



CITY COUNCIL October 16th, 2017
WORKSESSION

Time: Immediately Following Regular Meeting
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.

MINUTES

Call to Order -- Mayor Leonetti

Mayor Leonetti called the meeting to order at 9:04 pm

Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Councilor Hult added a discussion on work session scheduling.

Councilor McNair made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wagner.

Votes: Councilor Seager: Yes

Councilor Hult: Yes

Councilor Wagner: Yes

Councilor McNair: Yes

Mayor Leonetti: Yes

Motion carried.

New Business

- Greenman Field Grandstand Discussion

City Administrator Mitchell presented the engineering report and shoring quote to Council (See File). She explained that the agreement with the school requires them to maintain the grandstands but the school does not have the funds to repair it. Staff would like to know how Council would like to proceed.

Councilor Wagner explained that she is a school board member but can separate her role as school board member and City Councilor.

Councilor McNair would like to know if we can require them to fix it. Councilor Hult would like to figure out a way to keep them as she loves the grandstands. School representative, Brett Costley, explained that the school bond that was passed had money allocated for a new football field and temporary bleachers at the school. Rebuilding covered bleachers at the new field is not being planned.

Parks Representative, Scott Laird, explained that the parks master plan does not outline any changes to the football field and grandstands. There have been many different ideas for the space with the intention of keeping the grandstands.

City Administrator Mitchell explained that the seating has no issue, the issue is with the truss up front and the support posts. More than likely the roof structure will need to be removed and replaced. The support posts are sinking and have separated from the main roof truss. At one point two of the posts were replaced but the rest were left as is. Mayor Leonetti explained that there is a lot of interest in the area and he would like to see the Parks Committee develop a list of ideas for the space.

Mrs. Mitchell explained that the proposed shoring would be a temporary fix to get thru football season. The long-term fix would be to replace the roof structure. Councilor McNair explained that there is an agreement with the school and there are requirements in there to

maintain the structure. School Representative, Brett Costley, explained that if Council pushed for the school to fix it they would hold all of their games out of town. The money from the bond has already been budgeted as the school was not aware of the issue until a week before the first game.

Mrs. Mitchell explained that the issue was discovered by a citizen in April but since the field wasn't being used the school officials didn't go down there until school was starting. The engineer said that this kind of damage is typical of heavy snow loads. Councilor McNair proposed sharing responsibility of the repair with the school. Mr. Costley stated that unless the City decided to do something there that would also benefit the school, he is doubtful that the board would vote in favor of spending money on repairs.

Mrs. Mitchell stated that Staff would like to know how Council would like to proceed. If Council is not in favor of spending funds on fixing it, they need to get started on dismantling it. If Council chooses to utilize the structure in the future, then the temporary shoring needs to get done now. Councilor McNair explained that the City has the funds to temporarily shore it in contingency. The problem is that the structure may have outlived its usefulness. Councilor Hult stated that if it has to come down, she would like to see sections repurposed.

Council then discussed that if funds are going to be spent to fix the roof, then what goes in there needs to generate revenue. Mayor Leonetti would like more information on how the space could be utilized. The Parks Committee has not spent a great deal of time discussing potential use for the area. While the grandstands are an asset, it's doubtful they will generate much revenue.

Council then discussed the potential of creating momentum to rebuild covered seating at the school if the grandstands are torn down. Council would also like the Parks Committee to have an opportunity to weigh in. Consensus of Council is to hold a work session with the Parks Committee on October 30th at 6:00 pm. Council would like ideas for potential use of the field, historical designation information, and a second bid for shoring brought to the work session.

- Ora Bolmeier Tree Examiner Discussion

City Administrator Mitchell explained that there has been citizen concern that the trees at the park are a hazard. Hiring an arborist would cost roughly \$250 an hour with an hour or two of work expected. Councilor Hult stated a potential conflict of interest as she has family directly across the street from the park that may be affected.

Councilor McNair explained that the trees have root rot. Mrs. Mitchell stated that the previous assessments were performed by committee members. The problem we run into now is if we start removing the trees, we would be liable for any we didn't remove. Councilor McNair explained that typical mitigation of root rot is to remove any trees within 20ft of root rot sign. It takes an entire generation for the rot to go away.

Council consensus is to hire an arborist to assess the trees.

- Work Session meeting nights

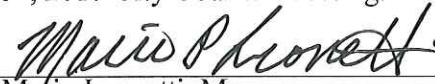
Councilor Hult explained that she would like to see work sessions on a separate night from regular Council meetings. Council consensus is to hold regular Council Meetings and only schedule work sessions when they are warranted.

Adjournment

Mayor Leonetti adjourned the meeting at 10:35 pm

These minutes were approved at the November 6th, 2017 City Council Meeting.


Stephanie Borst, City Recorder


Mafio Leonetti, Mayor