

CITY OF LINCOLN CITY

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

September 14, 2020, 10:00 AM

The final minutes for this meeting are supplemented by an electronic recording of the meeting, which may be viewed online at www.lincolncity.org under the tab "Agendas, Packets and Videos". The staff reports, resolutions, ordinances and other documents related to this meeting are also available at the same location. This meeting is rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4. (See Channel 4 guide on the hour at <http://www2.lincolncity.org/program-guide/>).

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 21, 2020

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dick Anderson	Mayor	Present	10:00 AM
Judy Casper	Councilor Ward 3	Present	10:00 AM
Diana Hinton	Councilor Ward 1	Present	10:00 AM
Riley Hoagland	Councilor Ward 2	Present	10:00 AM
Rick Mark	Councilor Ward 3	Present	10:00 AM
Mitch Parsons	Councilor Ward 1	Present	10:00 AM

Staff Present: Ron Chandler, City Manager; Richard Appicello, City Attorney; Jerry Palmer, Chief of Police; Tony LaSoya, I.T. Director; David Twigg, I.T. Support Specialist.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

As this meeting was held remotely, the Pledge of Allegiance was skipped.

D. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

E. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Fran Lonnon: Ms. Lonnon had comments on the evacuation process for the Echo Mountain Fire. She asked why both Devils Lake Roads were closed at the same time? She asked why the hospital doesn't have a generator? She said that going door-to-door to notify the public to evacuate is unacceptable. She asked if these notices could be done via Amber Alert? The information to the community was almost non-existent, and that was scary. If there was a tsunami we'd have been wiped out. She asked why the City didn't use signs or other methods to notify the public where and how to evacuate. Ms. Lonnon said that getting information online was very difficult as the power was out. Many folks don't have cell service. Channel 4 wouldn't work with the power outage. Ms. Lonnon congratulated Lincoln City Police Department for doing an amazing job. The Council needs to work on these issues.

Lisa Corzine: Agreed with Ms. Lonnon's comments and asked why no emergency broadcasting was done. Asked how \$85 million could go forward to beautify an area when that money could go to the Police Department or be used for emergency broadcasting. Ms. Corzine said she received better information from family in Texas than she did from Oregon sources. There was lots of fake news about the emergency. Ms. Corzine didn't hear from the Mayor at all. Ms. Corzine said if there was a tsunami, we'd all be gone. Ms. Corzine asked why the hospital doesn't have a generator, noting that McKay's grocery store has one. Transporting patients is risk. Ms. Corzine is embarrassed that the City didn't have a plan and plans need to be focused on. The City doesn't need roundabouts. It needs to take care of its small businesses.

Mr. Chandler said that he'd received one public comment by email pertaining to the 24 hour rule for lodging. He would summarize that comment on September 28 when this topic comes before Council again.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC COMMENT

G. ORDINANCES - NONE

H. RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Ratifying the Echo Mountain Complex Emergency Declaration

Mr. Chandler advised the Council that he had signed the declaration of emergency; however, the declaration has to be accepted or modified by City Council within seven (7) days.

Councilor Hinton said that the description of the evacuation areas in the resolution was inaccurate. The description should match the evacuation areas Lincoln County used. The description on the resolution does not include the Villages at Sitka Woods or the Voyage Avenue area as having been evacuated at Level 3 (go now).

Mr. Appicello advised that the declaration could either copy the County's verbiage, or he could make reference to the County Evacuation Orders in the declaration. Either would be fine.

Mayor Anderson asked Council which method they would prefer. The consensus was to reference the County Evacuation Orders as they changed frequently on September 9.

MOTION:	To approve the resolution with changes to the language, making reference to Lincoln County's Evacuation orders
MOVER:	Diana Hinton, Councilor Ward 1
SECONDER:	Mitch Parsons, Councilor Ward 1
AYES:	Anderson, Casper, Hinton, Hoagland, Mark, Parsons
RESULT:	Passed

I. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

J. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

K. ACTIONS, IF ANY, BASED ON WORK SESSION OR EXECUTIVE SESSION

L. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

M. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Chandler if an after event report be available for citizens to help answer their questions regarding the Echo Mountain emergency response?

Mr. Chandler said a report would be prepared. Mr. Chandler said that we were moving out of the emergency but the situation remains active. The City is keeping track of the comments that are coming in. Mr. Chandler said there is a misunderstanding regarding the City's role in this emergency. Lincoln County is managing the emergency since the fire is in Lincoln County. The City has been providing assistance to the County. Mr. Chandler said that information on the emergency came to the City from Lincoln County. Mr. Chandler said initial information was sparse but picked up as it went. Mr. Chandler said the City is trying to find out where people are going for their information.

Mr. Chandler noted that citizens could only get out of town one way (to the south)- this made things very difficult. Mr. Chandler noted that people were trying to use the side streets to evacuate to the south, but eventually those roads all end up on Highway 101. Mr. Chandler stated that citizens on level 2 and level 1 evacuation orders left at the same time as citizens on a level 3 (go now) evacuation order.

Mr. Chandler said there were three current emergencies- COVID, the fire, and debris left by the strong winds. The City is starting to receive questions about when debris will be picked up from curbsides. Mr. Chandler said the City is working with North Lincoln Sanitary Service and asked citizens to please be patient. Mr. Chandler said that some City employees are still evacuated from their residences and others have lost their homes.

Councilor Hinton said this was difficult for City staff. Mr. Chandler was working around the clock. Communication was very difficult since there was no power, cell service, or internet. Councilor Hinton would like to schedule a work session after debriefing to discuss how the emergency was handled. Councilor Hinton said that even though the emergency moved up the hierarchy of responders, the City still has an obligation to communicate with its citizens even after the Lincoln City Police Department hands the matter to the County Sheriff and after the City Manager hands the matter to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Chandler said that we are moving into the recovery stage of this emergency. Efforts are now focused on assessments and damages, including displaced persons and loss of homes and property. Managing volunteers is a major project. Mr. Chandler has received numerous calls from people who want to help. The City is working with the County on volunteer services.

Lincoln County has been receiving donations in Newport; however, the County has asked for donations to pause due to the need to take stock of what has been received. The County is working with the Red Cross to find a location in Lincoln City to distribute donations to people in need. Mr. Chandler said that most of the damage is outside the City limits, and the County leads the recovery efforts in these areas.

Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Chandler if the Community Center was serving as a Red Cross shelter? Mr. Chandler said that the Community Center was serving as the Red Cross Service Center; however, the Community Center is not open as an overnight shelter. The Red Cross will help those who need overnight accommodations.

Mayor Anderson asked about short-term vouchers for people needing accommodation and the City's role in finding housing for people who have been displaced? Mayor Anderson asked if the County would lead these processes? Mr. Chandler said yes, but the City would stay actively involved. Currently damage information is trickling in.

Councilor Hinton said the Red Cross is using vouchers for hotels and motels. What about for VRDs? During COVID the City purchased lines of credit from the lodging industry, including from VRDs which would be very suitable for displaced families. Councilor Hinton asked Mr. Appicello if these lines of credit could be used? Mr. Appicello said that he would research this issue, but he was not very hopeful since the funds are from the transient room tax (TRT).

Councilor Hinton was thinking about rebuilding. What part can the City plan in that? Can the City assist the County with planning or other services? Councilor Hinton doesn't know how many houses were lost but it seems like an awful lot of property was heavily damaged.

Mayor Anderson agreed with Councilor Hinton. Mayor Anderson said that the County has been cooperative and said Lincoln City would be willing to participate and assist. Mayor Anderson said a lot of Lincoln City's workforce has been adversely affected and the City will want to make sure they are accommodated.

Councilor Hinton asked that Mr. Chandler draw up a list of what the City has already done and plans to do to assist with this emergency.

Mr. LaSoya advised Council that streaming video was down and that there was nothing that could currently be done to fix it. Mr. LaSoya said the vendor was having issues and acknowledged that the timing of this outage was horrible. Mr. LaSoya said that a video of the meeting would be uploaded to the City website as soon as possible after the meeting concluded. Mr. LaSoya apologized for the inconvenience.

Councilor Hoagland asked about short term rentals being used for emergency housing. Councilor Hoagland asked if we could relieve some of the short term tenant laws to allow Vacation Rental dwellings to house displaced people long-term. Councilor Hoagland said there was an issue with the Emergency Management System and it didn't notify the public like it should have. Councilor Hoagland would like Mr. Chandler to explain more about that failure.

Councilor Mark acknowledged there was a disconnect in information being provided and received. Councilor Mark said his heart goes out to those that have lost items during this emergency and hopes the City can help them. Councilor Mark said that he was able to find the information that he needed on the County website. Councilor Mark appreciated that the City eventually duplicated that information on the City website. Councilor Mark said we have learned lessons from this event and next time we will be

better prepared. Councilor Mark said he received the emergency calls from the County. Councilor Mark says he used portable chargers to keep his phone up and he has a Personal Hotspot on his phone that allows him to use his phone for Wi-Fi. Councilor Mark used his car to charge his phone after his portable chargers ran out of batteries. Councilor Mark encourages the public to do what they can to be prepared for emergencies. The devices he used to stay connected cost less than \$100. Councilor Mark wonders if the new communication tower at the Police Department can help with emergency communications?

Councilor Mark said that the City did have an evacuation plan. Citizens in certain areas were ordered to evacuate and head south. Councilor Mark acknowledges the traffic was backed up. Councilor Mark said that while it was unfortunate that West and East Devils Lake Road were both closed, people driving those roads would have still had to come through the Nelscott Gap, which was a bottleneck.

Councilor Mark said he's received lots of donations at Neighbors for Kids. He's been volunteering there the past two days.

Councilor Hinton said that one of the public comments discussed the new Urban Renewal area. Councilor Hinton said that there continued to be a misunderstanding regarding what the Urban Renewal district is about. It's not a new tax and money is not being taken from other taxing districts. The funding for the new Urban Renewal area is a redistribution. One of the priorities for the new Urban Renewal district is Emergency Preparedness.

Councilor Hinton thanked North Lincoln Fire and Rescue for doing an amazing job. She also thanked Pacific Power, NW Natural, the Lincoln City Police Department, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Mr. Chandler, Ken Murphy (City Emergency Preparedness Coordinator), City staff, and Community Members who have stepped up and helped out. Lincoln City has a big heart.

Mayor Anderson thanked other communities in the County for housing Lincoln City area citizens.

Mayor Anderson said that the September 14 City Council meeting had been moved to September 21. Council will be meeting on September 21 and September 28.

Councilor Casper asked citizens to get their to-go bags and emergency medication supplies ready.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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DICK ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

// David Twigg for //

CATHY STEERE, CITY RECORDER