliott – Council is being asked to approve this resolution in order to apply for the LG Grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). If awarded, it will go towards the inclusive playground, RV/Overflow Parking Projects, and plantings. Elliott explained where grant match funds would be coming from and shared that today is the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Ford's Pond.

**MOTION** made by Councilor Whitaker to approve Resolution No. 2022.04 authorizing the City to apply for the LG Grant Program from OPRD for Ford's Pond Community Park Projects – Inclusive playground and RV/overflow parking as presented; second by Councilor Groussman.

Discussion: Councilor Dagal – Would like the pond to remain rustic, concerned it will be too developed. He provided examples of overdeveloped parks and issues involved.

Mayor Sumner stated feeling the opposite; it's a great asset for families to enjoy. There will still be rustic areas in another area away from the paved parking lot. Surprised that we'll have to wait until fall to start anything. *Elliott – There have been delays, primarily due to COVID, therefore, causing delays with other grants, we have also experienced cost increases.*

Gillham – The intent has always been for this to remain rustic and natural.

Gillham – Council may be receiving letters about domestic geese being dropped off at Ford’s Pond that are also being fed. This is causing various issues. City staff has been in contact with the person who released his geese.  
Councilor Hamilton – Will you add signs telling the public not to feed the animals? **Yes.**  
In favor: Councilors Groussman, Hamilton, Boggs, Dagele, Whitaker, Smalley, and Mayor Sumner.  
Opposed: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT (verbal)**

- Nothing to report.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

**Councilor Groussman**

- What happened to the flashing speed limit sign west of the freeway? **Mills – That is a mobile sign that can be moved to various locations within the city.**
- Is the street sweeper in good repair so it can be utilized again? **Swan – Yes, the sweeper is being used regularly now.**

**Councilor Hamilton**

- Acknowledged Sutherlin’s Girls Basketball Team for their 3<sup>rd</sup> place win at the State Tournament.

**Councilor Boggs**

- Asked about the status of the speed limit sign on Ft. McKay. **Elliott – Contacted the county regarding the sign, will follow up again.**

**Councilor Dagele**

- Feel constrained as a member of council, would like to be able to talk to councilors about various issues. **Gillham suggested holding a special meeting or workshops in order to brainstorm.**

**Councilor Whitaker**

- Is anything being done about the building across from the Central Park (previous mortuary)? It appears numerous people are living there. **Elliott – Letters went out to owners of C1 & C3 Zones on March 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding this issue, there is a 14-day deadline to respond. Next step would be to take action; worst case would be \$1,000 per day fine, but would prefer to work with the people. They must have a viable business in the building they are living in or move out of the building all together.**

Councilor Dagele – Some businesses deal online and may not be open to the public.

**Councilor Smalley**

- Nothing to report

**Mayor Sumner**

- Nothing to report

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Off Agenda Items)**

- No comments

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Approved:

*Jerry Gillham*

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Jerry Gillham, City Manager

Respectfully submitted by,

*Diane Harris*

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Diane Harris CMC, City Recorder

*Michelle Sumner*

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Michelle Sumner, Mayor

***APPROVED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 11, 2022***