

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
JULY 8, 2013
5:30 P.M.

THE DALLES CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Steve Lawrence

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Dan Spatz, Tim McGlothlin, Linda Miller

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Finance Director Kate Mast, Planning Director Dick Gassman

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Krueger; all Councilors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lawrence invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Certificate of Recognition to Doug Leash

Mayor Lawrence read a Certificate of Appreciation to Doug Leash, recognizing his work to preserve the St. Peter's Landmark.

Other Recognition

Mayor Lawrence noted the passing of Allan Morrison, a hero to local veterans and coach to local baseball players. He said the funeral service would be Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. and encouraged attendance to honor Mr. Morrison's service to the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young said the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee would hear a request from Rapoza Development for the 120 day extension allowed by the development agreement and a recommendation would be forwarded to the Urban Renewal Agency Board for consideration at their July 22 meeting.

Young said staff would be conducting interviews for the one year fellow position this week, and later in July interviews for the RARE position would be conducted. He said the RARE position would likely be filled in September.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said it had been brought to his attention that the franchise with The Dalles Disposal had lapsed. He said the ordinance to renew the franchise would be brought for Council action at the July 22 Council meeting.

Parker said he would be working with the Finance Director to make ordinance amendments to address recently passed legislation to collect room tax from on-line travel agencies.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Dick noted the QLife Agency had adopted their Strategic Plan, scheduled for approval by City Council at this meeting.

MINUTES (Continued)
Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2013
Page 3

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mayor Lawrence said he had asked the City Attorney if there were any issues with approving the license for the Vault since OLCC was considering whether to renew their license. City Attorney Parker said the City's signing of the renewals was an endorsement to the State and they had the final approval authority. It was noted the Police Department had investigated the renewal applicants and recommended they be endorsed.

The motion to approve the consent agenda was voted on and carried unanimously.

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of June 24, 2013 regular City Council meeting minutes; 2) authorization for City Clerk to endorse annual OLCC license renewals; and 3) authorization to provide sanitary sewer service to properties owned by Cynthia Homberg located at 1061, 1061A, 1061B and 1061C Irving Street, outside city limits.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Proposed Ballot Measure to Increase the Fuel Tax or County Service District Property Tax

Mayor Lawrence reviewed the procedure to be followed for the public hearing.

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report. He reviewed the options being considered which were a three cent fuel tax and formation of a City/County Road District. Young recommended pursuing the fuel tax option, saying it had the best chance of success, revenue most closely charged the users of City streets, and the City tried to avoid property tax measures because of competition with other taxing entities who didn't have the same funding options as the City.

Testimony

Doug Hattenhauer, 201 West First Street, The Dalles, spoke in opposition of a fuel tax. He said it was a bad idea to go out for bonds because of the high amount of interest the City would have to repay. Hattenhauer said the best option would be for the State to increase the fuel tax so all communities would have the same tax, and not have a higher tax only in The Dalles. He said he believed the City had plenty of funds within its budget in various categories to make street improvements without a fuel tax increase. He questioned whether fuel trucks providing fuel for the ships were paying the local fuel tax. Hattenhauer said to be fair, the City could tax tire stores and auto parts stores.

In response to a question, Hattenhauer said the State fuel tax was currently 30 cents per gallon.

Hearing no further testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Council Deliberation

Councilor Miller said her preference would be to redirect urban renewal funds to pay for infrastructure because the Plan originally included that. She suggested amending the boundary to include the entire city limits.

Councilor Wood said the citizens voted in 1998 to change the Plan to its current format. She said the boundaries were also established in the Plan.

Miller said the Plan could be amended.

Mayor Lawrence said he recalled that the City Attorney said the Plan would require only a minor amendment to change the scope of the Plan to be used for infrastructure projects. City Attorney Parker said if he said that, he had mis-spoken as he believed it would require a major amendment to the Plan. Lawrence asked what would be required to complete a major amendment. Parker said it would require a public hearing and adoption of a resolution. He said boundary changes would be more complicated.

City Manager Young said the size of an urban renewal district was restricted by law and could not include the entire city limits. He said there would be additional concerns for other taxing districts if there was an expansion of the boundary.

Mayor Lawrence asked if the Plan was amended, whether urban renewal funds could pay for street improvements within the current boundary. City Manager Young said that could be done. Mayor Lawrence said use of the urban renewal funds for street improvements within the district would allow for more money within the Street Fund to be used for other street improvement projects outside the district.

Councilor Spatz said he was opposed to using urban renewal project funds for street improvements. He said he was not prepared to make a decision at this meeting regarding which option should be placed on a ballot for consideration and wanted to have a meeting with the County Commissioners prior to making a decision.

MINUTES (Continued)
Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2013
Page 5

City Manager Young said he had met with County staff to discuss the options. He said if the Council wished to have it on the November ballot, the measure would have to be filed by September 5 and there would need to be additional time to complete the process, so a resolution would need to be adopted by mid-August.

It was moved by Dick and seconded by Spatz to delay making a decision until the Council could meet with Wasco County Commissioners.

Councilor McGlothlin reminded the Council the approval to move forward was only to ask the voters to decide.

The motion to delay making a decision until the Council could meet with Wasco County Commissioners was voted on and carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of QLife Broadband Strategic Plan

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Lawrence noted Goal 4 of the Plan had not copied correctly into the agenda packet and asked for a new copy. Lawrence said he continued to be impressed with QLife and the work it was accomplishing.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Wood to adopt the Wasco County and QLife Strategic Broadband Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 13-024 Accepting a Dedication of Property from Elk Horn Development LLC for Public Street Purposes

City Attorney Parker reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Miller to adopt Resolution No. 13-024 accepting a dedication of property from Elk Horn Development LLC for public street purposes. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 13-023 Adopting a Fraud Policy for the City of The Dalles

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

MINUTES (Continued)
Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2013
Page 6

Mayor Lawrence asked if staff had considered including a citizen member on the review committee. Mast said she had not considered that. Lawrence said some of the words used in the policy were not well defined and were too subjective.

City Attorney Parker said the policy was intended to be a general guideline and noted it was recommended by the City's auditors to be adopted.

Lawrence asked what other policies were in place to protect employees from retaliation. City Attorney Parker said there were other policies and he would provide them to the Council.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt Resolution No. 13-023 adopting a Fraud Policy for the City of The Dalles. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding Fluoridation of the City's Drinking Water Supply

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the staff report, recommending the City continue the practice of adding fluoride to the City's water supply.

Public Comment

Jim Bickler addressed the Council, saying he was a dentist and orthodontist in The Dalles and Hood River. He said seeing children from both communities proved to him that those who received fluoride had much better teeth. Bickler said there was no real scientific study to show any detrimental affects of fluoride and he noted that the most benefitted people were those with a lower socioeconomic status who were not able to get regular dental and medical assistance.

Robert Boyett spoke in opposition to fluoride, saying it was not possible to control the dosage for infants and seniors. He said the fluoride used by municipalities was an industrial grade and was not a natural form of the mineral. Boyett said fluoride was detrimental to the brain and was a toxic waste in the environment. He said it would be nearly impossible to remove it from his water source.

Dr. Judy Richardson, 3515 Crestview, The Dalles, spoke in support of fluoride, saying physicians were concerned about dental decay because it led to medical problems.

Christie Wallen, 1524 East Ninth Street, The Dalles, spoke in opposition to fluoride. She said fluoride had not been found to be safe and effective and was considered an unapproved drug by the FDA. She spoke of the harmful effects of fluoride, including hypothyroidism patients. She

said she did not consent to being medicated through the water supply and did not want her child medicated either. She said fluoridated water had been linked to lowering of IQ in children. Wallen asked the Council to take the time to educate themselves and not follow the status quo.

Teri Thalhofer, Director of North Central Public Health District, spoke in support of fluoridation, thanked the City for adding fluoride to the water supply. She noted that while the poverty level was 10% greater in The Dalles, compared to Hood River, The Dalles dental decay was lower. She said it was important to support the most vulnerable in our community.

Tina Castanares, representing One Community Health, said she had noted a very dramatic difference in her practices in Hood River and The Dalles and asked that the Council continue the practice of fluoridation because it protected the community's most vulnerable citizens. She pointed out that local data indicated remarkably fewer operations done on children in The Dalles who drank fluoridated water, compared to Hood River and said it saved about half the total dental bills for children on the Oregon Health Plan. She said the lifetime economic benefit of an individual avoiding just one cavity was far greater than the cost of a lifetime of fluoridation.

Curt Farray, 3215 NE US Grant, Portland, said he was a dentist and had been involved in the politics of fluoride treatment for quite some time. He spoke in support of keeping fluoride in the water supply.

Dr. Miriam McDonald, The Dalles spoke in support of continuing the practice of fluoridating the City's water. She noted that the IQ studies discussed in previous testimony had been conducted in China where a much higher level of fluoride was used. She said arsenic in the water was extremely low, and said there was much more arsenic in bread, tuna and ice cream than in the water supply.

Dr. Mike Murat spoke in support of fluoridated water. He said it was the City's job to protect the public and this was one way to do so.

Daniel Seger, Snipes Street, The Dalles, said he believed topical applications of fluoride were acceptable, but it should not be added to the water supply and was not advised to be used in infant formula. He said the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) warned not to give fluoride to children under the age of six.

Julie Gonzales, 760 Frankton Road, Hood River, said she was a dental hygienist and said there was a lot of science to prove the positive effects of fluoride in municipal water supplies. She said it was a benefit to the citizens and said there were many examples of patients in Hood River to see what happens without fluoride treatment.

Garrett Wallen, 1524 East Ninth Street, The Dalles, said communities fluoridating water supplies were essentially practicing medicine without a license and that if citizens did such an act, would be arrested and tried as terrorists or felons practicing medicine without a license. He said medication could only be prescribed for those diagnosed with a medical need.

Dr. Charles Haynie, showed photographs of cavities in children who had not had the benefit of fluoridated water and said fluoridation was enormously beneficial. He said many professional organization supported fluoridation and that the Supreme Court had determined that adding fluoride to water supplies was not a medical practice.

Dr. Kathy Omer said she had not been able to find any reliable research that would indicate a risk to people from having fluoridated water supplies. She said it was important to dental health and also helped to prevent other health issues.

Jay Waterbury, 403 West Ninth Street, The Dalles, urged the City Council to continue the practice of fluoridating the water supply. He said it was beneficial to the entire community.

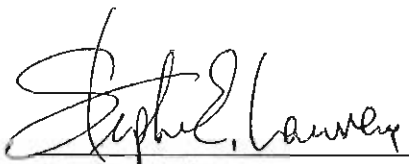
Public Works Director Anderson said the City used a grade of fluoride which was approved for drinking water and had to meet state and federal purity requirements.

It was the consensus of the City Council to continue the practice of adding fluoride to the City's drinking water supply.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED: 
Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk