

September 21, 2006
City Council Regular Session
City Council Room
48318 E. First Street, Oakridge OR 97463
7:00 p.m.



MINUTES



1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Sue Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Present: Sue Bond, Mayor
Carina Schorer
Don Hampton
Rayetta Clark
Criss Steiner
Amy Kordosky

Council Absent: Glenn Fortune (Attending an LCOG Board Meeting)

Staff Present: City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman
Community Services Director Kevin Urban
City Recorder Chantell Steiner
Police Chief Louis Gomez
Fire Chief Jerry Shorey

2.0 CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Ryon was called upon but was not present. There were no other names on the list.

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of Regular Session of September 7, 2006

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by C. Schorer to approve the consent agenda. R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), C. Steiner (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), and Mayor Bond (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Bond apologized for the statement in the minutes on page thirteen where she directed staff member Kevin Urban to work with the Superintendent. She clarified that she meant to direct City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman to direct the staff.

Prior to the Administrative Services issues, Mayor Bond moved Item 6.0 to the beginning of the meeting to facilitate public input and allow our guests from the Building Department to be able to travel home earlier.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 Public Hearing: Building Department Fee Increase

6.1.1 Staff Report

Gordon explained that this request was discussed in a prior meeting. Charlcie Kaylor and Chuck Crawford of The Building Department are here this evening to answer any additional questions.

6.1.2 Comments in Favor

None.

6.1.3 Comments in Opposition

None.

6.1.4 General Comments

None.

6.1.5 Council Discussion

Mayor Bond asked the Council if it has any additional questions or comments on this request. None were made.

Gordon explained that there is no resolution this evening because this meeting was only to allow for citizen input. The resolution to adopt will occur at the next Council meeting.

6.2 Diamond Traffic Products Handicapped Parking Space Request

Gordon explained that Diamond Traffic is requesting this space for a current employee that is handicapped. This is a normal request that is generally supported by the staff.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by C. Schorer to approve Diamond Traffic Products request for the designation for a handicapped parking space in front of their business.

A. Kordosky (Aye), C. Steiner (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), and Mayor Bond (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

5.1 Council Media Training

Gordon Zimmerman said the City has experienced quite a bit of media lately. Karen McGowan with The Register-Guard has done more stories on Oakridge than any other outlying community, mostly in part to the weekly updates sent out by Gordon. After rereading the New York Times article, Gordon realized that it was not that bad. However, some training on how to work with reporters could be in the Council's best interest. With that being said, Gordon proceeded to introduce Jenifer Hood, Enterprise Facilitator, for a brief training session on how to appropriately work with the media.

Jenifer's presentation gave many key points to remember when working with the media. Some of the bigger topics to remember is that the press is not the enemy and part of working with them is to be honest, tactful, and to the point. She noted that the biggest enemy is lack of preparation. She explained ways to plan ahead for a reporter's visit if time allows and what words to use as well as the types of places and things to show them in the community. Near the end of the session some of the Council participated in a role-play interview with Jenifer to get some practice with questions and appropriate answers. The training was enjoyable, informative, and well received by the Council.

Gordon thanked Jenifer for her presentation. He continued to say, in regards to the New York Times article, that Councilor Hampton did an outstanding job by following nearly all of Jenifer's suggestions. He said it is too bad that the reporter did not write about many of the good things that Councilor Hampton said and showed him.

Councilor Clark said that she was present when the television reporter interviewed Mayor Bond. She felt that Mayor Bond handled the interview very well. She said a lot of the good pieces that had occurred in the interview were not even broadcast and that that was disappointing.

Council and the staff thanked Jenifer for her presentation.

7.0 POLICE SERVICES

Police Chief Louis Gomez apologized for being late as he was coming from training in Salem. He said he learned about the policies and trends under civil liability that people are suing for this year. Internal issues were also covered on how to correct some negative behaviors with positive feedback.

Mayor Bond apologized for not being able to attend a meeting last night. She asked Chief Gomez what happened as she had heard that he was being honored for something.

Chief Gomez responded, "Thanks to a number of community members, I did receive an award from the Lane County Prevention Coalition." He was one of three recipients of the award for striving to work hard and minimizing drugs and alcohol with the youth in our community. He thanked those members of the community that nominated him.

8.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief Jerry Shorey reported on his attendance of a Pandemic Illness Planning Summit. Participants of this event included many public health related professionals including doctors and nurses. Jerry noted that there have been four pandemic outbreaks since 1918. The 1918 outbreak of the Spanish Flu killed 20-40 million people with a half million of those being in the United States. He said this is very significant. The recent concern about the Avian Flu is not as big as people think. There have only been about 200 people, mostly from Asia, that have died from it. He said a bigger concern right now is the normal flu's that are typical in the young and old populations. Another topic covered concerned how to get information out to the public and how to prevent the flu. He said the current antiviral drugs on the market are not very effective. Three key ways to prevent the flu are to wash your hands, cover your mouth when coughing, and maintain at least three feet of isolation from anyone that is infected.

Dr. Susan Allen, Public Health Director that was in charge of the organization of the 9/11 episode was the presenter at this training. Chief Shorey said she was very knowledgeable about the Incident Command System. He said there are two new concepts that he was unaware of. The first is called the Medical Reserve Corps, which is a team of doctors and nurses that are put into a database to be contacted in the event of an emergency. The other concept is called CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). This team would be smaller and would focus on assisting in a local emergency.

Chief Shorey continued to explain the status of the Emergency Plan that he has been working on for the last year. He said when he wrote the first one in 1971 it was quite simple, but with the events that can happen today this is going to take some time and effort from all departments of the City. In order to make the tasks easier, he has broken the project into phases. Phase one includes gathering all of the information and organizing the lists. Phase two, which is now being started, is the actual emergency management plan and involves everyone. All of the individual pieces such as Police, Fire, Ambulance, Public Works, and Administration have to blend together in a seamless manner. This is the most difficult part of the project. The current direction and standards that are in place from the County, State, and the Department of Homeland Security will be used to help make this project more seamless and not overlapping of duties. He said there is a federal training program that staff participates in to help them complete their portions of the plan. Chief Shorey feels this training is a basic approach to a command center. Phase three is to actually write the plan. The County already has a plan and this plan is being reviewed for the Oakridge plan design. He is currently looking for funding. He spoke today with Tracy DePew of the Area

Health Education Center and they do have grant funding for emergency planning. The fourth phase includes the involvement of the public and how it should handle and take care of family members in the event of an emergency. The fifth phase is to test the plan and should be tested about every year and a half. He said some major topics that will be identified are the risks/hazards, evacuation routes, surge capacities, and post emergency administrative and infrastructure restoration. Chief Shorey would like to see this community set the standard in small communities for emergency planning. He said there is a lot of work to be done and equipment to be maintained that is already in place. He would like to see the community create a CERT team here in Oakridge.

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Bond noted that Councilor Fortune is not here this evening because he is attending the Lane Council of Governments Board Meeting in her place.

Gordon reported the Planning Commission approval of the Elk Meadows subdivision to include 200 homes last Tuesday.

Councilor Steiner attended the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC) meeting in Councilor Hampton's place. He participated in a tour of the Elijah Bristow State Park where the MFWWC is working on a project to eradicate Japanese knotweed and blackberry bushes. Phase one is nearly complete and is growing natural grasses and native trees and shrubs that were extracted from the site prior to eradication. Phase two and three are in process of the eradication. He said it is quite a project and is going very well.

Councilor Clark attended an Administration Committee meeting and made some recommendations for changes to the current ordinances for Chief Gomez and Gordon.

Gordon said it might take a while because the process requires attorney involvement.

Mayor Bond reminded the Council of the previous meeting discussion of some suspected animal abuse and needing to review the ordinances.

Mayor Bond attended an LCOG Subcommittee meeting with Warren Weathers, Mayor of Lowell, and Anna Morrison, West Lane County Commissioner, about dealing with economic development committees. There are three currently in the County that are overlapping. The recommendations from the group are being reviewed by the Lane Council of Governments board at its meeting this evening. She said we would have to wait and see how that affects economic development in Lane County.

Councilor Clark and Mayor Bond attended a Public Safety Task Force committee meeting to see how other communities are dealing with the County's proposed income tax that will appear on the ballot.

Gordon concluded the purchase of the Bridges property on Sanford and High Leah today and the deed is now going to the County for recording.

10.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Clark wants too give an “atta boy” to the Fire Department and volunteers for their quick and efficient response to a fire that was next to some property she manages. She said everyone did a good job!

Chief Gomez said some citizens took some action on some of that fire that helped save a very expensive motor home and property. He would like to get something out to them to thank them for their efforts.

Councilor Clark said the citizens were there immediately with their home hoses and were “right on it” as it happened.

ADJOURN

Mayor Bond adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council October 5, 2006.

Signed: _____
S. Sue Bond, Mayor Date

Attest: _____
Chantell R. Steiner, City Recorder Date