



CITY COUNCIL MARCH 07, 2016 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 Parrow

Mayor Parrow called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Councilor McNair motioned to approve the meeting agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hult, motion passed.

Presentations

A. Lions Club Dewey Pool Project – Rick Hobart

Mr. Hobart gave his presentation to Council. The Lions Club's effort to improve the Dewey Pool area started in April 2015 when they expressed interest in building a wheelchair ramp in honor of Terry Shaumburg, so that Dean Shaumburg could access the pool area with his son. Jerry Keenon and Rick Hobart, both members of the Lions Club, recently created the mission statement for the club which is as follows: "By understanding humanitarian needs and joining together, we believe through volunteering our services and community involvement, our programs will make our community and the world a better place to live".

This year the club is concentrating on the pool restoration. The pool was opened in May 1938. About 15 years ago a liner was put in the pool which is now wore out and needs replaced. The club received three bids for removal of the old liner and the bid from Bridgetown Cleaning and Restoration was the most favorable at \$2250. They will be using the vapor blasting technique as well as tarping the area to be ecofriendly. Kodiak Industries was recommended for the installation of the liner using Rhino Polyurethane which will add life to the pool. The Lions Club is meeting with the company on Tuesday, March 8th at 10am, which should give them a better idea of what the project will cost. The initial estimate was anywhere from \$10,000–\$15,000. The Lions Club passed their Yearly Budget on Tuesday, March 1st and approved \$7,500 for the pool project. They have set up an account at US Bank for private donations, which has already received \$1,700, and have also applied for a \$20,000 grant, but that is still pending. The club applied for a grant from Home Depot that would come in the form of a \$4,000 credit card to be used towards materials, but that is pending as well.

Any funds the Club receives over the pool restoration project cost will be used towards paying for the stairs to be replaced and brought to code. They would also like to renovate the concrete seating area. They have already met with the Parks Committee and would now like to request assistance from the City for the Dewey Pool Renovation Project. The deadline for collecting funds for the project is May 15th.

Councilor Tierney expressed concern that the pool may have lead paint and would like to know if they are planning on testing the liner. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the liner is newer than when lead paint was used. Mr. Hobart reassured her that the contractor will be tarping the area off so no construction debris will enter the river. Council consensus was to have the pool tested for lead paint when the liner is being removed.

B. Fire Department Levy – Fire Chief Smith

Fire Chief Smith addressed Council and the audience asking them to consider a ballot measure for a fire department levy. He expressed the need and urgency for the fire department to have a full time, paid, employee as a training officer. The Fire Department currently only has one-part time paid office staff member and one full time employee, himself. The remainder of the staff is composed of 12 volunteers. The availability of the volunteer staff is inconsistent due to many of them working out of town or having busy family lives. Due to this, we have had to rely on help from Banks and other surrounding fire districts.

There is currently a shortage of volunteers and he feels that this is due to the extensive training required to volunteer. The current requirement is 208 hours of basic training to start as a firefighter and an average of 120 hours per year. The Fire Department also holds meetings every Monday night of which volunteers are required to attend 75%. Fire Chief Smith and the Board of Directors would like to propose hiring a full time training officer or implementing an internship program. This person would assist the chief on office tasks as well as be dedicated to training volunteers. Having this person available will broaden the daily schedules of volunteers so that training as a volunteer can be worked around their personal schedules. This will hopefully increase the number of volunteers.

The Fire Department is in the beginning stages of presenting the levy but want to get the conversation started. The cost of the proposed levy is \$0.32 per \$1000 of home value.

Mayor Parrow would like clarification on if it's the demand on time or training that is discouraging people from volunteering. Mr. Smith stated that people are interested in volunteering but once they realize how much time it takes, they are discouraged. On average, calls take an hour. If they are coming from out of town for a call, it can take even longer. Mayor Parrow suggested that they may be able to stay at West Oregon Electric as they have sleeping quarters. Fire Chief Smith stated that that was a good idea. Unfortunately, the fire station does not have sleeping quarters but eventually they would like to build office space and sleeping quarters in the let next door.

Public Hearing – Sewer Rate**Call Hearing to Order**

Mayor Parrow called the hearing to order at 7:30 pm.

Order of Hearing

Mayor Parrow explained the order of the hearing.

Exparte

Nothing to declare.

Conflict of Interest

Nothing to declare.

Challenge

None present.

Staff Report-City Administrator, Josette Mitchell

City Administrator Mitchell presented her report to the audience.

Terry Lindauer, 1989 Nickerson Loop, inquired as to what the term of the current loan is. Finance Officer Handegard stated that there is more than one loan and this is based on the loan with the largest balance. This is the loan from DEQ which is set to be paid off in 2030. With the USDA money that we are receiving for the project, part of it is going to be used to refinance a portion of the current debt load. DEQ sent her new payment schedules for when that happens and if the current debt payment is left as it is, the loan will be paid off in 2021. If Council choses to reamortize the loan, it will not be paid off until 2030 and the city will end up paying roughly \$190,000 in additional interest. Leaving it as it is will not increase the payment from the customer but it will pay off the loan 9 years quicker.

Testimony in Favor

None

Testimony in Opposition

None

Neutral Testimony

Scott Laird, C Street, would like to recognize and thank the Public Works Committee for all of the work they put into this project. They have spent extensive time over the last couple years crunching numbers and running scenarios for this project.

Final Call for Testimony

Don Willard, Rose Avenue, would like to know if these documents have been made available to the public. Mayor Parrow stated that these documents are always available.

Rebuttal

None.

Close the Hearing

Mayor Parrow closed the hearing at 7:47 pm.

Councilor Committee Meeting Reports

Nothing to report

Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

Mike Buffum, N. Mist Drive, would like to keep council updated on the marijuana industry. Dr. Carol and himself have been against handing out marijuana candy at the store. Lately, he has noticed that it isn't the younger customers that are asking for it though, it is the elderly who are unable to smoke. He recently received a request for the candy from an elderly lady but had to send her over the hill too purchase it. He would like to change his position on candy as he is now seeing the necessity of it.

He would also like to discuss supplying glass ware for marijuana users. Historically the products have been marked for tobacco use but now that marijuana is legal, he would like to sell the products. He would like for the ordinance to allow him to sell the products so that he can keep customers here. Counselor Tierney stated that the ordinance doesn't regulate candy or glass sales.

Amanda Rose, Vernonia High School, is the Public Relations Representative and is here to give an update on what is happening at the school. Boys Basketball recently played at the state playoffs and took home the State Championship Title for the first time since 1978. Wrestling recently wrapped up their season with Jake Harbour taking 3rd in state. Track is gearing up for the season. Band recently had a fundraising concert and had a good turnout. They also attended a competition in St. Helens where they did well. Band was able to attend the State Basketball Playoffs thanks to donations and were also able to tour the Pendleton Underground. Robotics has two competitions coming up. If they receive enough points at the second competition, they will qualify for regionals. Student Council has been celebrating monthly events, last month was Black History month and this month is Women's Month.

Mayor Parrow recognized how well school sports have done this year and that he is very proud. He has also noticed how greatly band has improved. Mrs. Sicard addressed council and stated that Amanda took 3rd in district for wrestling.

Consent Agenda for Approval

- A. Library Board Meeting Minutes for February 02, 2016
- B. City Council Work Session Minutes for February 08, 2016
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2016
- D. City Council Work Session Minutes for February 22, 2016

Councilor Seager was not in attendance at the February 22 Council Work session and would like that reflected in the minutes. Councilor Tierney made a motion to approve the Library Board minutes from February 2, 2016 and the City Council minutes from February 08, 2016, February 16, 2016, and February 22, 2016 with the requested change. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

A. Sewer Rate Structure – Staff Direction

Councilor McNair moved to direct staff to prepare Resolution 14-08 with the presented sewer rate structure and fee schedule for adoption at the March 21st City Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

B. Parks Committee Recommendation

Dewey Pool Project - Parks Committee Chair Scott Laird presented the recommendation to Council. He stated that the Parks Committee would like to do what they can to help with the Dewey Pool Project by donating \$3,000 to the project. Finance Officer Handegard stated that the reserve parks fund currently has \$8,000 in it. Councilor McNair would like to know if the city can donate more, possibly from the general fund or from the logging income. Mrs. Handegard stated that the logging money is earmarked for replanting the site.

Mayor Parrow proposes that Council agree to giving the project the \$3,000 and revisiting this in May when its closer to the donation deadline. Councilor McNair motioned to give the \$3,000 from the parks reserve fund for the Dewey Pool Project. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tierney, motion carried.

Parks Fees – Parks Committee Chair Scott Laird presented the parks committee recommendation to Council. He stated that the fees haven't been raised in several years and have fallen behind other regions. Changing these fees will put us in line with others in the region. City Administrator Mitchell clarified for Council that class 1 is for city sponsored events, class 2 is for local youth groups, and class 3 is for all others. Monthly rent at Anderson Park has also been changed to "Extended Work Stay" due to FEMA regulations.

Council then discussed the rates for the horse arena at Anderson Park. The fee for youth groups to use the arena has not been decided as they are not sure if they would use it enough to justify the fee. The Vernonia Ridge Riders do not have to pay to use the arena as they have an agreement with the City of Vernonia.

Council consensus was to direct staff to bring back the amended rates to the March 21st City Council meeting.

New Business

A. High Water Mark Sign

City Administrator Mitchell presented the Army Corp of Engineers' proposal for installing a high water mark sign to Council. The sign will be located next to the stop sign on the corner of Bridget St. and Washington St. She explained that the site will be improved by adding gravel and a fence along the perimeter of the lot. The purpose of the sign is to bring awareness to the flood level as well as educate people on how to prepare for flood events.

Councilor Tierney fears that the proposed wording of "Greater flooding has occurred in the past and flooding will occur again in the future" will scare people and isn't accurate. The city has gone to great lengths to fix things that contribute to the flooding and we can't predict if we will have a big flood again. She would like the wording to state "may occur again" not "will occur again". Council consensus to have the wording changed to "may occur again".

B. Feasibility Study – Spencer Hill Sewer Project

City Administrator Mitchell presented the proposal for the feasibility study to Council. She stated that the funds needed for the feasibility study are already accounted for in the engineering fund. If during the study, OTAK discovers any issues with the project, they will stop therefore creating cost savings.

Councilor Tierney asked for clarification on whether or not bathrooms were included in the scope of the project. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the bathrooms included in the proposal would be located next to the wetlands parking lot in preparation of potential vendors at the site.

Councilor McNair made a motion to have staff engage the City engineer to perform the feasibility study as outlined in the proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hult, motion passed.

C. Ridge Rider Water Bill Issue

In September 2015 the Vernonia Ridge Riders requested for their water to be shut off as they would not be needing it over winter. In December it was discovered that 102,000 gallons were used which alerted city staff to a possible leak. When city staff went down to check the meter they discovered that someone had attempted to turn it on to use water and hadn't turned it off all of the way. When the weather got below freezing it then caused a pipe to burst. City staff then turned the meter back off and locked it to prevent any further use. City staff would like direction on what to do with the water charge since the Ridge Riders had made every attempt not to have water usage.

Councilor McNair asked whether the meter should have been locked off due to its location. City Administrator Mitchell stated that staff usually only locks off meters due to nonpayment. The cost of the leak came to \$484.24. Council consensus was that since the Ridge Riders made every effort not to use water, the city should forgive the cost of the leak as well as keep the meter locked.

Business from Departments

A. Police Department – Chief Conner

Officer Pessio is getting good reviews from academy and is getting high scores. Conner still working nights. Family emergency will take him away from wed thru possibly Sunday.

B. City Administration – Josette Mitchell

Wastewater Treatment Plant: City staff has a scheduled construction meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. The project has had one change order that has been processed and is awaiting USDA approval. The change order was for an additional panel to be installed for the scum baffle that holds back scum floating on the top of the effluent from being discharged to the river.

Sewer Rates: Resolution 14-08 will return at the March 21st meeting with amendments Council consensus has developed, adoption of new fees will be applied following that adoption.

Rose Avenue Project: The City Administrator met with members from both the Senior Center and Vernonia Cares Food Bank to discuss their representatives' involvement in the CDBG process. The two groups identified who from their boards would participate in the review of Grant Administrator applicants. The SOQ has been sent to IFA for review, once it is returned the local representatives will meet to go over criteria and benchmarks that will be used in determining applicants' submittals.

ODOT Crosswalk: The concrete contractors need specific design requirements to bid out the sidewalk bump out project. Staff has contacted ODOT representatives and is awaiting those specifications. The specifications will include a blinking notification crosswalk sign. Once staff has the specs we will receive bids and investigate the availability of ODOT grant funds to fund the installation of said improvements. The next cycle of grants will be awarded next spring.

COV Timber Harvest: The slash debris has been removed for the WWTP project side of the logging site. The City applied for a NOAP –Notification for treatment of slash with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Once the slash on the lake side of the logging project are piled an ODF Representative will calculate fuel and give us the go ahead to burn those piles.

California Avenue: Staff has sent the RFP for engineering to IFA staff for sign off. IFA came back with questions as to the private property owners and remediation of trace amounts of contamination that need to be removed before IFA monies can be spent. These need to be taken to the Hillsboro Landfill and given sign off from DEQ. Photo Solutions was granted the extension of their buyout, the new deadline is March of 2017. Both

sites that the private property owners had investigated by geotechnical studies are suitable as building sites. Staff has presented this evening a proposal from OTAK for the feasibility study which will address the engineering costs, and project details regarding the Spencer Hill sewer project.

Seasonal Worker Posting: On March 2nd the job opportunity posting was placed on the City of Vernonia Facebook page, VCBB1 and VCBB2, it will also be in the next edition of the Vernonia Voice. The posting will stay open until 3pm on March 25th. After the closing applications will be rated and qualified candidates will be interviewed. The temporary seasonal worker will start April 15th and work through October 1st, 2016. The interview panel for this position will consist of a representative from the Parks Committee, the Parks Foreman, and City Staff.

Nickerson Loop: City Staff performed flow testing on the fire hydrants from N Mist Drive to Nickerson Loop. The results were that the hydrant on the corner of N Mist Drive flows at 1100 gal/minute, the hydrant by 351 Knott Street flows at 800 gal/minute, and the hydrant by Nickerson Loop flows at 700 gal/minute. There are three options for the developer to remedy the situation so that they can continue to build. The first is to get 1000 gal/minute flow at all of the hydrants, which isn't feasible. The second is to get sign off from the Fire Department stating that they have the staff and water access to put out fires on the street, which the Department is not willing to do. The third and final option is to install sprinklers in all future homes in the development as directed by the building department. Existing homes will not be required to install sprinklers but will be sent a memorandum notifying them of the flow issue. The builders cost of installing sprinklers is about \$4,500.

Tony Schrader, Knott Street, would like an explanation of why the flow at the hydrants down the street reduces so much. Council is in agreement. Council consensus is to direct City Staff to discuss with the Public Works Foreman the possibility of testing the remaining hydrants on the street.

Ordinances/Resolutions

A. Marijuana Ord. 910 - An Ordinance regulating the location and operation of marijuana facilities City Administrator Mitchell explained that at the February 16th City Council Meeting, Council tabled the discussion on operating hours for marijuana businesses due to a 2 to 2 tie. City staff is bringing the draft ordinance back to Council to make a decision on time restrictions. Mayor Parrow is in favor of operating hours being no earlier than 8:00 am and no later than 10:00 pm. Council majority (3 to 2) is in favor of this time restriction. City staff will bring a clean version of the ordinance to Council at the March 21st City Council Meeting.

Andy Nebergall, Cherry Street, recently came to the realization that the only thing that helps his pain is marijuana. He has no problem with having a marijuana facility in Vernonia as long as the windows aren't smoked over as he feels it makes it look like an adult bookstore.

B. Resolution 19-15 – Setting forth the City of Vernonia's commitment to put healthy options within reach of all residents.

Councilor Tierney made a motion that City Council adopt Resolution 19-15, setting forth the City of Vernonia's commitment to put healthy options within reach of all residents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

Correspondence

None

Items from Mayor and Councilors

Councilor McNair would like to thank Donna Webb, Josette Mitchell, and everyone else who has worked on the proposed Sewer Rate structure.

Councilor Tierney would like clarification on when the City/County dinner is scheduled to be held. City administrator Mitchel stated that there are two possible dates, March 29 or April 13. Councilor Tierney will also be absent from the April 12th Budget meeting.

Mayor Parrow would like to recognize the High School Boys Basketball Team for volunteering to help clean the gymnasium at the State Tournament.



ORIGINAL

Action Items Summary –City Administrator

May 2nd Council Meeting – revisit the lions club project fund

Discuss with staff the testing of the Knott Street fire hydrants

March 21st – bring back Resolution 14-08 to include Library fees, Parks fees, and Sewer Rate

March 21st – bring back the marijuana ordinance

May 2nd – Rick Hobart will give an update to council regarding the status of the US Bank account for the Dewey Pool Project

Adjournment

Mayor Parrow adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm.

These minutes were approved at the March 21th, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Stephanie Borst, City Recorder

Randall J. Parrow, Mayor