

**THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOVELOCK MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 02, 2023 AT THE LOVELOCK CITY HALL AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Mayor  
Council members

Michael Giles  
Jordan McKinney  
Jonathan Reynolds  
Bonnie Skoglie  
Terri Wilcox  
Kent Maher  
Michael Mancebo

City Clerk  
Legal Counsel  
Police Chief

Visitors: David Skoglie, Tina Gallagher, Carol Shank, Blake Portman, Nathalie Antus, Lee Ann Gallagher, Neil Gallagher, Tom Donaldson, Lacey Donaldson, Jeff Kearns, Wendy Nelsen, Dave Cerini, Carmen Turillas, Rodney Wilcox (Fire Chief) and Tracy Neeley (A&H Insurance)

**PUBLIC COMMENT-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mayor Giles noted that a request to put an item on the agenda about funding the boys and girls club was received the day after the agenda posting deadline.

Nathalie Antus, commented that older kids need activities and she believes a boys and girls club is needed. Carol Shank said funding is needed for a youth center and the county and city need to pitch in. Jeff Kearns stated he is against funding a fitness court and suggested the money should be put into the police department for a drug enforcement officer, or to the school.

Lee Ann Gallagher noted there are two items, a fitness court or a boys and girls club. Gallagher believes a fitness court is mostly hype. The recreation board gave \$100,000 toward the boys and girls club with the contingency that \$50,000 for the club is raised by community fund raisers. Gallagher questioned why the community should have to have fund raisers for \$50,000.

**MINUTES REVIEW-APPROVAL:**

Council member McKinney moved to approve the April 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION:**

After review and consideration of the probable effect that each agenda item for this meeting could have on a "business" as defined by statute, Council member Reynolds moved to make a finding that no item on this meeting agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or directly restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of a business.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SEWER-DISPOSAL ACCOUNT DELINQUENCIES-ADJUSTMENTS-REFUNDS:**

Mayor Giles noted that since this was the first meeting of the month, there is no delinquent list.

Mayor Giles explained that Rita Happy sewer service was shut off again for failure to make the payments as she promised. Happy came in on Monday May 1 and paid \$200.00 and the service was reinstated. She stated another \$100.00 will be paid on Friday May 5. Giles advised Happy that if she pays as promised for the next month, he will ask the council to consider waiving one of the re-connect charges. Her signed agreement requires payment every two weeks on payday.

**A & H INSURANCE RENEWAL PROPOSAL:**

Tracy Neeley (A & H Insurance) reported that when negotiations started the underwriter was proposing a 9.25% premium increase and she was able to negotiate it down to a 4.75% increase for the health insurance portion, and dental and vision insurance will stay the same (no increase). Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield also offered a bundled package with the dental, vision, and life but the insurance committee chose not to recommend the bundled Anthem package.

**LETTER SENT TO PERSHING COUNTY COMMISSION RE WILCOX BEHAVIOR:**

Lovelock Volunteer Fire Department Chief Wilcox said he disagrees with the content of the letter sent by the city to him and copied to the county commission regarding payment for certain fire department related equipment and Wilcox's behavior toward city staff, and questioned what, if anything, the city was going to do about the letter copied to the county. Council member Reynolds noted the letter has been sent and the city cannot undo that. Reynolds suggested the city could inform the county that Wilcox does not agree with the letter.

Council member Reynolds moved to send a letter from the city to the county commission advising that Wilcox stated that what the first letter said happened with Wilcox in the city office did not happen.

Motion carried unanimously.

Wilcox said he and the fire department members were offended that Legal Counsel Maher referred to the volunteer fire department as a club and that Wilcox was not a city employee. Maher explained that the group of volunteers have organized as a fire department, and state law requires fire fighter volunteers be paid a deemed wage, but that requirement does not make the volunteers city employees.

Council member Skoglie said the city appreciates the work that the fire department does.

**FITNESS COURT GRANT / RENOWN:**

Mayor Giles explained that an application was submitted to determine if the city would qualify for the grant to assist with constructing an outdoor fitness court, which is part of a nationwide program supported by various health care providers to improve fitness. The outdoor fitness court concept gained acceptance due to the COVID outbreak when indoor gyms and fitness centers were shut down. A fitness court is free to use and will not be shut down if a similar circumstance (such as the Covid pandemic) happens again because it is outdoors. The city was offered one of the Renown \$50,000 grants.

Council member Skoglie commented that the grant is only for a fitness court and noted that there are other community needs such as sidewalks and ball fields which need funding. Skoglie said she does not support using city funds for a fitness court.

Council member Reynolds said he is not opposed to an outdoor fitness court but he is concerned with the mess that the McDougal field is in and would like to see a plan to redo and maintain the field. He also questioned if the community will support an outdoor workout space and is concerned about what happens in a few years when the court becomes run down.

Council member McKinney said she is concerned that it appears there has to be choice between funding a fitness center or boys and girls club and suggested that both are worthwhile projects.

Reynolds asked if the city could use ARPA funds for the project. Legal Counsel Maher noted that since the ARPA funds were designated as revenue replacement, the city can use the funds for the types of expenditures normally funded from city revenues such as streets, sewer, water and broadband. The boys and girls club is a private endeavor and public funds are not usually spent directly on private projects. Giles explained when the ARPA funds were moved into revenue replacement it took away economic development and city general funds are to be used for projects the city needs.

There was a discussion about using city funds and the need to fix Amherst strip park, applying for CDBG grants for the sidewalk repairs, zero scaping the strip park, cleaning or replacing the park playground equipment, using ARPA funds to fix McDougal Field, how an outdoor fitness center will hold up to the weather, use of a fitness park in the winter, a fitness court security system and fencing, and closing the fitness court at night to prevent vandalism.

Recreation board member Mike Mancebo explained acceptance of the grant is time sensitive, and there may be other grants that could be considered to assist with funding, those grants will not be awarded until after the fitness court project deadline. Renown is only awarding five grants and the city must decide if they want to accept the grant or not.

Reynolds suggested the matter be referred back to staff to obtain more information about costs to make needed repairs to city facilities.

No action was taken.

**ARPA FUNDS USE FOR FITNESS COURT:**

This item was tabled and will be placed on the next agenda.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS:**

Mayor Giles reported: (i) the specifications for the city hall roof were sent out to eight (8) licensed contractors; (ii) installing valves at the sewer plant will cost \$35,900; (iii) the air leak under the pavement at the sewer plant will cost \$90,000 to repair and there is an option to upgrade the inside (the plant) airlines for \$38,700; (iv) the city received an updated quote from the fire department for the purchase of four (4) more air packs; (v) the sheriff request for funding help to upgrade the radio system is still outstanding; (vi) a quote to replace the lights in city hall for \$9,000 was received; and, (vii) no quote has yet been received for a generator for city hall.

Council member Reynolds suggested obtaining quotes for a new flag at the Amherst Park and fixing the park restrooms. There should also be consideration to allocate funds for fencing and zero scaping.

No action was taken.

**BROWNFIELDS GRANT PROJECT REPORT:**

Mayor Giles had no updates.

No action was taken.

**BUSINESS-LIQUOR-SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSES-BUILDING PERMITS:**

The following licenses and permits were reviewed and considered:

////////

Special Events Liquor Licenses:

There were no special events liquor licenses.

Business Licenses:

903181 – Lynn Lachine – The Pony Espresso

903182 – Jeff and Teresa Elerick – fabrication - MOB

Building Permits:

23-1748 – Mike Gillis – 1555 Dartmouth Avenue – LaVoie Roofing

**PROCLAMATIONS-AWARDS:**

There were no proclamations or awards.

**STAFF-COUNCIL REPORTS-PROPOSALS:**

Council member Reynolds reported that he discussed with Public Works Director Crim about the plans for use of the city RTC money, and 6th Street and Meadow Lane (pavement repairs) are on the list of projects to do toward the end of summer. County Clerk Lacey Donaldson explained there is \$170,000 in the city portion of the RTC fund.

Council member McKinney reported attending her first recreation board meeting.

Mayor Giles reported: (i) the yard work and lighting project for city hall is ongoing although there have been delays due to unanticipated problems with broken water lines which had to be replaced; (ii) on the Pool/Pact conference and the discussions of inflation impacts to government entities; (iii) there is need to do some succession planning, since within the next year or two the city will possibly be losing a police chief, a police sergeant, a public works director and a city clerk; (iv) liability and property insurance renewal coverage lines were proposed at a 45% increase and they were negotiated down to 14%; (v) there will be two insurance rate increases for personnel: 12% for police and 4% for regular employees; and, (vi) at the second council meeting in May to consider the tentative budget as the final budget the budgeted amounts for electric and gas will need to be raised as those rates will be trending much higher to cover the cost for new electrical lines and new charging stations.

**VOUCHERS, CLAIMS AND PAYROLL:**

Council member McKinney moved to approve vouchers numbered 49836 to 49873, inclusive.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nathalie Antus stated that when the boys and girls club project started the work was in phases, starting with a workshop and then the electrical and plumbing.

Carol Shank thanked the council for the work they are doing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm until the next scheduled City Council meeting on May 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

---

Michael R. Giles, Mayor

---

Terri Wilcox, City Clerk