



CITY OF LA PINE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

1:00 p.m. Special Session

La Pine City Hall

16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Richer

2. Establish Quorum

Members Present: Mayor Daniel Richer, Councilor Connie Briese, Council President Don Greiner, Councilor Michael Harper, Councilor Mike Shields.

Absent by Prior Arrangement: Student Councilor Max Miller

Staff Present: City Manager Melissa Bethel, Public Works Manager Jake Obrist, Administrative Assistant Kelly Notary.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Prior to discussion and upon seeing a member of the public in attendance Mayor Richer offered a spot for public comments:

Larry Baker (non-resident) stated that he speaks to the city regularly on his radio show the Muddtoe Show Monday through Friday on KNCP. He stated that he did not think we should even be having this meeting. He does not agree with a civil servant giving up their position.

5. Discussion Regarding Council Member 3 Month Leave of Absence

Mayor Richer opened up the discussion to Council:

Greiner - provided a little history on prior resignations from council and reminded the current council how difficult it can be to get members of the community to volunteer to be on the board. He wanted everyone to take it very seriously, base their choice on the charter and consider the potential issues of not only getting someone new to fill the open spot, but of the precedence that would be set.

Harper – stated that he feels torn on the matter and while he appreciates and understands the personal reasons and desire for the sabbatical, his work life has suffered due to his commitment to the council and he feels strongly that the full commitment should be fulfilled.

Shields - stated that he appreciates the contribution that Connie makes to the council and the diverse opinion that she provides. He believes some leniency is appropriate.

Briese – stated that she still feels that she can keep her commitment to serve on the council by calling in to the meetings during her sabbatical. She has already spoken with COIC and they are supportive of her sabbatical. She does understand there would be some inconvenience to her backup for this committee, but at the same time that is the point of having a backup.

Mayor Richer – stated that he wants whatever their decision is to make sure they abide by the rules of the council when making it, whatever the choice may be. His only concern would be if there were a cost to the City for either communication or hotel costs for the board member that would need to attend outside committee meetings in Bend during the winter months.

Discussion occurred about the cost of the communication, which would be none, and the idea that this could potentially set a precedence.

Staff Comment:

Bethel - stated that her only concern is if there were dropped called during meetings, specifically if Briese was needed to make a quorum for any particular meeting.

Obrist – stated that he has no real concerns, but he does feel that the timeframe of 3 months is the maximum that should be allowed for such a leave of absence.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED BY MAYOR RICHER: Aye if in favor of granting Connie Briese the ability to call into meetings while on sabbatical and nay, if not in favor.

Greiner: Aye

Harper: Aye

Shields: Aye

Connie: Abstain

By unanimous vote consent for Connie Briese to continue to be on the board while on a sabbatical by allowing her to call into meetings was APPROVED.

6. Adjourn Meeting