



CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 17, 2017 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia OR 97064

Mission Statement

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Leonetti

Mayor Leonetti called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Additions or Corrections to Agenda

Councilor Committee Meeting Reports

Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

Consent Agenda for Approval

- A. City Council Meeting Minutes for January 3rd, 2017
- B. Library Board Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2016

Councilor Wagner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- C. Council Committee Liaisons for 2017 – Revisited

Councilor McNair stated that a liaison to the Senior Center Project is not necessary as the City Administrator attends those meetings. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the liaison to the Senior Center Board was originally created to monitor spending of the \$10,000 City contribution to the Meals on Wheels program. This is no longer necessary as the Senior Center submits receipts for reimbursement.

Council consensus is for Mayor Leonetti to be the Cemetery Committee Liaison and that there no longer be a Council liaison for the Senior Center Project.

New Business

- D. Work Session Prioritization – Discussion

Councilor McNair suggests Council hold Work Sessions to discuss the following topics: City Projects & Goals, Streets and Storm Water, Building Maintenance and Police Department Reserve Program. Council consensus is to hold the City Projects & Goals Work Session on February 13th at 6:30 PM. Council will schedule the rest of the Work Sessions at that time.

- E. Columbia County 911 Request to clear vegetation

City Administrator Mitchell presented the request to Council. She added that the agreement with Crown Castle was signed in 1999 and allowed 5, 5 year extensions. The contract does stipulate that the tower cannot interfere with anything else on the property which it is doing. Councilor McNair asked if Staff has a plan for the trees if they are cut down. He would like to see them decked into logs for market. City Administrator Mitchell

explained that Staff does not have a plan for the lumber from the trees as they were not sure that Council would approve the tree removal. Council consensus is for staff to move forward with the project.

Business from Departments

F. Police Department – Chief Conner

Chief Conner presented to Council his 2014-2016 statistic report for Crime in Vernonia. Councilor Wagner explained concern that people may be failing to report crimes. Chief Conner stated that failure to report is an issue everywhere and does not believe that is a reflection in the numbers. Councilor McNair requested to see staffing hours in the next report.

There was a house fire on Lone Pine Road last week. One of our officers responded and removed the home owner from the premises. He also stopped her from reentering the home. The officer suffered from smoke inhalation and had to take a few days off of work. He has since returned to work.

There is currently a weather advisory in effect. The alert is calling for 4-7” of rain over night in the coast range and expects the river to crest at 9.12 ft. The police department will be monitoring overnight.

G. City Administrator Report – J. Mitchell

Wastewater Treatment Plant: The fence contractors continue to install the fencing around lagoons, their completion timeline is the beginning of February. The meeting for substantial completion discussions has not been scheduled. Gordon from Tetra Tech will be setting up that meeting with the City, funding agencies, staff, and PW representatives to go over punch lists in order to determine if substantial completion can be awarded. DEQ and USDA are reviewing the ammonia treatment equipment options and have called for a meeting to discuss this plan with the City and Engineers. That meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Rose Avenue Project: I had a meeting with Mary McArthur to finalize items required before the first draw of monies from the CDBG grant. Council will be brought for review and adoption two plans at the February meetings; the first plan required by the grant is the Section 3 Plan, which has the City work to ensure that contractors on the Rose Avenue project try to seek out companies, and individuals for hire that are considered low income or specifically qualify because they receive assistance from HUD Housing and Urban Development. The second plan is a LEP Limited English Proficiency plan; this plan outlines that the City will strive to have in place tools to be able to communicate with non-English speakers. We do not have to have a translator on staff, but have a translation service that we contact if needed, municipalities that receive this federal money need to show how they will address the federal government rules and regulations in regards to non-English speaking citizens.

Nickerson Ridge Estates: I am awaiting to hear back from the Owners with an update of the plans by HBH or an estimate amount for the performance bond and agreement signing. I will keep Council apprised of any movement.

Tony Schrader, Knott Street, is concerned about the potential weather event. He would like to know if there is anything the owners can do. Gretchen Lindauer, Nickerson Avenue, stated that she heard from the Smejkal's that they had sent a response to the City of Vernonia. City Administrator Mitchell was able to locate the email from the Smejkal's and will review after the meeting as it is quite long. She will bring the response to Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

FEMA Reimbursement: We received the final reimbursements from FEMA for the work and expenses the City of Vernonia incurred during the December 2015 high water event. The City recouped approximately \$18,282.00 which was put back into the specific fund line items where it was spent originally.

Photo Solutions: The demolition of the Photo Solutions building will begin at the end of next week.

Planner Determination: There is a \$10.00 an hour difference between the current planning service and the planning service that Council approved looking into. Both services are paid mileage for their travel to Vernonia. The desired service to the community would be a planner that travels to Vernonia two days a month to work a partial day during business hours and stay to attend the Planning Commission meetings that the days would coincide with. The agreement currently as well as the future agreement would state a per hour rate not to exceed \$20,000.00. Staff is in favor of this change as there are several projects they would like to tackle. Council consensus is to move forward with contracting planning services with Carol Connell.

Ordinances/Resolutions

H. Resolution 01-17: Authorizing Extended Enterprise Zone Benefits

Councilor Seager made a motion to approve Resolution 01-17: A Resolution of the City of Vernonia authorizing extended enterprise zone benefits for a fourth and fifth year to Cascades Tissue Group-Oregon Converting, a division of Cascades Holding U.S. Inc (Cascades), located in the south Columbia County enterprise zone. The motion was seconded by Councilor McNair, motion carried.

Correspondence

Councilor McNair presented a letter from Michael Johnson regarding the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Johnson also donated \$100 to the Cemetery Beautification Fund. Mayor Leonetti will forward the letter to the Cemetery Committee.

Items from Mayor and Councilors

Councilor Seager has a new granddaughter.

Councilor McNair inquired about the status of locking the gate at the Cemetery. City Administrator Mitchell stated that staff has started to lock the gate and has installed a temporary fence to deter people from driving around the gate.

Action Items Summary – City Administrator

City Projects & Goals Work Session on February 13th at 6:30 PM

Staff will move forward with removal of the trees blocking the 911 tower


Staff will move forward with contracting planning services with Carol Connell

Mayor Leonetti will bring the letter from Michael Johnson to the Cemetery Committee

Adjournment

Mayor Leonetti adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM

These minutes were approved at the February 21st, 2017 City Council Meeting.


Stephanie Borst, City Recorder


Mario Leonetti, Mayor