

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
JUNE 8, 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, Police Chief Jay Waterbury

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 McGlothlin to approve the agenda, including the supplemental agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Lawrence noted the passing of Gary Honald, saying he was a friend to everyone, a great historian and friend, offering advice to him as he served as Mayor and said he would miss him very much.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young said he had sent a memorandum to the Council regarding the purchase of a new tack truck. He said the price was less than \$50,000 and he would authorize the purchase, unless there were any concerns.

Young reminded the Council of the June 15 Town Hall meeting and said staff was scheduling a Special meeting for June 15, at Noon for an Executive Session.

Councilor Elliott said he had heard from several citizens who didn't have a good understanding of the Enterprise Zone and tax abatement process. He suggested this be the topic for the next Town Hall meeting.

Elliott said he and Councilor Brown both wanted to have an Urban Renewal work session to discuss whether Urban Renewal funds should be used for infrastructure projects. City Manager Young said he was preparing information and a work session could be scheduled after the information was completed.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said he had provided an email to the Council regarding updates to a few codes enforcement issues.

Parker discussed the request from Restore Oregon to join in a lawsuit concerning removal of historic designation for properties. He said the City had been asked to join as a friend of the court.

There was discussion regarding whether this may infringe on personal property rights and whether the City should just watch the proceedings instead of joining the lawsuit. Concern was raised that removal of the designations could harm historic districts.

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Following discussion, it was moved by Spatz and seconded by McGlothlin to join the lawsuit as a friend of the court. The motion carried, Brown voting no.

Mayor Lawrence asked if there was an update regarding the marijuana legislation. City Attorney Parker said the bill was 180 pages and he had not reviewed it, but would be doing so this week.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Brown reported on activities at Council of Governments meeting, including the surplussing of a vehicle, resignation of the Director, updated employee handbook, adopted their budget, and said the Transportation Building was expected to open July, 2016. He said the Traffic Safety Commission discussed several issues with overgrown trees and shrubs.

Councilor Spatz said the Sister City visitation plans were being finalized and said the Governor of Tokoshima may be in attendance to meet the delegation.

Councilor McGlothlin said he had attended the Library open house and reminded everyone the Airport Fly-In was scheduled for June 13.

Councilor Elliott said the QLife Agency had received a letter from the City of Maupin discussion possible expansion into south Wasco County. He said he attended a fundraiser at the Civic Auditorium in honor of the Mayor's birthday.

In response to a question, Elliot said the QLife Board was working to develop a plan on how to use profits.

Councilor Miller said she had attended the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, noting the facade grant would be considered by the Agency at their meeting tonight. Miller said she also attended the Library open house, the Memorial Day ceremony, Rocket City Museum reception, Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, and the Mayor's birthday fundraiser at the Civic Auditorium.

Mayor Lawrence said the fundraiser had collected approximately \$3,400 for the Civic Auditorium restoration. Lawrence said he had attended a meeting at the swimming pool to see their progress, noting they planned to have a soft opening on June 13 and ribbon cutting on June 20. Mayor Lawrence said he gave a presentation at the Middle School regarding leadership, spoke at the Memorial Day ceremony, visited with cruise ship passengers and attended the Rocket City Museum reception.

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Mayor Lawrence said he had recently driven past the intersection of 10th and Trevitt Streets and said the yard sale board seemed to be working very well.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of May 11, 2015 regular City Council meeting minutes; 2) approval of May 12, 2015 special City Council meeting minutes; 3) Resolution No. 15-021 supporting assisted housing programs in the community; and 4) approval of an amendment to the City Council Rules.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Proposed Uses of State Shared Revenue

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

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

Testimony

Hearing no testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Resolution No. 15-023 Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for Fiscal Year 2015-16

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Spatz to adopt Resolution No. 15-023 declaring the City's election to receive State revenues for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Proposed 2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Lawrence reviewed the procedures to be followed for the hearing.

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report and distributed an amended report, adding two items. The items were an amendment to the Library Fund of \$6,680 to contract for cataloging assistance and provide Spanish language presenters; and an amendment to the State Office Building Fund to roll \$9,000 from the current year to next year because a project would not be able to be completed by June 30.

In response to a question regarding Fund 013 and 051, Mast explained the changes were due to the fact that projects would not be able to be completed by June 30, so the funds needed to be moved into the next year's budget.

Testimony

Hearing no testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Resolution No. 15-024 Adopting the 2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget for the City of The Dalles, Making Appropriations, Authorizing Expenditures, Levying Taxes, and Authorizing the City Manager to Take Such Action as Necessary to Carry Out the Adopted Budget

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Miller to adopt Resolution No. 15-024 adopting the 2015-16 fiscal year budget for the City of The Dalles, making appropriations, authorizing expenditures, levying taxes and authorizing the City Manager to take such action as necessary to carry out the adopted budget, as amended by adding the two staff-proposed amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 15-025 Authorizing Transfers of Funds Between Categories of the Special Assessments Fund

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

Councilor Miller asked if staff was sure they had found all of the property owners who had paid into the improvement fund. Finance Director Mast said staff was confident they had because they had a tracking system in place for the improvement fund.

It was moved by Miller and seconded by Elliott to adopt Resolution No. 15-025 authorizing transfers of funds between categories of the Special Assessments Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Addendum to OMI Contract for Operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the staff report.

There was discussion regarding the timing for a Request for Proposals. It was noted this would need to be started a year before the contract expired. Public Works Director Anderson said staff would be working on it beginning next year and would include information on the feasibility of the City resuming operations. He noted the long term contract with OMI had been very successful.

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by Miller to authorize the City Manager to sign Amendment No. 8 to the Operations Management International agreement, in an amount no to exceed \$921,359.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Exempt Employee Pay Plan

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

Councilor Elliott said he supported changing the insurance to a higher deductible and to have more buy in from the employees, but said he would be more comfortable waiting a year to include in union negotiations. He said he was opposed to giving an automatic pay raise and said any pay increased should be merit based. Councilors Miller and McGlothlin were in agreement with Councilor Elliott.

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by Brown to continue with the current health care benefits program and to decline giving a cost of living adjustment for the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilor Spatz said he didn't agree with a wage freeze and said a cost of living adjustment was not a pay raise. He said he supported a cost of living increase but did want to see the employees pay more of their insurance premiums.

Mayor Lawrence said he agreed it would be good to compare the City's benefits and salaries with other cities, but the Council should also consider the health of the budget, saying it was healthy and would continue to be so.

The motion to continue with the current health care benefits program and to decline giving a cost of living adjustment for the upcoming fiscal year was voted on and carried; Spatz voting no.

City Manager Young said staff could look at merit increase programs and provide additional information to Council. He said staff would prepare salary comparison information, and also compare with other local governmental entities. He said the staff would prepare the information early and include any proposals in upcoming union negotiations.

Approval of Annual Insurance Renewals for Liability, Property, and Worker's Compensation

The information was presented by Mike Luebke and Colleen Clark of Oregon Trail Insurance.

There was discussion regarding the worker's compensation premium increases and it was noted that better experience ratings would not be reflected in the premiums for two more years.

It was moved by Elliott and seconded by Spatz to approve the renewal of the City's property, liability/auto, and worker's compensation coverages as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding Allocation of SAIF Refund and Review of Safety Program

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report. The City Council discussed the proposed uses of the SAIF funds. It was noted the funding for body cameras for the Police Department was included in the upcoming budget, but staff was waiting to see if the Legislature addressed issues before deciding whether to purchase them.

There was discussion regarding the Public Works entry cameras. Staff was asked to provide additional information regarding the need for monitors, an audible alarm, and whether the system would have recorded footage or only be in real time.

There was general agreement that the funds should focus on safety training programs and education.

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It was the consensus of the Council to approve a sign board to report days without time loss injuries at the Public Works building and to provide mats at the Library circulation desk. The Council declined the proposal for entry key pads at the Public Works building.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

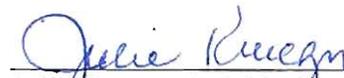
Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST:



Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk