

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE GERVAIS CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
IN THE COUNTY OF MARION, STATE OF OREGON  
HELD AT GERVAIS CITY HALL WITH ONLINE ALTERNATIVE AT 7:00 PM ON February 1, 2024**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Annie Gilland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm (because of the earlier 5:30 Executive meeting the regular meeting started late.)

**2. Roll Call – by Mayor Annie Gilland**

Councilor John Harvey	Present
Councilor Joel Ramon	Present
Council President Michael Gregory	Present
Mayor Annie Gilland	Present
Councilor Baltazar Gonzalez	Present
Councilor Rob Ladd	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Interim Roger Brown, Admin Assistant Laura Clifton, Police Lt Tim West and Peter Hicks, City Pro-tem Attorney

Others Present: None

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Announcements/Additions** (Mayor Gilland switched #5 Possible Action and #4 Public Comments on the agenda)

**4. Possible Action: on the dismissal or discipline of a public employee**

Mayor Gilland announced that this will be moved to a later date if necessary)

**5. Public Comments:**

Brian Wagner, 166 E. Hemlock Dr, who brought a petition of support for Chief Chase with over 100 signatures & word of mouth and strongly voice disapproval of any actions of nepotism, any unethical practices & lack of transparency in the city governments. He urges to uphold democracy and that the citizens' voices are heard.

Kristi Richardson, Chief Mark Chase has her full support & makes our community better.

Arturo Oropeza, he likes to things open and not behind closed doors. There is a lot of division in the city right now. Any decisions being made should not be for personal reasons.

Micky Wagner, raises questions regarding the legal hiring process for the Administrative Assistant, per the charter requirements was circumvented to award her. The mayor and

council seemingly preferential treatment. Her opinion is that the council is not following the charter by hiring a city manager and questions the legality of them refusing to hire a permanent city manager. She states the illegal appointments of the Administration Assistant. Supporting repetitive charter violations including the possible unjust firing of the current police chief, missing money in employees paychecks, tax's not paid & electricity almost shut off. The council bypass of charter mandates threatens the integrity of our governance.

Mayor Gilland replied by pointing out that she has many friends in the room. Laura's first training for payroll was on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Also mentions that Laura was not the one to not pay it on time. The mayor does ask that she comes and asks or have knowledge of instead of spreading rumors. Micky does state that the mayor does not respond.

Susan Smith, 852 Lantana Lane, regarding the investigation regarding Chief Chase and some questions for the council. She shares her observations of Chief Chase and his involvement in the community. She wanted to know why he was put on administrative leave without the community being informed. She notes that social media sites mention people trying to get ahold of him with no response and the city's lack of foresight to let the community know that he was unavailable or under investigation for disciplinary action. She asks doesn't the community deserves to know what the accusations are. She is also concerned of the only way she heard about the special meeting was from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party social media. The bare minimum was done to let the citizens know & wants to know what the council is hiding. She also advises not to violate the chief's constitutional rights – to know what he is accused of and face his accusers. She is concerned about a messy lawsuit costing the taxpayers dearly. She quotes social media that council is acting in a corrupt manner and challenges the council to evaluate their actions.

Jacob McMann, 1020 Winfield St, wants to bring up the cleanliness of the city's streets & that improve the image of the city could start with cleanliness.

Clara Lopez, speaking for her mother, Carmen, 40 Grove Ave a couple of her neighbors over a fence & thinks it belongs to them. Harassing her by taking pictures, going over to her house. They are harassing her that the property belongs to them and has caused her a lot of distress and lost sleep. Nothing can stop them from tearing down the fence & the police will not stop them. They want to say that Chief Chase does harass people and takes sides. People are afraid to speak out.

Mayor Gilland asked if this was about a fence and that would be a civil matter that the City of Gervais got involved in.

Petra Wright, 109 E Fir Drive, Carmen has publicly announced that they are harassing her. She is not and yes, they have gone to her with letters, statements & gone to the Police department along with her neighbor Zach. They have not been harassing her and it is going through the court and should not be brought up to council. It was brought to council and Ms. Wright accuses the council of calling her family racists and have told Chief Chase that Ms. Wright's family was racists. Officer Chase is not racists but the whole council has told him that the



Wright family was being racist towards the couple, and they are not. They want their property back. It is not just a just a civil matter and it will be against the city because they have allowed her to purchase property that does not belong to her and has never belonged to her.

Mayor Gilland responded by assuring her “that the council has never said anything like that” and Ms. Wright declined to name her source.

Douglas Lanphere, 940 Winfield St, he encouraged to see the turnout for the city council meeting. He has seen the slogans on the internet and wonders what the corruption is about with no explanation. Chief Chase has been on administrator leave pending an investigation which is the usual process when allegations have been received. City officials are ethically prohibited from disclosing personnel matters until the investigation has been completed. Prior members of the city council who have been urging this kind of discourse know the limitations of the council and are now contending that this silence constitutes “local corruption”. This kind of political discourse has no place in a small city like Gervais. The 2012 revision to the charter was voted and passed by the citizens but the 2012 revision provided a single point of failure. There have been no standard operating procedures developed for any position in city hall or cross trained anyone. Then held the city hostage as she left her position, then charged the city as an independent consultant. Fueling the controversy over social media, knowing how the council is restricted from commenting. Mayor called “Point of Order” to direct conversation towards the council and not Susie Marston. As much time spent finding solutions instead of sniping at each other – the city would come together. He pleads with the concerned citizens of Gervais to come together and find the solutions the city needs.

Mayor called last public comment, checked online for anybody & decided to take an additional person who held their hand up.

Laura Gutierrez, 367 E Elm, she is speaking for her family and relatives. She has no special connection to any of the police officer’s or Chief Chase. She knows him from community events and also from some criminal events. He always acts professionally, not unjust, or racist. He always manages to de-escalate the situation; she prefers Chief Chase or his officers to arrest her because he has accomplished his mission of making people feel safe. Over the years they have come to respect Chief Chase and he has penetrated the barriers that stand between the police force and the citizens in Gervais. She hopes that all the time, energy and money put into the investigation outweighs all the good things he has done for the community. She credits him for the improvement in the police department. She hopes that everyone is being honest and legit claims and not personal.

Tilda Florez, 1173 Winfield St, she is here for the people as always and supports Chief Chase. He contributed to making the town better.

The mayor thanked everyone for their public comments and another gentleman came forward to speak. There were some audience comments that he did sign his name and the mayor

agreed to let him speak. She asked if anybody else wanted to speak and another raised their hand. Mayor comment that "if you lived here".

Joe Ruiz, 1025 Ivy St, He came to support Chief Chase and has never seen any thing bad from him and he claims most of the audience members came to support Chief Chase.

Mayor did ask Mr. Ruiz about being on the council and knowing the rules around executive meetings and disclosure. He knows the constraint she asks him and his friends to stop beefing things up without knowing what is going on.

Another gentleman approached and started to sign the "sign-in sheet" & the mayor responded by "we are done" (it had been 47 minutes) and the council wanted to do their business. He responded by claiming that everyone that the council did not like they had disrespected.

## **6. Consent Calendar:**

- a. Approval of minutes
  - i. December 7, 2023, Regular Session (revised)
  - ii. December 21, 2023, Special Session (revised)
  - iii. January 4, 2024, Regular Session
- b. Bill list for January 2024

**Councilor John Harvey made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented for February 1, 2024. Councilor Robb Ladd seconds the motion. *Motion is carried and so moved with 5 ayes and 0 nays.***

## **7. Committee Reports**

- a. None

## **8. Presentations**

- a. None

## **9. Public Hearing**

- a. None

## **10. Old Business**

- a. Budget Committee update and how to proceed with applicant selection?  
There are not enough applications and a consensus was obtained to open the applications up for another 30 days. Councilor Ladd & Council Harvey will be doing the interviews and checking the references for those applications to recommend for the committee.

- b. 2024 Annual City-Wide Clean-up will be April 20<sup>th</sup> and a consensus was obtained for that.

#### **11. New Business**

none

#### **12. Staff reports**

- a. Police Department – Lt. Tim West  
Verbally went over the report he submitted – Mayor Gilland thanked the officers during ice.
- b. Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Kyle Jentsch  
Verbally went over the report he submitted – Mayor Gilland thanked them for the help during the ice storm.
- c. Administration – Pro tem City Manager Roger Brown  
Verbally went over the report he submitted – Mayor Gilland asked how Laura's first payroll training went and he observed a good portion – had live instruction and the CPA was involved, and it seemed to go well. The mayor mentions that Laura has not had any hands with the city's finances.

#### **13. Business from the Mayor or Council**

City wide clean up and the mayor invites the citizens to volunteer and participate. We also have a water increase workshop coming up to discuss the method to be used to increase our water rates per resolution until 2035.

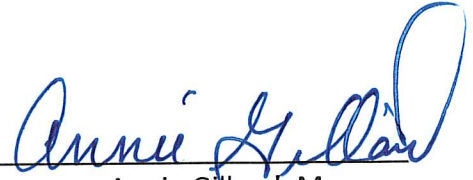
14. Adjourned @ 8:24 pm

I, LAURA CLIFFTON, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF SAID MEETING OF THE GERVAIS CITY COUNCIL HELD ON February 1, 2024, ARE, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, CORRECT AS RECORDED.

ATTESTED:



Rodger Brown, Pro-tem City Manager



Annie Gilland, Mayor