

November 17, 2005
City Council Regular Session
Oakridge City Hall Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.



MINUTES



CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Glenn Fortune called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Present: Glenn Fortune, Council President
Rayetta Clark
Carina Schorer
Don Hampton
Dawn Shields

Council Absent: Leah Chapman
Sue Bond, Mayor

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

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Joy Kingsbury, 47487 Highway 58, Oakridge: Joy received a phone call from a friend that had heard on the PBS radio broadcast yesterday that Oregon is rated as the largest methamphetamine supplier in the nation and that Oakridge was identified as the largest manufacturing base of this drug. She finds this news distasteful and alarming. She is recommending to the Council to look into this further and find out where this information was generated. She believes a plan needs to be mapped and the Council and community need to take immediate action.

CONSENT AGENDA

1.1 Minutes of Regular Session of November 3, 2005

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by R. Clark to approve the consent agenda. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), and D. Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Lane County Economic Development

City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman explained that Director Peter Thurston would be retiring June 30, 2006, from the Lane County Economic Development Department. The County is looking at how they deliver economic development services to the rural communities. Gordon spent several hours with Peter today and discussed how the County could help Oakridge. One of the topics Gordon discussed with him is finding funding to build the 20,000 square foot building at the Oakridge Industrial Park. The City is already working with Bob Warren of the Oregon Economic Community Development Department and Jack Roberts with Lane Metro Partnership. Gordon is not sure of other ways that the County could help partner with Oakridge for projects. He suggested that the Council address this at the work session in January.

Councilor Fortune mentioned that at the Region 2050 meeting that he learned that Faye Stewart and Peter Thurston are discussing getting money for Oakridge for the purpose of upgrading the Industrial Park.

Gordon responded that we do have someone working on the numbers to find out how much would be available to spend on construction of a new building at the Industrial Park. From what he has seen so far there is approximately \$1.7 million needed and only \$1.3 million available; this leaves a \$400,000 gap. Many options are being explored and it could be possible that this remaining money be secured through a Community Development Block Grant. Currently the City has several economic development projects happening including the library construction.

2.2 League of Oregon Cities Conference Reports

Gordon provided copies of the resolutions that the League Board passed at its meeting. These resolutions would be forwarded to the appropriate departments around the state.

Councilor Hampton reported that he has attended many of these conferences and pointed out that even though he is a regular participant, he learns something new every time he attends. One session in particular that he attended was called, "Battling Meth in Your Community, Treatment, and Recovery." He learned that the State has been working on a program called "Target Meth," which they anticipate having materials organized and distributed to communities soon to help in the education process. Having never used drugs himself, Councilor Hampton learned a lot about the drug. He gave some alarming statistics of the human body and the dopamine levels in the brain affected by different activities. For instance, eating your favorite food produces a level of 150; sexual activity 200; morphine doses in a hospital 250, and methamphetamine use 1,050. This helped explain why this drug is so addictive as well as why the addict goes into such a depressive state while "coming down" from the drug. Councilor Hampton pointed out that Oakridge/ Westfir Together is an existing program already in place in our community to help fight the battle against drugs and will prove to be a

worthy means for helping get this new information to the community. Councilor Hampton found the conference to be fun and informative, as well as a great way to meet and network with other City and State officials.

Councilor Clark was encouraged when she learned that all small Oregon communities are in the same boat as Oakridge. They all have a lot of projects to work on and no money to do them with. One session she attended was called, "Tough Questions and Answers That You Can Live With." It helps city officials discover value-based tools to help good leaders make tough choices. Several handouts that she will have copied for the Council helps an individual go about making the decision for their community based on their unique needs. She felt there were many good points in the articles and would like the Council to review them as well.

Gordon Zimmerman attended a session about organizational politics and how to overcome them. He also will provide copies of those handouts to the Council for its January work session.

Chantell Hayson reported that she attended a particular session called "City Officials: Duties, Roles, and Interactions," which covered many of the basic questions concerning how the Council should interact with City staff. These handouts will also be copied to the Council for the January work session.

2.3 City/Boy Scouts of America/Drill-Tech Wood Program

Gordon Zimmerman reported that Drill-Tech had made the first delivery of wood. When the Boy Scouts realized that it was nearly sawdust material they agreed to terminate the contract. Drill-Tech reported that all the loads would be this low quality. The Boy Scouts will work with the staff to remove the load of deteriorating wood that was dumped in the first load.

2.4 Part-Time Accounting Clerk/Receptionist

Gordon Zimmerman explained that the staff has gone from four (4) full-time staff to two and one-half (2 ½). This may not be the direct result of the recent errors that staff has made with the utility billing, but the level of stress is a major contributor. Gordon feels that if we can get the right person in the position we will be able to efficiently and effectively handle the workload and maintain excellent customer service. He would like the Council's direction and approval to try for six months a part-time position in the front office.

Councilor Hampton stated that Gordon does not need the Council's approval on this matter.

Gordon responded that he understands that but would like to have the Council's support now so that in the next budget cycle it is not viewed as unnecessary.

Councilor Clark stated that she has been wondering how the City has functioned so far with the lack of office staff.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by R. Clark to approve the addition of a part-time accounting clerk/receptionist for the City of Oakridge. D. Shields (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), and G. Fortune (Aye). Motion carried 5-0.

2.5 UPBEAT Report

Gordon Zimmerman reported that the UPBEAT (Unique Program for Business Enhancement and Advancement Together) Committee Board had the first organizational meeting today. The Executive Committee was formed with Gordon Zimmerman elected as Chair, Don Hampton as Vice-Chair, Chantell Hayson as Treasurer, and Jess Henryes as Secretary. Four other committees were formed including the Facilitator Hiring Committee that will begin the process of hiring in the next few months. This program will identify and help people in the community that need to improve their current business or want to start a new business.

Councilor Hampton reported that it was a good meeting, although we will need more members to join the board. He was pleased with the diversity of the current members.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Property Maintenance Ordinance

Gordon Zimmerman stated that the Council had asked the staff to come up with a dangerous building code ordinance. The ordinance would need to include procedures that would require homeowners to remove or upgrade potential hazards to other citizens and the community. The City Attorney and the Public Works Director compiled the proposed draft ordinance. One item that still needs to be addressed is to define a dilapidated building. Gordon stated that the procedure for inspecting a property would require approval of a municipal judge and the removal of a building would require the approval of a circuit court judge. Staff feels that this is probably as comprehensive as it can be. Gordon strongly suggested a public hearing for the approval of this ordinance. He continued to state that this ordinance will not be an attempt to start tearing down buildings but rather a way to start assessing the needs in the community. Each situation and complaint would be dealt with differently based on how much assistance a homeowner would need.

Councilor Fortune stated that with this new ordinance and other code ordinances in place we will have to look at having a full-time code enforcement officer.

Gordon responded that yes we will need the staffing. This will be reviewed for inclusion in the next year's budget.

Councilor Schorer asked what the timeline is for this.

Gordon responded that after any immediate changes from Council and the public hearing process it could be as soon as three months.

Councilor Fortune informed the Councilors to have their recommendations for changes by the next meeting.

Councilor Hampton, Councilor Fortune, Councilor Clark, and staff discussed and made a few minor changes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

None.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Hampton attended the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council meeting last night. He heard the speech by Gordon about the Oakridge UPBEAT program and about a stewardship project. This restoration project is working on restoring the Oak Savanna trees that once dominated the Jim's Creek area but have been overgrown by Douglas Firs. The goal is to return it to the way it used to be. In order to accomplish this, the project managers will need to work on having nearly 85% of the trees removed to replant the Oak Savanna trees. The trees that will be removed will help fund the replacement costs. There are approximately 35,000 acres that could be restored that would also help restore the native local wildlife, fish and river quality.

Councilor Fortune attended a Region 2050 meeting. At the meeting a question and answer sheet from a previous meeting with the State Director and a Commissioner of the Department of Land Conservation and Development was discussed and is available if Council is interested in viewing it. The main topic revolved around expanding urban growth boundaries. A point made in the meeting was that if a region were to come together with their requests for expansion and followed the goals of the Department of Land and Conservation (DLCD), then most likely it would be approved by the DLCD. Part of the problem is that the City of Springfield is still not committed to the regional process. Unless all cities are involved, and stay involved, then none of us can create a regional solution. Councilor Fortune stated he did not realize how much controversy was occurring between Eugene and Springfield. This is a major contributor to the region not coming together. Until an agreement can be made, each community will have to deal with its own needs.

Councilor Hampton asked if the City of Springfield objects to the plan or the process.

Councilor Fortune replied that it is the plan because they want to do it the old way.

Councilor Hampton said that this new region would give them more flexibility, though.

