

**CANBY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2019**

PRESIDING: Mayor Brian Hodson.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Tracie Heidt, Greg Parker, Traci Hensley, Tim Dale, Shawn Varwig, and Sarah Spoon.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Robinson, City Administrator; Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney; and Kim Scheafer, City Recorder.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Starrett, Craig Morris, Sarah Rodriguez, Martin Lackner, John Jones, Karen Phillips, Mary Walsh, Kathleen Jeskey, Sarah Griener, Aric Goodman, Sarah Goodman Greiner, Crystal Perkins, Amira Stanley, Nicholas Wills, Julie Wills, Rayne Wills, Pat Shaur, David & Linda Tate, Katherine Christiansen, Bob Cambra, Abelle Roe, Brad Clark, Kay Hutchinson, Kristin Morris, Diana Cerasin, Mercedes Rhoden-Feely, Maryssa Yager, Fire Chief Jim Davis, Fire Division Chief Todd Gary, Terry Mize, Jim & Eileen Dale, Don Kingsborough, Carol Rosen, Chris Waffle, Salen Brown, Elichia Owens, Joel Ekdahl, Tyler Smith, Ray Keen, Sarah Morgan, Jerald Bagge, Elaina Philpot, Ash Helvey, Steph Wise, Emily Simmons, Matteo Paola, Joshua Schoen, Hannah, Cole & Claud Dacosi, Terri Coleman, Ryan Adams, Matt English, Anton Neuhold, Ashley Neuhold, Nicole Brewer, John Brewer, and Audra Miller.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hodson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers followed by the opening ceremonies.

National Library Week Proclamation – Mayor Hodson read a proclamation proclaiming April 7-13, 2019 as National Library Week and presented it to Irene Green, Library Director.

Ms. Green announced people could get a \$1.00 off their library fines for every non-perishable item they brought to the library. There was a new cultural pass express that could be downloaded to mobile devices.

Grange Month Proclamation – Mayor Hodson read a proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2019 as Grange Month in Canby and presented it to Terry Mize

Maryssa Yager gave an update on the Warner Grange activities and how they were giving back to the community.

Window Safety Month Proclamation – Mayor Hodson read a proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2019 as Window Safety Month and presented it to Todd Gary, Canby Fire Battalion Chief.

Chief Gary said the Stop at 4 Campaign started in Molalla. He reviewed window safety.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CITIZEN INPUT & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bob Cambra, Canby resident, said they could allow anyone who was trying to be a productive member of the community to be minimized or

marginalized. They should want to make everyone feel welcome and encouraged and should keep trying to accomplish that.

Linda Tate, Canby resident, said she had lived in Canby her whole life. As she was standing in line she saw an angry crowd. She asked for documentation from the Charter that empowered the mayor or anyone else to refuse recognition to any one specific group and a comprehensive list of proclamations since taking office.

Kathleen Jeskey, Canby resident, said she had watched the last meeting and how people spoke against a proclamation that had not been presented. They were speaking against members of the community and she did not think they should contribute to the discrimination. The proclamation came from a need to state the right to exist without persecution.

John Jones, Canby resident, was tolerant, informed, accepting, and loving and did not judge others by what they identified as but by what they offered humanity. He did not think people needed to force their narrow-mindedness on him or be told that he was trans-phobic. He had been accused of being racist, but had given 9 years of his life to defend the country. He would continue to defend every person in the country to make sure they were free.

Sarah Greiner, Canby resident, said she had heard this issue was divisive, however it set them up to see each other as different. It allowed them to make derogatory or prejudicial comments against one another and claim that it was a political issue. There was nothing wrong with transgender members of the community and she was disappointed to hear members of her community speak with such hate and call it concern. Acknowledging the dignity of transgender individuals could save lives.

Julie Wills, Canby resident, said transgender families did not feel safe or welcomed in the community. She explained how her family had been treated on social media and how the police had done nothing about it. Her child had been bullied and was suicidal. They were being made targets of hatred and she did not feel safe letting her child play outside. The fight was real and her family was battling it every day. She thought if they could have proclamations for everything else, then they could have transgender visibility and honor their humanity.

Kevin Starrett, Canby resident, said people were saying there was an angry crowd. He didn't see that. They were talking about tolerance and accepting people. He thought the children who did not have issues with their sexuality should have rights as well. There needed to be protections from abuse in bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers.

Amira Stanley, Canby resident, said she had lived in Canby for two years. She volunteered with the LGBTQ youth in Clackamas County and was married to a transgender man. She thought with open hearts and minds and education and awareness, people could see the importance of transgender visibility. They did not know who was suffering silently, struggling inside, because they had no one to talk to. It was easy to say they welcomed all, but it took courage and vulnerability to go a step further.

Craig Morris, Canby resident, thanked the Mayor for the way he had been handling the craziness and personal attacks the last few weeks. His family had a child that was forced into the trans community at 2-3 years old through foster care. That child was now 18, but still struggling from that abuse. There were adults who were putting their own personal opinions on these children and it did affect them for life.

Crystal Perkins, Vancouver resident, was there on behalf of The Living Room youth organization. She

read some statements of the youth, who did not feel safe and had less trust in the community.

Aric Goodman, Canby resident, thought transgender recognition could save people's lives. They needed to embrace diversity and reject hatred and prejudice.

Katherine Christiansen, Canby resident, said the Mayor had her full support. He had met with the cub scouts earlier which showed how caring and involved he was in the community.

Sarah Rodriguez, Canby resident, said it was unfortunate the proclamation was not read. She wanted to know what was going to be done to bring the community back together. She asked if the Mayor was willing to make a proclamation that would bring the community together.

Abelle Roe, Canby resident, said she grew up in Canby and how she felt extremely alone and unseen. She was disappointed by the decision to reject the proclamation for transgender visibility. Young people in Canby struggled with mental health and suicide and transgender people were particularly vulnerable to suicidal thoughts, depression, and anxiety. A supportive environment could help prevent people from taking their lives. The transgender day would bring awareness, support, and love to those who desperately needed it.

Brad Clark, Canby resident, was thankful for the Library proclamation. There were comments made at the last meeting that did not represent him. He had worked with youth his whole life as well as those who were suicidal. He felt the wrong position was made, but appreciated all that the Council did.

Kay Hutchinson, Canby resident, was a high school student. She begged parents that if their child told them about who they were, to be as supportive as possible. She knew many youth who were terrified to come out to their parents. Everyone was human and deserved to love and be loved and to be who they were. They deserved to live in a community that accepted them.

Karen Phillips, Canby resident, said she had read on Facebook the posts the Mayor had shared thanking people for their kind words. Those notes of affirmation were important to the Mayor and it was the same for the transgender community.

Kristin Morris, Canby resident, said she felt compassion for both sides. She knew the Mayor to be a man of integrity and who always reached out to everyone. She supported the Mayor's decision. This had become the center focus and there were a lot of other things that needed to be addressed.

Diana Cerasin said she didn't live in Canby, but stated that people from all around were watching them. She was concerned about minors and the high rate of suicide. They were hearing from this community that they were not welcome and there was segregation because of fear.

Mercedes Rhoden-Feely said she was a City Councilor in Aurora and knew what it was like to sit in their shoes. People were being made to feel unsafe because of the positions they had taken. She thought there was a missed opportunity. A group of people came and asked the Council to see them as they felt invisible. The focus was on disagreements with their lifestyle and the community had lost sight of common humanity.

Elichia Owens said she lived in Clackamas County and was a Board Member of The Living Room. There were youth who lived in this community who did not feel safe coming here tonight. She read a statement from a student. The student thought transgender day was meant to recognize their struggles

and celebrate their journeys and accomplishments and acknowledge their existence. The Mayor and Council needed to represent all the people in the community

Salen Brown, Canby resident, said she was nervous to come tonight. She graduated from Canby High School last year and gender neutral bathrooms and locker rooms existed and were available with approval. Transgender people did not want to participate in predatory behavior; they wanted to exist in peace and safety.

Martin Lackner said he had been coming to the Council Chambers for a decade. There were parallels made in the social media that this fight was similar to that of Vietnam veterans getting recognition for their service. He thought that should not be stated again in the future. They were all in one of the safest places right now. The Mayor and Council were elected to represent this community and they needed to establish a productive dialogue and work together.

Mayor Hodson thought this was a welcoming community. It was a situation that had become an unfortunate fight in City Hall, email, and social media. It was a dialogue that needed to occur and he was prepared to take those steps. The hurtful things that had been said and written were appalling. He was hopeful moving forward that the dialogue could occur, but it could not be done in anger behind a keyboard and screen.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS: None.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS: Councilor Spoon did not attend the Canby Area Transit Advisory Committee meeting. CTV5 had their first producers meeting.

Councilor Varwig said he was ill and unable to attend the Canby Fire District meeting. The Library Board would be presenting the State of the Library at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Dale said interviews had taken place for the Canby Utility Board vacancy. David Horrax would be appointed at the next meeting. He announced the upper Molalla River would be designated as a federal wild and scenic river.

Councilor Hensley thanked everyone that attended the meeting and the combat veterans for their service.

Councilor Parker said the free community bike rides would be taking place on Tuesdays. The Clackamas County Event Center had meetings last week to review the master plan. The Heritage and Landmark Commission held a public hearing last week regarding a historic building. He attended the Chamber Forum where an update on economic development was given by staff. As a straight white male he didn't think he had the right to tell someone that they should feel safe, they should tell him. He thought things would get better, but they all had to work together to do so.

Councilor Heidt thanked the Mayor for presiding so gracefully over the meeting tonight and she thanked everyone who came to speak. It was an important night for Canby.

CONSENT AGENDA: **Councilor Dale moved to adopt the minutes of the March 20, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hensley and passed 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES: Ordinance 1505 – Mr. Robinson said the Consumer Price Index for the Portland area had been discontinued and staff recommended using the Consumer Price Index for Pacific cities instead.

****Councilor Hensley moved to adopt Ordinance 1505, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CANBY MUNICIPAL CODE (CMC) CHAPTER 3.35 PARK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM SECTIONS 3.35.050 (B) AND 3.35.090 (E) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT. Motion was seconded by Councilor Varwig and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.**

NEW BUSINESS: Approval of City Administrator Hiring Standards, Criteria and Policy Directives –

****Councilor Hensley moved to approve the City Administrator Hiring Standards, Criteria and Policy Directives for the City Administrator recruitment. Motion was seconded by Councilor Heidt and passed 6-0.**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S BUSINESS & STAFF REPORTS: None.

CITIZEN INPUT: None.

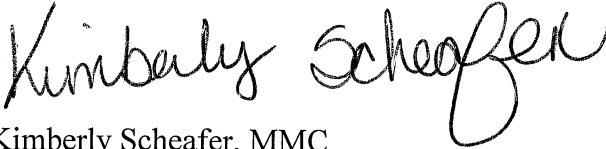
ACTION REVIEW:


1. Approved the Consent Agenda.
2. Adopted Ordinance 1505.

****Councilor Dale moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hensley and passed 6-0.**

Mayor Hodson read the Executive Session format.

Mayor Hodson recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mayor Hodson reconvened the meeting at 9:30 p.m. and immediately adjourned.


Kimberly Scheafer, MMC
City Recorder


Brian Hodson
Mayor

Assisted with Preparation of Minutes - Susan Wood

Comments for the mayor

9 responses

How have you been impacted by the current events in canby?

8 responses

Yes

Not very. But it's impacted others.

Yes. I don't feel safe after the backlash that the proclamation request recieved.

Just disappointed with how the mayor has handled it

I am shocked to learn that my community is so ignorant. It makes me fearful for the safety of my friends and peers.

I am transgender, and this has put a great deal of stress on my life. I'm worried to come out to any extent now, because of the conflict. I dont know if my own town is safe anymore, and that scares me.

I tend to mentally seclude myself from everything so I dont FEEL impacted. As someone who doesnt LIVE in Camby but does fréquent it since Im a student at CHS... I feel like it should have someway?

All I can say is Im pissed people would go out of their way to say things like that and be such assholes. I hate people like that. I DESPISE people like that. That hate is probably the easiest of my hate to get rid of though... since its a matter of the individual bettering themself and proving it. Other hate.... ech

I feel significantly less safe in Canby and the surrounding areas due to the disgusting misrepresentation and aggressive language towards minorities such as myself and those I am close to. Incidences such as these make me lose a great amount of trust in those in power and law enforcement associated with them. I no longer trust law enforcement in Canby to treat me fairly and justly in the event I find myself dealing with them because I am transgender and homosexual, nor do I trust the community to support me and those in the transgender community.

What words or thoughts would you like to share with the mayor?

9 responses

That it's not right to decline something that can bring such joy

Before you deny something like that, realize the impact it would have on those who'd be effected by your actions. Not celebrating, or even mentioning trans Visibility day would symbolize that you don't like, or downright hate the LGBT community, making you seem like a bigot.

You are so closed minded. You made people afraid to live here. You are the mayor. You should do what's best for the community. And this? This ain't it.

Don't close opportunities for people based on your own ignorance. Recognize the privilege you have as a straight, cis man, and work to destroy that privilege. That's how this town should be run: promote equality and love for EVERYONE, not just the people you cater to.

I hope that you do not deny what the LGBTQ deserves because of your religion and beliefs

How many trans individuals have you met? How many do you have close, personal connections with? I know quite a few so they are not "rare" in our town. As mayor you should be open minded and understanding towards ALL your citizens.

I grew up in Texas, where it's not good to be bisexual or transgender. They believed many of the same things that were said by people in this town, and it drove me close to suicide once. We moved to Oregon to help me grow and feel safe. Feel confident in myself. All of my adolescent life, I felt out of place in my body. Trapped in something I couldn't feel was right, and that hurt me. I wanted to be anyone else, as long as it wasn't me. That brought me more pain and more tears than anything, and it brought me to Oregon. It brought me to a place where I could stop fearing who I was. Where I could feel safe expressing myself. Denying that request was going to start a fight. A fight I've been trying to get away from to keep myself safe. Now? I don't feel safe. I feel like I have to hide myself again, and that terrifies me. I don't want to hide because in those 7 years as a child; I lost who I was. I can't remember those years. I don't even remember my father's face without looking at old pictures. I can't remember my first kiss. I can't remember the joys of being 5, 6, 7, even 10. This is what you're doing to me. You're forcing me to relive and chance losing myself, maybe for good. You don't have to believe in transgenders. You don't have to like us, but you have a job to protect and keep in mind all of our interests. Keep in mind that you incited this, even if it wasn't your intent. Transgenders have it hard, and we can't change that about ourselves. If I could, I would have been back in Texas. I would have. Changed myself into the brown, straight man. I would have let myself go and begin anew.. but that's running. That's something I won't ever do. My life may not be the ideal choice, and it may not be what you or others like or understand, but please. There are people like me. People who needed this help. Needed a chance to come out. A chance to feel ourselves outside of public. Take off the mask and be ourselves before the mask becomes us. Please, give people education about transgender people. Teach them, so they don't scare us. A lot of what was said was more ignorance than truth, and there is still a lot to learn, even for us. Give us a chance to feel safe and happy to be part of Canby. Not scared and worried to come back.

Don't be an asshole.

I think that your words and actions are not only ridiculous, repulsive, and beyond uneducated and ignorant, they are also harmful and disgraceful. Multiple people in Canby are feeling unsafe because of these recent events. Understanding and acceptance should be promoted, not hate and intolerance.

How has this affected you emotionally?

8 responses

Yes

It just makes me pissed that people could be ignorant

Horrible.

I'm terrified for my future. I can't see myself wanting to live out the rest of my life in a town that won't accept me. I'm angry, frustrated, and disappointed.

Just sad to see Canby has obviously not made progress as I hoped

Its put my mental health at risk. I dont want to go to a doctor to even try and transition, much less talk about it anymore. Having that bottled up and feel the pain that others might give you for being yourself.. feeling the looks and the talks behind your back. Its not good. It hurts me.

Already mentioned Im pissed.

I am disappointed in Canby. Events such as these tell me and other trans people that we are inferior and disfigured psychologically because of our gender identity. I feel disrespected and my trust in basic humanity decency has faltered. We are all people on this Earth and yet we are not regarded as such.

What kind of support would you like to see at CHS and in the Canby community?

8 responses

For students and staff to be educated

More awareness to minorities, as well as seeing them as they are. I.e, real people

I want people to ask me for the pronouns I use on a regular basis. I want there to be daily, well-advertised support for students and other individuals that don't abide by strict gender roles. But most of all, I want to feel like I have the same freedom to express myself as the people that wear CONTINENTAL FLAG SWEATSHIRTS and other hateful messages that never get confronted or harassed.

I'd like to see us change by allowing this to happen

I would like to see better education not just in school's but the community. Specifically the adults in our community need better education on gender identity. A lot of the hateful comments made towards the trans community are rooted in misinformation and ignorance. Additionally, adults set the example for children, and if kids can see their parents accepting those who may seem "different", the kids will become more accepting too.

Education. Let the transgender people meet and talk to those who dont think we are right. Let us at least teach you what we know. Let them see us learn as well. We're a community, and we need to stay together, not at war.

Just... make sure people know there is a safe space. That they can be themselves.

I would like to see a larger amount of education regarding trans and LGBT people. The school should actively support LGBT people and place an emphasis on acceptance from other students.

A lot of people in Canby keep saying that they don't care that people are trans, but that we need to stop talking about it. I had somebody tell me that we wouldn't be discriminated against if we'd "just stop shining a spotlight on it." You know what topic they were replying to? It was when I posted about how my child was suicidal at the age of 7. People laughed. I called for people to care about all suicidal children and they thought the idea of a little kid wanting to die was funny. Others came to their defense, saying we weren't being taken seriously because my child is transgender. As though that were some sort of excuse.

Since talking about this, I've had a person tell a local Facebook page with 18 thousand people the full legal name of my child. This person referenced photographs I have on my profile that are set to friends only. I don't know who she is, but my child knows her by name. They say she has spoken to them in our apartment complex many times. People kept telling me to stop arguing with the hatred. That everybody is entitled to their opinion. So I simply blocked her.

After that, I received messages from concerned strangers because she posted again, trying to draw attention to my family after claiming that I forced my child to be transgender when they were 2 months old. This person isn't the only one that I've blocked who has gone on to post about us anyway. They are trying to make us a target of hatred. People like this don't make me feel welcome. And I don't know that I'll ever feel safe letting my child play outside in our apartment complex again.

I've heard people here in Canby say that the trans community isn't discriminated against. That they don't believe in trans rights because we're already treated equally. People drove by the event for Alex Gino's book, *George*, to take our photos, film us, and yell obscenities at attendees. Does that sound like we're treated equally? Does any of this sound like we're safe?

Mr Mayor, City Council. People of Canby, we need your help. International Day of Transgender Visibility can't fix everything, but it would have been a good start. If transgender people aren't visible, then our persecution becomes invisible. Just like International Women's Day, Black History Month, and other things like it, this could have helped people understand our plight. Just like the rest of you, I don't want to have to talk politics. But this isn't about politics. This is a fight for our very lives. One that people have told us to our face doesn't exist. I'm here to tell you that the fight is real, and we're battling it every day.

There have been a lot of people arguing against Transgender Day of Visibility, who are absolutely adamant that they don't hate us. I'm going to address that with a quote by Charles M. Blow. "One doesn't have to operate with great malice to do great harm. The absence of empathy and understanding are sufficient." If there can be proclamations for flowers, for barbershop singers, for libraries, for manufacturers, then I think transgender people can have a day too. One where people can stand up and listen to what happens to us and our allies will say, "No more. I honor your humanity." If you truly believe that transgender people don't need a day of visibility because we are already codified in the safe city proclamation, then what will you do to guarantee our rights to safety? How will you address the hate? I'm trying to change the world to keep our children safe. I need you to join me.

Mayor Hodson says that he believes Canby is a safe and welcoming city to all. I'm here to tell you that transgender families do not agree. We do not feel safe, and we have certainly not been made to feel welcome.

My first interaction with the Canby Police Department was about my family's safety. At the time, I had asked for some help on my personal blog in acquiring my child some new clothing to reflect their gender identity. I quickly found out that there was a planned attack in the works from people on 4chan, directed at the LGBTQ community on tumblr. We began to live in fear.

We became a hashtag, literally. It was spread on twitter, reddit, tumblr, and facebook. People flooded child services with reports of child abuse by the thousands, claiming that the only reason a child could be transgender is if they were being sexually abused. My inbox overflowed with people wishing I'd get raped or suffer some other kind of violence. My accounts were hacked, as were those of family members and friends. They took screenshots of my family photos, and found an address to share, though, thankfully, we'd just moved a few months before. People talked about kidnapping my child. Some people called on others that might live in our area to murder me and my husband.

Even if you don't agree with our child's gender identity, there were those who wanted to murder them. People said they would rape other children. That they were a perversion of God and the spawn of Satan. That they didn't deserve to live. I had just enrolled them in preschool.

The mayor wants to tell me that my family is safe here. Do you know what the Canby Police did when I sobbed about how people wanted to murder my baby? First, they told me it was my fault. Then, they told me that they weren't going to do anything about it.

And don't even get me started on what it takes to get a book read in this town. (dramatic pause)

You are all aware of the concerns and exclusion of "George", but even trying to let my kid read a book that simply explains their existence a bit to their class was like honking at one of the town turkeys. This book had no mention of the word transgender in it. Nothing on pronouns. No dramatic social transition. The primary message being that: no matter who they are, they are valid. It's a story where the teacher stops bullying by reminding people that gender doesn't matter. Kids can play how they want. They can look how they want. The superintendent stated that it couldn't be read and that it was inappropriate. In the end, he confessed that he hadn't even read a single page.

I wish that book could have made a difference. My kid still deals with bullying. Classmates argue about what gender they are. They were given noise cancelling headphones to deal with other kids on the bus taunting them with songs. Some tell them to their face that if they believe they're trans, then they don't exist at all. I can't count how many times they've gotten in trouble for arguing about their gender identity. But if somebody called your son a girl, or told them that they weren't real, would you expect them to stay silent?