



CITY COUNCIL MARCH 21st, 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

Mayor Parrow added to the agenda a Budget Committee application from George Tice.

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

Mayor Report

A. Budget Committee Member Applications

Council appointed both Brett Costley and George Tice to the Budget Committee.

Presentations

A. Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Update – Steve Watson, Executive Director

Mr. Watson came to introduce himself to Council as he recently became the Executive Director for Columbia 9-1-1. He would also like to apologize for a representative having not come out in the last two and a half years. He will be making a greater effort to visit cities in Columbia County. Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District is currently working on two projects: setting up the ability to text 9-1-1 and notifying residents that there is a new vendor for the outcall notification system.

Columbia County residents are projected to have the ability to text 9-1-1 by the end of Summer 2016. This will be an essential tool for those that are hearing impaired or if someone's in a situation where they aren't able to call safely but could text. Cell phones are used for approximately 70% of all 9-1-1 calls and they project that texting will gain momentum with the younger population and those with special needs. Columbia County will be among the first Districts to provide this service.

Lastly, on the district website there is a new outcall notification system vendor, Everbridge. They send notifications on behalf of the Emergency Responders. He would like to make people aware of this change so that they can go onto the website to register their cell phone numbers. Those who registered with the old vendor do not need to reregister as those phone numbers transferred to the new vendor. He was clear that people who register their phone numbers do not need to worry about solicitors as they do not sell your phone number. Those with special needs can also call the office to have a note put into their file that will give responders directions for when they are on a call (For example: gate combinations, hearing impaired, dogs, ect). This information needs to be updated every 6 months.

The website address to register your cell phone is <http://www.columbia911.com/>. City staff will put the information to register your phone on the cities Facebook page.

Councilor Committee Meeting Reports

Councilor McNair attended the Cemetery Committee Meeting on March 10th. At the meeting they discussed the fee increases which have been included in the council packet. He also stated that they worked on the Memorial Day Celebration and seem to have a good handle on it. They would like to incorporate recognition of the Urn Garden at the celebration by having it marked. They are currently working on deciding what to charge for the 3'x3' plots and how many will fit in the area.

Councilors Hult, Seager, and Tierney did not have updates.

Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

There were no topics from the floor.

Consent Agenda for Approval

A. Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2016

B. City Council Meeting Minutes for March 07, 2016

Councilor Tierney moved to approve the Cemetery Committee Minutes from February 11, 2016 and the City Council Meeting Minutes from March 07, 2016. Councilor Seager seconded the motion, motion passed.

Unfinished Business

New Business

A. Recommendation from Cemetery Committee –Fee Increases

City Administrator Mitchell explained the fee changes to Council. The Cemetery will bring this back to Council once they decide the prices for the Urn Garden. Council was in agreement with the proposed fee changes.

Business from Departments

A. Police Department – Absent

B. City Administrator Report – J. Mitchell

City Administrator Mitchell gave her report:

Wastewater Treatment Plant: City staff had the scheduled construction meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. Our USDA representative Drew Davis received a promotion, our new USDA representative is Sam Goldstein. The project is currently on time and in budget. The DAF system is scheduled to be delivered on April 14th. The next construction meeting is this Wednesday, March 23rd at 10am.

Councilor McNair would like to know why the new building at the site is so tall. City Administrator Mitchell will find out the reason for the height.

Sewer Rates: With the adoption of Resolution 02-16 amending the sewer rates, the new sewer rates will take effect in the next billing cycle. Staff will insert a breakdown into the utility bills outlining the charges and changes.

Rose Avenue Project: The SOQ was sent to IFA on March 7th, 2016. The City completed the Exemption paperwork outlining the items that would be exempt from the environmental review (engineering, grant administration, environmental review process). We are still waiting for IFA to approve the SOQ so we can publish it and accept applications.

ODOT Crosswalk: The specs for the bump out have still not been received.

COV Timber Harvest: The slash is piled up ready for fuel calculation by ODF. Once the fuel is calculated we can choose a day or two to burn off the slash. The timber harvest brought in \$7774.00 in profit that will be used for replanting purposes. Not all of the funds will be used for replanting as part of the 50 acres is not able to be planted. The remaining funds have not been earmarked for any particular use but Council had discussed a possible forest management plan in the past.

California Avenue: Staff has sent the RFP for engineering to IFA staff for sign off. IFA came back with further questions about whether or not they would fund the engineering of a fire truck hammerhead turn around, IFA also is deciding whether or not they will fund the engineering of the sewer since it will not become a city asset until the pipes are actually connected to the city infrastructure. The private property owner is willing to dedicate the easement prior to construction if that will help the project move forward and allow IFA to fund the engineering of the sewer line and its connection to the city sewer line on city property. The deadline for the project is fast approaching as the current building is set to be removed by March 2017.

Seasonal Worker Posting: Applications are still being accepted for the seasonal worker position. The deadline is Friday, March 25th at 3pm to get applications in. We have had a number of applicants submit applications. The Parks Committee will decide who will sit on the interview panel at their next meeting.

DEQ Old City Dump: The City Administrator and Parks Superintendent visited with DEQ and performed a site visit to the old City dump site off Noakes Rd. The City of Vernonia has an annual permit through DEQ for the dump. DEQ is looking to finalize permits for old dump sites that no longer pose an environmental hazard. At the site DEQ took pictures and documented the vegetation. They will also be checking well logs in the area via Clean Water Services. They will inform the City in the near future if they are finalizing and closing our permit. At the meeting they looked into what future uses for the site could be. The cities capital improvement plan proposes a possible reservoir on the site if one is ever needed. The property could also be sold once a deed notification is recorded.

FEMA Public Assistance: On March 1st I attended the mandatory meeting with OEM and FEMA in Deer Island. The meeting was to inform applicants who were looking for reimbursement from the declared disaster on Dec. 8th. The City turned in the paperwork that day to apply for assistance. On March 14th I met with John Moak our representative in the Public Assistance program to go over the public infrastructure costs and force accounts labor costs the city incurred during the high water event. There are two projects remaining on the cities list from the event: The Dewey Pool fence and the landslide clay debris. The landslide cleanup is delayed due to the clay being too wet for removal so it has been covered with straw to prevent erosion for the time being. Since our debris removal was complete (With these exceptions) within 30 days from the event date we can recoup 85% of the cost. Typically, FEMA hard and fast rule is to reimburse 75%, however they are installing a new program to motivate participants to move forward faster after disaster events. Thanks to the hard work of staff members; Angie Handegard, Eva Leininger, and Ben Fousek many of our costs will be reimbursed quite quickly as they are complete and well documented using financial reports, daily document logs from the event and GIS maps showing damage sties and debris pickup sites. Councilor Tierney inquired as to where the time reimbursement for the volunteers will be deposited. Finance Director Handegard will look into it and discuss it with Council at one of the Budget meetings if it is a substantial amount. Councilor McNair would like to recognize City Administrator Mitchell for all of her hard work during the high water event as well.

City County Dinner: will be April 19th, 2016 in Clatskanie. City Recorder Stephanie Borst will send the flyer for the dinner to Council members when available.

Marijuana Tax: Council discussed possible marijuana tax revenue. Finance Director Handegard stated that the revenue from the tax is unknown at this time but will be deposited into the general fund. Councilor Tierney stated that the tax is divided equally between all of the jurisdictions that allow sales. Of all of the tax revenue collected, 3% will be divided between the jurisdictions.

Ordinances/Resolutions

A. Ordinance 910: Marijuana Time, Place, Manner

Councilor McNair made a motion to adopt Ordinance 910: Marijuana Time, Place, Manner.

City Recorder Stephanie Borst read the first reading, by title only, of Ordinance 910: Marijuana Time, Place, Manner. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tierney, motion carried.

B. Resolution 02-16: A Resolution Amending Resolution 14-08 – Sewer Fees, Parks Fees, Cemetery Fees, and Library Fees

Councilor Seager motioned to approve Resolution 02-16: A Resolution Amending Resolution 14-08 – Sewer Fees, Park Fees, Cemetery Fees, And Library Fees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tierney, motion carried.

Correspondence

Jordan Cove, LNG Plant, was denied by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission but has still not been denied by the Governor. Dan Sears is hosting an update meeting at City Hall on March 31st at 6:30. He would like Mayor Parrow to attend the meeting in hopes of having a conference call with other Mayors in the area.

Items from Mayor and Councilors

Councilor Seager would like an update on what is happening at Airport Park. Administrator Mitchell stated that the danger trees are coming down this week and will be available for firewood. The Parks Committee decided to charge \$75 per cord of U-Cut firewood. Once the wood is available, notice of the wood cutting day will be posted on Facebook as well as the paper. The goal is to have the park available for camping by May 1st.

Councilor Tierney would like to revisit the airport culvert project and what the estimated cost is. Councilor Seager stated that the project will cost roughly \$6,000 more.

City Recorder Stephanie Borst helped Councilor Hult with her SEI Filing.

Councilor McNair would like to explore replanting the logging site rather than reseeding it. He would like to provide more opportunities for future generations than the mill provided us. If they would have replanted in 1957 we would have had an outstanding crop of trees at the site. City Administrator Mitchell stated that we could explore the potential of having a teaching program, or the forestry class, plant the site to help with cost savings for replanting.

Action Items Summary – City Administrator

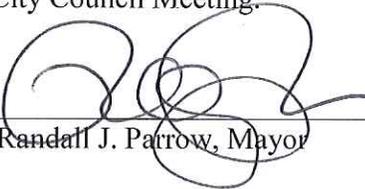
- Staff will post the information for registering your phone with Columbia 9-1-1 Communications for reverse 9-1-1 calls. A link to the site will be included.
- Staff will check on the reason for the building height at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Staff will determine where the FEMA funds for volunteer time will be deposited and how much that will be.
- Staff will investigate how much can be expected from the marijuana tax and where that will be deposited as well.
- Staff will post a Facebook teaser for the firewood sales at Airport Park
- Staff will bring back to Council the cost of the airport culvert and what should be budgeted for.
- Staff will look into replanting options and whether or not there would be any cost savings having the forestry class do the planting.

Adjournment

Mayor Parrow adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.

These minutes were approved at the April 04, 2016 City Council Meeting.


Stephanie Borst, City Recorder


Randall J. Parrow, Mayor