



April 5, 2018

City Council Regular Session
Willamette Activity Center, Rm 8
47674 School Street
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Present: Jim Coey, Mayor (arrived at 6:14)
Judy Rowland
Gary Carl, Council President
Josh McMillin
Paul Forcum
Kathy Holston
Kevin Gobelman

Staff Present: Louis Gomez, City Administrator
Mike Hansen, Fire Chief
Jackie Taylor, Assistant Planner
Susie LaDuke, Finance Director/City Recorder
Kevin Martin, Police Chief
Rick Zylstra, Community Services Coordinator

Mayor Coey was not present so Council President Gary Carl will be running the meeting tonight.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

James Affa 76240 Garden Road- Thanked the council for their performance and due diligence at the last city council meeting. He was approached by the producer of the Amazing Race and they were looking for lawn mower racers to participate in this seasons show. Unfortunately he had to tell them ours had closed. He wanted to remind the council that the track made money when it was open, if we can do it again get started on it.

Pat Selman 47651 NW 1st Street- Thanked the council for voicing their opinions, the city council works for the good of the community. He has heard, behind not so private doors, a city council person make

disparaging comments, private comments and heard them, and he doesn't like that. In the Register Guard there was a comment about the dissatisfied public with Louis Gomez, on three different occasions I've asked for him to help me, once as a private citizen about the City of Oakridge Bylaws, once as a public citizen concerned about the City of Oakridge and a for expertise from the former law enforcement officer. All three times he said ok, he showed me the whys and wherefores of the city code, he gave me objective advice, he listened and not once did he denigrate me or minimize his opinions. He is not dissatisfied with Louis, he is satisfied that he took the time and spent it on him without thinking he was getting something in return.

Mayor Coey arrived at the meeting at 6:14 p.m. He apologized for being late.

Guenevere Patty- 48333 7th Street- She is commenting on Oakridge in general. At 15 she could see the potential with all of the outdoor recreation that it could lead to tourism and more healthcare opportunities. But, there were also negative ones, there was apathy, there was stagnation in our air quality, so much so that she got pneumonia twice. From this point we have progressed, our air quality has improved, there are new faces and an ability to have businesses with support from the city. The city, those who run it and the citizens have contributed to the positive momentum without forgetting to help those without a voice. By facilitating in the way of weatherization or in dry fire wood, these aren't easy tasks and they deserve admiration and respect. What if we resolve to keep looking to the future and resolve to keep looking at the potential of Oakridge, Look to the future, she asks the leaders, please don't hinder the process and please stop fighting.

Don Reesman 47773 Fairy Glen- He is here to ask the Mayor to resign for the benefit of Oakridge.

Mayor Coey said not going to happen.

Renee Edmunds 48021 W 2nd Street- She doesn't usually attend the meetings, she does try to keep up with what's going on in the community. She volunteers here, she works here, has children here and is very involved. She has a huge stake here, her youngest son is in 8th grade so she has four more years where she is. The negativity that has come down the last couple of weeks is terrible, she wants Oakridge to be known as a place where you can come and have a great time. She has seen Mayor Coey out and has heard him talk about the community. It is going to cost money to recall him, who is going to pay for that? We can't find any other place for that money to go? There is not a lot for kids to do here. The animosity in this room is awful, it depresses her. The Mayor has big shoes to fill, who is going to go to all of these meetings? Who is going to travel to make sure Oakridge is on the map?

Teresa Freborg 76773 Bugle Loop- She is a resident and registered voter here in Oakridge. The last few weeks have been rather traumatic for Oakridge and it stems from the action of a few on this council. She was on the budget committee when he, who shall not be named, destroyed our budget and there was an awful lot of healing that hadn't happened and we aren't quite there yet. She believes these councilors owe the citizens an apology. If you don't wish to apologize for accusing the City Administrator of poor performance without any evidence that's fine. If you do not wish to apologize for holding an illegal meeting, while trying to bully the City Administrator into resigning that's also fine. If you do not wish to apologize to your fellow councilmembers for not trusting them and deliberately excluding them that too is fine. However you should apologize for abusing the public trust and for being arrogant and incredibly tone deaf to what is going on in this community. You should also apologize for insulting my intelligence to think that we would not object. At this point in time, she thinks a sincere heartfelt apology coupled

with a promise to review the laws and abide by them in letter and spirit would go a long way to avoid the distraction of a recall.

Ron Freborg 76773 Bugle- He would like to say how disappointed he is in the actions of our Mayor and two of the Council for their illegal, and it appears to him, an underhanded meeting, it just smells. He does not claim to know every single bit of information about the goings on, but sometimes you have to make decisions to take action based on the best information you have. One way he makes those decisions is looking at how integrity applies, he believes Mr. Gomez wins that battle. We recently went through some trying and hurtful times in Oakridge that caused some rifts that are still not healed. Now it appears we are going back down that path. Mr. Coey you fired the first shot to tear our community apart again, you are not the county sheriff from the Deep South in the 50's and 60's. If you remember I signed your petition to run for mayor and I do not regret that, but at this time I do not believe that you will let this go, I would love to be proven wrong. And even though you have done well for Oakridge, I believe for the good of the community, that you should resign.

Dawn Kinyon 76113 Fish Hatchery Road- She is here to ask Louis if he would consider making his contract public at some point. She doesn't expect an answer right now.

Louis said he will consider that.

Jenny Dail 48348 Hills Street- She has lived in Oakridge for eleven years now. When she first moved here it was pretty run down and pretty poor, it wasn't some place she was proud to move to, but her family was here. In the last three to four years she has only had one Mayor come in and ask what he can do, what kind of resources can he help pull in, what kind of support do we need and that would be Mr. Coey. She said it's kind of petty and it's really embarrassing to say she lives in Oakridge right now and the publicity we have gotten lately is kind of humiliating. She's tried to explain this to her fifteen year old daughter and she's kind of to the point now where she is even embarrassed to go to Oakridge High School because of the publicity. She'd like us all as adults to think about this and the impact it has and we need to lead by example and right now, nobody is leading by example. Let the mayor continue to do his job and everyone try to get along and be adults.

3.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Coey said he has had a few people contact him and want to know how this all began. Unfortunately at the advice of the attorney he cannot divulge the issue he has with the City Administrator. According to his contract there will be an evaluation coming up, but that won't be until the first or third week of July. To clear up some of the things that have been reported on in the Register Guard, specifically there was a comment about how the travel budget has grown over the last three years, part of that is the fact that we take the council to the League of Oregon Cities Conference. We took the entire council and that is a great opportunity to go and learn. Those trips are expensive, there is a three night hotel room, mileage and food. There is the Governor's Conference coming up, there is a lot of networking that takes place and it's good for our economy. Some of the other comments here are about my paycheck, we are all volunteers here and he'd ask any of you here to step up and do this job, do it, please, but he doesn't see that. We have a hard time filling this council with people that want to be present, who wants to show up and do the job. He averages about 26 meetings a month, 70% of those are in the valley or statewide. If 26 of those meetings are in the valley you have two hours of drive time, plus however long the meeting is. In the last year he has received two awards, one from Travel Lane and Lane Council of Governments for the elected official of the year, so you don't get those just because. So obviously he is having an impact

outside of the community, and not much of one inside the community. There have been years where there has been a lot of disruption at these meeting and quite honestly he wasn't going to let that happen, this is a business meeting between the council and the staff. He is sorry if some people got their feelings hurt, but consider what you were saying at the time. Mr. Custer made comments last week about his work, he has no understanding what he does, or what he makes or the time it takes him to do it. I do work for somebody who is a licensed contractor so that shoots one of them down. I make under \$5,000 a year because 26 plus meetings a month take up a tremendous amount of personal time. We have changed the opinions in many regards in what the valley or state think of us. We have had conversations in the past about comments made about and amongst each other that are inappropriate and to him that is inappropriate. Another thing is tonight and the comments made, we are looking at \$6300-\$7500 for a recall and there is eight months left in his term, he is not interested as a tax payer in paying that money. He doesn't feel that is justified. As far as the evaluation, that will come up and there is information that will come out at that time, at this point it is not. He does apologize for stirring the pot ahead of time, he didn't have all of the information he needed.

Councilor Rowland read a statement. (See attached)

Mayor Coey wanted to address a couple of those, he never said there wouldn't be mileage, he said when he was in Nashville he wouldn't have mileage.

Councilor Rowland said you said it at our special meeting.

Mayor Coey said he would be renting a car so there wouldn't be any mileage, he never said there wouldn't be mileage to the airport. As far as the dollar amount, you all voted not to exceed \$250 and I spent \$165.

Councilor Carl said he'd like to say a few things, I know most of you who are complaining and I respect you and I know you and you know me. If I felt I did something wrong I would apologize, but at this point I don't believe that and you are just going to have to trust my integrity on that. As Jim said at the instructions of our attorney we aren't able to say any more than that. He does want to apologize for this ruckus, it does detract from the city. The meeting with City Administrator Gomez was requested by City Administrator Gomez, at his request the Mayor and I met with Mr. Gomez in a private meeting and I have that meeting on tape, every word that was spoken and at some point I'd be happy to play it for you, but not yet. He's not interested in defending himself against accusations from another councilor he doesn't think that is appropriate, he will stand on his own reputation, he doesn't believe he has done anything wrong. But, we are all here and a lot of people are upset, they are upset at the Mayor, with or without good cause, they are upset at Kathy and me, with or without good cause. He just wanted to tell you that you don't have all of the information. You've got three councilors that are feeling one way and four councilors that are feeling another. He's not saying that awful, terrible things are going on, he told City Administrator Gomez that I think he's done a great job. Please don't pre-judge the situation, wait until you have all the information. As far as recalling the Mayor, if that it was you want to do ok, but Jim's only got eight or nine months left and in the meantime he would be the one to step up to the Mayor's spot and he doesn't have the time to do what he's been doing, he just doesn't, good, bad or otherwise. He is the only person up here that has a financial risk because if you all are angry with us, he is the only one who has a business that you aren't going to come to.

Councilor Holston said she really appreciates the comments that she's heard but, it's time to move on. That doesn't mean we ignore the reasons why this all happened. She doesn't feel that she should apologize, because there is more to this than you all know. It is important as a councilor to stand up for

those who don't have a voice or who are afraid to speak or who are afraid of reprisal, now you may think those are easy words to use, but those were said to her by citizens of this community. She has a right and a responsibility to speak for those people also. Just as you have a right and a responsibility and Councilor Rowland has a right and responsibility to speak for those constituents that she feels she's represented, that is what government is all about. What government isn't about is going after people personally, Louis is not a bad man, and the Mayor is not a bad man. We are not talking about whether or not people smile and say hello, we aren't talking about whether or not you have performed wonderfully in the past, we all agree that Louis has done that, we are talking about job performance. For her that is what this is about, there will be an opportunity to do a formal evaluation which should have been done. The Mayor eluded to that it won't be done until June or July and at that time, for her personally, serious questions will be brought up to Louis because that's the way he'd like it to be and whether he chooses to have it public is up to him. That won't stop her from bringing those out. She just wants to bring it out to everybody, the young lady who spoke and said we all just need to behave and be nice and be the adults that we would like our children to be. Its fine to absolutely disagree with her, that will not hurt her feelings in the least. It is not fine to call her names, because she will not call you names.

Dan Barclay said he will be the first to admit that his memory is not what it used to be, but it is not gone either. Just to refresh yours Gary, when you say there was never a council when you had three thinking one way and four thinking another way, as a reminder and he is speaking for three of them who are no longer with us. Three of them wanted Mr. Zimmerman terminated and four of the councilors wanted him to be able to resign with his dignity that he took from the city and that is what happened. During that time frame Mayor Coey as a citizen, suggested all seven councilors be recalled if we were going to recall four, knowing full well that two of them had nothing to do with creating that mess.

Ron Freborg said this is not a personal attack on him or on anyone, but it is what he feels is best for the city. He believes that he can sit down and talk with Councilor Carl, he wouldn't hold any of that against him.

Councilor Carl said he would hope so.

James Affa said a recall at this time would not cost the city one dime, it must be paid for by the petitioner in chief. If the petitions are certified within 35 days then they would have to fork over the \$ 6500- \$7500 and then the special election takes place. But, I agree it would make no sense at this time.

4.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilor Rowland moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Holston seconded the motion.

J. McMillin (aye), Mayor Coey (aye), J. Rowland (aye), G. Carl (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), K. Holston (aye), P. Forcum (aye). Motion carried 7-0

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

6.1 City Administrators Report

Louis said he did not have a report unless you had some specific questions.

Councilor Carl asked what the status of the FLAP grant is?

Louis said we will have it ready to ship off tomorrow and will make the deadline.

Councilor Carl said if we are successful we won't see any money until 2022, this is to fund our Signage and Wayfinding. How much are we asking for?

Rick said we are asking for \$500,000 with a 12.5 % match that we will have to budget for.

Louis said what he is recommending is that we put a match in there, that helps with the funders, he is pretty confident we can put that \$26,000 aside between now and 2022.

Louis said he spoke with the engineer today regarding the well, he will get him written documentation. They did retest it and the substance that they found tested less than what Oregon Health Authority limits, it's below the max limit so it is safe, but what the engineer would like to do is, so that it stays safe to try to work the new well so that it operates in tandem with another well so that it stays below the safe zone.

Mayor Coey asked if the flow has changed at all?

Louis said no we are still at about 250 and 300.

Mayor Coey asked if this is really worth continuing the process?

Louis said yes, we are pretty sure it will develop to around 300, maybe a little more and by running well #7 and well #4 they are both about 250-300 GPM wells.

Mayor Coey asked if we are going to be able to rehab the existing wells that have not been rehabbed?

Louis said he can't answer that right now, the engineer did not give him a definite answer, but that is one of the goals.

Mayor Coey asked Louis about the I and I?

Louis said we are just waiting on the Technical Assistance Grant to get completed.

Mayor Coey said he thought he said it was already done and he had it in hand?

Louis said no, he had the money in hand to complete the grant. He is still working on the Technical Assistance Grant right now. He is going through the 2009 study that was done and doing further research on that. Once he's done with that he should be ready to start working on I and I.

Louis asked for consensus from the council to put in the twenty some thousand match in the FLAP grant? We would have the next four years to save the money.

Mayor Coey said ODOT came to us and thought they could push through another FLAP grant for Oakridge. It would focus basically on city limits on the west side to Crestview. This will be discussed in our TSP meeting and they think they can pull this off. It wouldn't be until around 2022.

Louis wanted the citizens to know that the Transportation Systems Plan is where you, the citizens get to let the council know your feelings about the road diet plan, to leave it the same all of that. We will be posting the meetings so that you can attend and give your community engagement to the council and the committee working on this.

6.2 City Recorder Finance Report – No report

6.3 Appoint Budget Committee Members

Louis said depending on the number of the council members, we have to have an equal number of budget committee members.

You have Mr. Affa, Mr. James Walker, Mr. Loren Hogue, Mr. David Arthur and two additional ones Mr. Hadley and Mr. Wiemholt.

Motion: Councilor Carl moved to appoint James Affa to serve on one of the vacant Budget Committee seats. Councilor Forcum seconded the motion.

J. Rowland (aye), J. McMillin (aye), P. Forcum (aye), G. Carl (aye), Mayor Coey (aye), K. Holston (aye), K. Gobelman (aye). Motion carried 7-0

Motion: Councilor Carl moved to appoint James Walker to serve on one of the vacant Budget Committee seats. Councilor McMillin seconded the motion.

J. Rowland (aye), P. Forcum (aye), G. Carl (aye), J. McMillin (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), K. Holston (nay), Mayor Coey (aye). Motion carried 6-1

Motion: Councilor Rowland moved to appoint Rick Wiemholt to serve on one of the vacant Budget Committee seats. Councilor Forcum seconded the motion.

Mayor Coey (aye), J. Rowland (aye), J. McMillin (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), P. Forcum (aye), G. Carl (nay), K. Holston (nay). Motion carried 5-2

Motion: Councilor Carl moved to appoint David Arthur to serve on one of the vacant Budget Committee seats. Councilor Rowland seconded the motion.

G. Carl (aye), P. Forcum (aye), Mayor Coey (aye), K. Holston (aye), J. Rowland (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), J. McMillin (aye). Motion carried 7-0

Motion: Councilor Carl moved to appoint Donald Hadley to serve on one of the vacant Budget Committee seats. Councilor McMillin seconded the motion.

P. Forcum (aye), J. Rowland (aye), J. McMillin (aye), Mayor Coey (nay), K. Gobelman (aye), G. Carl (aye), K. Holston (nay). Motion carried 5-2

Louis said he would like to start the first budget meeting on the 24th at 6:00 PM, it will be a short meeting in the conference room at city hall.

6.4 Appointment to Oakridge Economic Development Advisory Committee

Louis said there are committees that are council driven committees, anyone placed on those committees are by consent of the council, this is one of them.

Motion: Councilor Rowland moved to appoint Rick Wiemholt to the Oakridge Economic Development Advisory Committee. Councilor McMillin seconded the motion.

G. Carl (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), J. Rowland (aye), Mayor Coey (aye), K. Holston (aye), J. McMillin (aye), P. Forcum (aye). Motion carried 7-0

7.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1 Park Waiver Fee for Treeplanting Salmon Run

Rick said Sarah Altemus Pope is requesting a fee waiver for the use of the park. She sent an email explaining why she wasn't able to attend tonight.

Motion: Councilor Carl moved that we approve the fee waiver for the use of the Greenwaters Park Community Building and trails for the Treeplanting Salmon Run and transfer from TRT funds for grounds maintenance. Councilor Rowland seconded the motion.

Councilor Carl asked how the insurance is handled for events like this?

Councilor Rowland said they have insurance for any activity in their brochure.

P. Forcum (aye), K. Holston (aye), K. Gobelman (aye), J. Rowland (aye), Mayor Coey (aye), G. Carl (aye), J. McMillin (aye). Motion carried 7-0

7.2 Planning Commission Quarterly Report

Rick presented the Quarterly Planning Commission Report to the council.

8.0 POLICE SERVICES

Chief Martin passed out his report to the council.

9.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Hansen passed out his report to the council.

10.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEE

Councilor Rowland said there is a Treeplanting meeting on Monday at 6:00 at the Pub.

Meeting adjourned 7:24 P.M.

Signed: _____
James Coey, Mayor

Signed: _____
Susan LaDuke, City Recorder