

November 3, 2005
City Council Regular Session
Oakridge City Hall Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.



MINUTES



CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Council Present: Sue Bond, Mayor
Rayetta Clark
Carina Schorer
Glenn Fortune
Don Hampton (via conference call)
Leah Chapman
Dawn Shields

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

Mayor Bond asked everyone present to take a moment in silence in memory of the City's former Librarian, Gloria Boyd, who passed away this week and for City Senior Billing Clerk, Linda Martin, whose father also passed away this week.

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Karla Tiller-Barclay, 47528 Hansen Street, Oakridge: Karla appeared today to discuss an error made by City Staff on her water bill. She had received a notice on October 26th for a shut-off notice that was enforced immediately at that time. She was quite upset because she has always paid her bills in full and was only six days late this time. She would like an apology for the shut-off. She then stated that she wanted to still be charged for the late fees that the City had waived due to this error as she was late and felt she should pay those fees.

Mayor Bond referred this situation to the City Staff. The Council apologized for the error and stated that this would be taken care of.

Robert Moe, 47959 W. 2nd, Oakridge: Robert has two complaints for the Council to address. The first is the twenty-mile speed zone through the school zone that is not being patrolled as much as he thinks it should be. Citizens are blatantly abusing the speed zone and he would like to see more patrol, especially during the times of the school starting and releasing. He also would like information on when the final construction phases of 2nd Street will be completed--particularly towards the landscaping.

Mayor Bond responded that these items would be assigned to the Public Safety and Community Services Departments for resolution.

Frank Moffitt, 47869 W 2nd, Oakridge: Frank also would like clarification on when 2nd Street will be completed. He made reference to the fill dirt, streetlights, and weeds. He then asked why was the construction of 2nd Street stopped at a certain point and not continued past the intersection of Second and Rose.

Community Services Director, Kevin Urban, responded that the portion that was not paved was considered a local street rather than a collector street and therefore was placed on the Transportation System Plan to be fixed.

Mayor Bond asked if that little strip is on the plan and Kevin responded that it is not.

Mr. Moffitt then asked Kevin when the lights would be done.

Kevin responded that the crews would get to the lights just as soon as they can. He explained that they are very busy especially this time of year. He continued to say that in order to keep costs low for the residents the City would be doing some of the work to finish 2nd Street such as the lights and trees. He said that the trees would be planted next spring when the chance for them to survive would be better. He then stated that they are aware of the problem with the backfill as well and the crew that is fixing that should be by to do 2nd Street after they finish at the amphitheater next spring. Kevin reiterated that the crews are working on as much as they can and promised that they would get this project done as well.

Mr. Moffitt thanked the Council and Kevin for listening and told the Council that Kevin and the crew are doing a great job.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1 Minutes of Regular Session of Oct. 20, 2005
- 1.2 Res. 34-2005 Woodstove Replacement Fund Revenue
- 1.3 Res. 35-2005 Food Bank Grant Fund Revenue

Councilor Hampton pulled the minutes for some minor corrections.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by C. Schorer to approve the consent agenda without the minutes. C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), and L. Chapman (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Hampton then proceeded to make the corrections with the Council and Staff to the minutes.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by R. Clark to approve the minutes with corrections. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), L. Chapman (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), and Mayor Bond (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Specialized Mobility Services Diamond Express Presentation

Aline Goddard, Manager of the Diamond Express, works for Special Mobility Services. She brought several people to talk to the Council about the future of the Diamond Express. With her tonight are Terry Parker and Marcia Moffei from Lane Transit District; Sally Shaw from Special Mobility Services in Oakridge; David Bachner from Springfield and Fred Stolfer from Portland.

Terry Parker started by explaining her job duties as the Accessible Services Manager for the Lane Transit District. Her job is to provide services to citizens that are outside the normal boundaries of the district. For her presentation she brought several handouts including the newly updated Diamond Express Flyer as well as several graphs. Three years ago she worked with Councilors Clark and Hampton on getting this program in place. The original grant is now expiring. Funds are currently secured through June 2007. She is now working on the grant request for the third grant that will keep the program running through 2009. Terry stated that Marcia, Fred, David, Aline, and Sally are the people behind this entire project, whereas Terry is just the grant writer.

Terry went on to explain that public transportation takes time to build a ridership. With Oakridge being so far from any metro area and transportation being minimal, citizens will find all kinds of means for transportation. She feels that the ridership could be increased. With her charts, she showed what routes are most popular, where people are going most, and how often. With this data, she was able to come up with some ideas of how to expand the ridership base. Through the data they learned how many individuals could be targeted and how much flexibility the drivers could have in delivery and pick-up locations.

A recent challenge for the program was the rise in gas prices. Diamond Express may have to look at raising the cost of the fares. She stated that the budget only has \$130,000 annually. She informed the Council that the City already is part of the budget through in-kind match by providing parking spaces for the buses and providing office space when needed.

Mayor Bond and Councilor Shields stated that this is a great service for our community.

Councilor Clark wanted to say that she is really proud because she was there when this program started. She is so pleased to see what it has become.

Kevin Urban asked if they have considered offering yearly or monthly passes.

Terry responded that there are some strategies with offering passes, but since the goal of this program was to keep administration costs low, they have not offered this type of service. She stated that there could be some other options that are not quite as extensive to track such as ticket books. She feels that right now is probably not a good time to offer discounts because the ridership is not strong enough to support that.

Don Hampton thanked Terry as she has been a real advocate on the project. He suggested that the ticket books could be offered at the current rates and those that don't purchase them could be affected by the increased rates that will come in the future. He then asked if someone has contacted the bike shops in Eugene to let them be aware that we now have a bike rack on the bus. Since we have many mountain bike trails in the area, we could increase the ridership with those citizens as well.

Terry responded that they have not done much advertising. She then stated that with only three spots for bicycles she doesn't think that would be a good idea. You could end up with ten riders with bicycles needing to return at the same time and no way to accommodate them all. That could become a bigger problem.

Terry Callahan, one of the Diamond Express drivers, spoke up to say that the group "The Disciples of Dirt" has circulated information about the bus service. He has witnessed a few of those members use the bus for mountain biking purposes.

Councilor Hampton then asked if there would be consideration for more stops such as one in Lowell.

Terry said that it is probably not a good idea because a stop into Lowell would take up to fifteen minutes or more. That is an inconvenience to the other riders. If the volume was to change, or the demand for a particular request increase, then it could be looked at further.

Councilor Hampton responded that for Lowell, they could probably work with the City to develop a nice pull-off there at the south end of the bridge. Then the bus would not have to go into and out of the town.

Terry responded that would probably be good idea to look into.

2.2 Lane Council of Governments Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., December 1, 2005

Mayor Bond asked for a volunteer to attend the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board Meeting. Councilor Hampton suggested that we reschedule the December 1 Council meeting for the City of Oakridge so that several Councilors could attend the LCOG meeting if interested.

Gordon Zimmerman suggested that the Council cancel the December 1st meeting as staff could work around that.

Mayor Bond confirmed that this would be okay with all Council members before confirming the cancellation. Mayor Bond then stated that Gordon Zimmerman and she would attend the LCOG Board meeting.

Mayor Bond then reminded the Council that Councilor Hampton had mentioned being a host for one of the LCOG meetings. After deliberation with the Council, it chose to look into hosting the September meeting in 2006.

2.3 Lane County Commission Joint Meeting – Potential Topics

The Council concluded that the best time to have a joint meeting with the County Commission would be on the second Council meeting in February (Feb. 16) at the Willamette Activity Center.

2.4 Oakridge School District Community Building Request

Gordon Zimmerman mentioned that the School District waives fees for us when we use their facilities. In turn, we should waive fees for them when they want to use the Community Building at Greenwaters Park.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by C. Schorer to approve the waiver request of building fees for the Oakridge School District. D. Hampton (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), L. Chapman (Aye), and C. Schorer (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Zimmerman then requested that he be allowed to put certain requests from other government agencies like this on the consent agenda when it pertains to fee waivers. The Council agreed that it would be appropriate to do that.

Kevin Urban requested that if a request were under a certain amount would it be okay for the Staff to make these decisions. Council felt that they would rather see each request, although it could all go in the consent agenda. This would also help eliminate any favoritism that could occur from Staff making those decisions versus the Council.

2.5 Library Update

Gordon Zimmerman reported that the Architect working with the Staff and the Library Board has come up with a wonderful design. However, with construction costs on the

rise, we will need to move forward as quickly as possible to help alleviate any additional increases. In the packet costs are outlined for potential revenue and expenditures for the construction and completion of the building.

Councilor Hampton responded that this is great work but he was wondering if the committee has thought about funds for material needed in the library such as computers, shelves, desks, and chairs.

Gordon responded that this has been an ongoing process for the committee and they have applied for certain grants to assist in equipping the library appropriately. He explained that they were denied on the recent grant because a stipulation of the grant is that a building be in place first. As soon as the building is under way the committee will again seek grants for funding as well as they are always looking for assistance through other means.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kevin Urban explained to the Council that we have a room at the Willamette Activity Center (WAC) that currently is rarely used because citizens say that it does not have enough amenities. The citizens are choosing to rent the more equipped rooms such as the Senior Lounge. He asked permission of the Council to do some pricing to see how much it would cost to upgrade the room with some carpet, a refrigerator, an exterior door, and a stove. He would also like to look into repairing the Gym floor and lighting.

Councilor Clark asked if the room that he would like to upgrade has bathroom access. Kevin replied that it is right next-door.

Gordon clarified that the budget is already in place for repairs, the question is whether the Council wants to spend the budget on these items.

Councilor Shields said she would help Kevin with the carpet and flooring estimates.

The Council agreed that it is fine to research these estimates and upgrade the rooms.

PUBLIC SAFETY

4.1 Fire Union Contract Ratification

Gordon Zimmerman said that the union representatives have indicated that with the negotiated adjustments, the members would positively accept this offer. This contract will be the new contract for the next three years.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to approve the employment agreement between the City of Oakridge and the Oakridge Firefighter Association, IAFF Local #2502. Mayor Bond (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), L. Chapman (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), and D. Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Chapman clarified that the City Staff worked out the changes with the Union representatives so that both parties should approve it without further changes.

Gordon responded that both teams agreed on the changes that were made.

Police Department Report

Police Chief, Louis Gomez, reported that they are still working on the property crimes. They have a person of interest that we believe has done most of the property crimes. They are confident that they will be able to move forward. He said hopefully the testing that the crime investigation team will be doing will prove worthwhile for the prosecution's case.

Councilor Clark asked if the number of burglaries has settled down.

Chief Gomez stated that they are gathering evidence against an individual that was caught breaking into a citizen's residence. Since that incident, we have seen a drop in the recent crime wave.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Region 2050

Councilor Fortune attended a 2050 Region Meeting that asked for ideas to look at the process and questions that should be asked of the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Gordon responded that the Region 2050 group and DLCD did meet this morning in Salem to have those answers for the December 2050 meeting.

Councilor Fortune continued to say that there was a lot of information presented from Springfield regarding the process and whether it would be beneficial or not. He thinks after the Nov. 16 meeting when a lot of the questions will be answered, it will help decide whether to proceed with the Region 2050 process or not.

Middle Fork of the Willamette Watershed Council

Councilor Hampton reported that he did not make a Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council meeting if there was one.

Gordon Zimmerman responded that the next meeting would be in the middle of November most likely at the Oakridge High School Library where he will be a speaker.

Holiday Lighting Committee

Mayor Bond reported that the Holiday Lighting Committee met and decided that the tree lighting ceremony would be at the Oakridge Amphitheatre on Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m. She said that the committee agreed to decorate several city buildings and the Amphitheater.

Councilor Schorer asked if the decorating would include trees throughout town.

Mayor Bond responded that the amount of decorations are very limited, however, businesses will be encouraged through a contest to decorate their properties. The committee is looking into prizes for the most decorated businesses. She mentioned that there will be donation containers put up in several locations throughout town to help bring in revenue for more lighting supplies. Donations of lights would also be greatly appreciated.

Oakridge Cattery Project

Gordon Zimmerman reported that Bobbie McMahon has met with him about starting a fund for creating a feral cat facility. It has been determined that the project will need approximately \$5,000 to get underway. Bobbie has already donated money and is raising more money to meet this goal.

A citizen from the audience asked if they are allowed to trap the feral cats themselves and call the facility to pick them up.

Chief Gomez replied that they would not take cats that are just randomly brought in or caught. It could be a domestic cat that they do not want to put down. The process will go in cycles. The City will be required to keep cats on site for a period of time before the euthanization can occur to help safeguard those cats that are caught and should not be put down. Chief Gomez said it would be best to let Code Enforcement do the catching to help reduce any potential mistakes.

Councilor Clark asked how many cats could be housed at one time.

Chief Gomez responded that they hope to accommodate 20-25 at a time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority

Councilor Fortune commented that there was an interesting article in the paper about Massachusetts and Wal-Mart. He said that Wal-Mart has posted signs for no idling in their parking lots to save fuel and air pollution. This is a significant ruling that will affect truckers all over the nation.

Councilor Chapman asked why the trucks idle.

