

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
APRIL 13, 2015
5:30 P.M.

THE DALLES CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Steve Lawrence

COUNCIL PRESENT: Dan Spatz, Tim McGlothlin, Linda Miller, Russ Brown, Taner Elliott

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Administrative Fellow Daniel Hunter, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Finance Director Kate Mast, Planning Director Dick Gassman, Police Captain Steve Baska, Engineer Dale McCabe

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 Miller and seconded by Elliott to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Funding Request by Mid Columbia Senior Center

Scott McKay provided a handout and talked about the importance of caring for the ageing population of our community. He spoke about the Center's budget, activities, and programs. McKay reported that the fund raising for the elevator had been very successful, but noted with the small budget, funds would be appreciated to help with capital improvement projects. He noted that replacing a water heater, heat pump, or other item, was an expense the Senior Center did not have funds for. McKay said if the City provided financial support, it would be used to start a capital projects fund raising campaign to address emergency issues that arose. He said the Senior Center and the City had a very long standing relationship and he appreciated all the support of the City over the years.

Councilor Spatz asked how the Meals on Wheels Program fit with the Senior Center. McKay said they were separate, non-profit groups, but had a very collaborative relationship, sharing facilities and utility expenses. He said the Meals on Wheels Program provided over 20,000 meals per year, made home deliveries and also served meals at the Center daily.

Funding Request by Fort Dalles Museum Commission

Museum Executive Director Cal McDermid and Commission President Trish Neal provided an overview of work being done at the Museum, re-arranging exhibits and cleaning the facilities. It was noted the museum was a joint operation of Wasco County and the City of The Dalles. Ms. Neal said the request of \$2,500 from each governing body would assist in maintenance and repairs at the museum.

In response to a question, it was noted that the City owned the property where the Anderson House and Barn were located and the County owned the Garrison grounds and Surgeon's Quarters property.

Mayor Lawrence said he and several of the City Councilors had toured the facilities and it was incredible how much work had been accomplished in the past two months.

Ms. Neal provided an explanation of grant funds received and how they were managed for restoration of the vehicle barn. She said there was a separate endowment fund and donors could select whether they wanted to donate to the endowment fund, the vehicle barn fund, or just a general donation. In response to a question, Neal said the vehicles were mostly privately owned, but on long term loan to the museum.

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Funding Request by Veterans Memorial Committee

Les Cochenour, 319 West 20th Street, The Dalles, said he was thankful for the donation to the Veteran's Memorial Committee every year. He said recent expenditures had included on-going costs for the security cameras and cleaning of the monuments. Cochenour said the fund was healthy and the Committee would request only \$500 this year for maintaining the site. Cochenour said they were required to maintain a \$5,000 balance in case they needed to repair any damage.

Mayor Lawrence asked Cochenour for information regarding a proposed Veterans Museum. Cochenour said items were being collected and they hoped to display them in the very near future in a downtown location.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Co-conveners Dan Ericksen and Michele Spatz, Oregon Solutions Project focusing on Childhood Obesity in Wasco County, addressed the Council regarding their project. Obesity rates were described for children in Wasco County, noting it had the highest rate of child obesity in the State. Spatz provided information on the statistics, the expected medical and emotional costs associated with the problem, and discussed the various agencies involved in the project. She said the group would be presenting a non-binding declaration of cooperation for City Council approval at a future meeting and hoped the City Council would support the work of the group.

Candy Armstrong, School District #21, said the District was a partner in the project. She said there were a lot of activities for the school children, but it was important to reach the children who were not involved in activities and to find out what the barriers were to children who didn't participate in activities.

In response to questions, Armstrong said she hoped activity fees could be reduced or waived and special programs developed for the Hispanic population. Regarding concerns about transportation, she said the District did provide some bus transportation, but it was also important to ensure safe walking and biking routes in school areas.

Dr. Vern Harpole, representing the Health District, urged the City Council to support all programs and initiatives that would help resolve the issued of childhood obesity.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young introduced Jo Kemper, Regulatory Compliance Officer for the City. Young reported that staff was working on the City's website, including an improved home page, a

Request for Proposals (RFP) to update the website, and consideration of a phone application for improved communications between the City and citizens. He said a time frame for the RFP had not yet been established.

Young said the mega-haul project, moving the large machinery to the Celilo Converter Station, was underway. He said there were concerns regarding traveling through the east gateway section of the downtown, but said if any damages occurred the hauling company would be responsible to make repairs.

Young reminded the City Council that Budget Committee meetings would begin on May 4. He said Budget Issue Papers would continue to be sent out and asked if the City Council wanted to have a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said the City Clerk would set up a tour if anyone was interested.

Young said he had prepared a proposal for the City Council's budget to handle the funding requests, but that it could be changed during the Budget Committee meeting to accommodate items at different levels. He noted that he had already included \$2,500 for Ft. Dalles Museum, \$20,000 for 4th of July celebration, \$2,000 for the Veteran's Committee, and \$10,000 for the rodeo.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker reported he had been working with the Codes Enforcement Office to cite some offenders into Municipal Court and had been working with the Planning Department on cell tower regulations. Parker asked for consensus to allow Andrew Meyers to serve as Municipal Judge pro-tem because both Judge Peachey and Judge Gouge would be unavailable for one day. It was the consensus of the City Council to allow Andrew Meyers to serve as Judge pro-tem.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Spatz provided an update on QLife activities, including funding proposals for broadband access in south Wasco County and extension of broadband from Arlington, west to The Dalles, to better serve Gilliam, Sherman and east Wasco County. Spatz said he was involved in the Wasco County Childhood Obesity Reduction Plan and said he hoped the City would be very supportive of the initiative.

Councilor Miller reported she had attended the ceremony transferring the Elks Club Building to the new owners and attended City Council training from CCIS, regarding risk management.

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Mayor Lawrence said he had the honor of presenting an American flag to a young girl who had sent many gifts to the soldiers in Afghanistan. He said he had introduced Senator Merkley at the recent Town Hall meeting, and attended the Google celebration and Elks Club transfer ceremony.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Spatz asked that the March 23 minutes be corrected, on page 4, to state that he hoped the City would provide a letter of support from the City for the manufacturing initiative, not to just support the initiative.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of March 23, 2015 regular City Council meeting minutes; 2) approval to declare equipment and vehicles at the Airport as surplus property; and 3) Resolution No. 15-018 concurring with the Mayor's appointment of Linda Miller to the Household Hazardous Waste Committee.

CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD ACTIONS

Award 2015 Sanitary Sewer Slipline Contract

Engineer Dale McCabe reviewed the staff report.

There was discussion regarding whether additional lines could be added to the project since the bids came in below budget. It was explained that the City would need to be in compliance with the Contract Review Board Rules, but staff would work on a list of additional lines that could be completed, if it was allowed to increase the amount of work to be done, up to the budgeted amount.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by McGlothlin to authorize the City Manager to enter into contract with Insituform Technologies in an amount not to exceed \$286,612.20 for the 2015 sanitary slipline project, including additional work, if allowed. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Community Marketing Work Plan and Budget for The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Lawrence said the Council had received a reply from the Chamber on Friday, to a list of questions, but the answers were vague. He proposed a meeting with City representatives and Chamber representatives to get clearer answers before the Council took action to approve the tourism work plan and budget.

Chamber President Lisa Farquharson expressed concern regarding financial questions, saying the Chamber was a private, non-profit and didn't share budget information.

It was the consensus of the Council to have staff set up a meeting, including City Manager, Mayor and one City Councilor, along with Chamber staff to further discuss the questions.

Resolution No. 15-017 Establishing Public Improvement Guidelines for Residential Streets

Planning Director Gassman reviewed the staff report.

There was discussion regarding the language in item #6 of the proposed guidelines. Councilor Elliott said he thought the Council had agreed to eliminate any requirements for delayed development agreements.

Following discussion regarding when a curb line would be installed by the City, and that it would not be done on a property by property basis, it was agreed to change #6 of the Guidelines to include only the first sentence.

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution No. 15-017 establishing public improvement guidelines, as amended, for residential streets. The motion carried unanimously.

Donna Lawrence asked if the City would be providing refunds to property owners who had already paid into the improvement fund. City Manager Young said the City had already received two requests for refunds and said they would be brought to a future Council meeting for consideration. Mrs. Lawrence said the City should identify and provide those refunds without have to be requested by the property owners.

Consideration of Compensation Package for Exempt Employees

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report. He noted one option was to change the employee from 100% paid by the City, to require employees to pay 10% of their premiums.

There was discussion about offering other options, including a plan with a higher deductible. Staff was asked to bring back information on plans, when it was received from the carrier. The

matter was postponed pending additional information.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding Thompson Street Project

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report. Public Works Director Anderson provided an overview of what underground utility work would be proposed prior to placing a surface on the street. It was noted the total cost of the project would be approximately \$375,000 and funds were available in the various Public Works Department budgets to complete all the work.

Councilor Brown said re-surfacing the street contradicted the City Council goal to have maintenance only for the next three years. He said it was a worthy project, but would prefer to defer any reconstruction projects for at least one year to see how the new maintenance plan was progressing.

Councilor Spatz said he liked the proposal and saw it as a maintenance project.

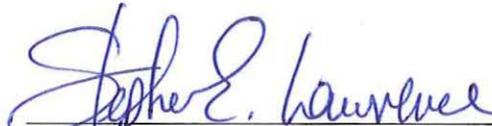
There was a discussion regarding possible savings on the Scenic Drive stabilization project and whether unused funds could be used to complete the proposed Thompson Street project. Staff was asked to provide a report to Council in June regarding the status of the Scenic Drive project and any potential savings from that project prior to making a decision on the Thompson Street project.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:


Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk