

March 16, 2006
City Council Public Hearing
Oakridge City Hall Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.



MINUTES



CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Council Present: Sue Bond, Mayor
Glenn Fortune
Carina Schorer
Don Hampton
Rayetta Clark
Dawn Shields
Leah Chapman

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

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Cape, 47776 W 2nd Street, Oakridge: John reported to the Council that he has had an ongoing issue with his sewer line backing up on his property. He believes the root of a tree that is maintained by the City across the street from his property is causing this. He attempted to work with City staff to no avail. The research he has done concludes that the root is the possible cause that is blocking his line at the main connection. He has already spent nearly \$1,500 in attempts to fix this problem on his side of the property. He has spoken with several other cities' public works and attorneys and he has been told that the City should take care of this. He would like the Council to look further into the issue and work with staff to rectify the issue.

Mayor Bond responded that the Council would discuss this with Public Works to try to find a resolution to this issue within the next few weeks.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Gordon Zimmerman added the following items to the agenda.

- 2.6 Library Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- 3.3 Parks Survey

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1 Minutes of Regular Session of February 16, 2006
- 1.2 Minutes of Public Hearing and Session of March 9, 2006
- 1.3 Willamette Lanes Liquor License
- 1.4 Park Facility and Alcohol Permit at Community Building for March 17 UPBEAT Event
- 1.5 Resolution 2-2006 FEMA Grant for Emergency Services Department
- 1.6 ACOE/MFWWC/City of Oakridge Agreement
- 1.7 Rachael Peterson Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Mayor Bond pulled item 1.7 from the consent agenda.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by R. Clark to approve the consent agenda items 1.1 through 1.6. 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.

Mayor Bond honored Rachael Peterson for being a distinguished finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for her volunteer efforts. Mayor Bond presented her with a plant and a big thank you for her efforts. Gordon Zimmerman presented some Oakridge memorabilia to her.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by G. Fortune to approve item 1.7 of the consent agenda. 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.

ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 Appointment and Swearing In of Municipal Judge

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to approve the appointment of Gary Carl as the Oakridge Municipal Court Judge and authorize the swearing in by the City Recorder. 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.

Chantell Hayson proceeded to swear in Municipal Judge Gary Carl.

- 2.2 Appoint Planning Commission Member

Gordon reported that Larry Phipps and Suzette Waelti had both applied previously for a vacant position on the Planning Commission. The Council had appointed Suzette. No letters of interest have been submitted for the current vacancy other than Mr. Phipps. Staff recommends appointing Larry Phipps to the current vacant position.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by D. Hampton to appoint Larry Phipps to the vacant Planning Commission seat. 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.

- 2.3 Appoint Oakridge Economic Development Advisory Commission (OEDAC) Member

Gordon reported that Sherri McDowell has resigned from the commission due to family health problems. He said that Ray Moffitt has been attending the meeting and would be a great addition to the commission.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to appoint Ray Moffitt to the vacant Oakridge Economic Development Advisory Commission. 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.

2.4 Adopt 2006-2007 Goals

Gordon presented the prioritized goals from the Council's recommendation. He made one change by moving the airshed goal to the long-term goals due to comments from the County Commissioners at the joint meeting in February.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by C. Schorer to adopt the 2006-2007 Council goals as prioritized by the Council. 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.

2.5 Approve 2004-2005 Audit

Gordon reported that this audit is fairly good and would have been a clean audit had it been prior to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 34. GASB 34 requires governmental agencies to keep record of all assets and infrastructure of the City. During 2002 the City had all of the assets entered into a database system; however, it has not been updated since then. The City recognizes the need to clean up the records and is hoping to complete this project during the next fiscal year.

The second comment by the auditor concerned the timelines for bank reconciliation. This has been resolved and the February 2006 bank reconciliation was completed today.

The third comment pertained to the amount of grants that the City had this year. The auditor is suggesting that an individual person be hired and assigned as grant coordinator. Currently each department head manages all the paperwork of each grant it administers. Gordon believes we can continue with this current process of administration.

Gordon read aloud a separate letter from the auditor resigning as the auditor of the City of Oakridge. The letter indicated that this stems from retirement issues of several senior staff at the audit firm. This auditor has been doing the audit for nineteen (19) years. Gordon said that staff would put out a request for proposal over the next few months.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by G. Fortune to accept the Audit for 2004-2005. D. Shields (Aye), L. Chapman (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), and G. Fortune (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

2.6 Library Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Gordon explained the lengthy process that the City has gone through to submit the application. The City had eleven items to clarify and successfully did by the required deadline. Last week the grantor sent a letter of denial because the City provides library cards to citizens outside the City limits. The grantor said that the City would have to do an income survey to include these people to verify that the overall level of income is still 51% or greater of low to moderate income households. Another option that the grantor is offering is that the City would need to implement a policy by March 31 that would allow only Oakridge residents to obtain a library card. This would have to stay in effect for five years per grant requirements. The policy would need to be

implemented by the date of the grant acceptance. He would like direction from the Council on whether they want him to create this policy or start the process of a salary survey and reapply for the grant at a later date. This action would not restrict outside City limits citizens from using the library, it would just not allow for checkout of items.

Motion by Mayor Bond and seconded by R. Clark to direct staff to implement policy to allow only Oakridge residents to acquire a library card. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ORDINANCE 885 FENCES, HEDGES, WALLS, AND OTHER STRUCTURES

1.1 Staff Report

Kevin Urban reported that there are a few issues with the current ordinance that need clarification. The current policy does not define a "front yard" clearly and the height of fences that partially obscures sight needs to be more precise. The current ordinance says that an owner could move ten feet back from the front property line and erect a six-foot stockade fence across the front yard. The changes recommended by the Planning Commission will define that any front yard fence needs to be less than four feet. A field of experts known as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design has been refining the best practice in this area since the 1970's and it believes lower fences help in crime prevention. Residents currently with a larger fence whether it is natural coverage or a fence would be grandfathered in and would not have to remove or change their current yards.

1.2 Arguments in Favor

Police Chief Louis Gomez said this is a good idea for several reasons. One of the main reasons is for effective police patrol and reduction in burglaries. A short fence gives the officers an ability to drive by easily and see any criminal activity in progress.

1.3 Arguments in Opposition

None.

1.4 General Comments

Pete Potter, 47630 W. 2nd Street, Oakridge: He asked for clarification about whether his cyclone fence and natural foliage would have to be modified.

Councilor Fortune responded that he would be grandfathered in and would not have to make any changes.

John Cape, 47776 W 2nd Street, Oakridge: He asked for clarification that with this ordinance the City would be telling citizens that they could not build a fence larger than four feet. He then asked if the City would also stop citizens from planting trees in their yard, as his own hedge is taller than four feet. He feels this is not fair to the privacy of a citizen.

Kevin responded that existing shrubs would be grandfathered in. The City would not stop someone from planting trees; however, they would be required to maintain the trees by trimming the limbs four feet up from the ground. This is already in the current ordinance.

Gordon Zimmerman reiterated the current rules of the ordinance in detail for front yards and side yard fencing requirements.

Kevin stated that variances are still available to citizens that do not have a backyard and need to fence in the front yard for privacy.

1.5 Council Discussion

Councilor Schorer stated that she does not see the need to have more clarification to this ordinance. She feels that if someone were going to burglarize a house it would likely happen in the back yard anyway.

Councilor Chapman said that this is a good idea especially for crime prevention.

Councilor Clark stated that most of this is already in the ordinance and that the clarification is a great idea.

Kevin stated that the City does have a code enforcement officer for enforcing complaints.

Councilor Schorer asked why this is coming up now. She asked if residents are complaining.

Gordon responded that new construction is occurring and these are the types of questions that residents are asking about. Because the ordinance is not clarified enough, the residents are arguing with the City on how high a fence can be.

Mayor Bond closed the public hearing.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Adopt Ordinance 885 Fences, Hedges, Walls, and Other Structures

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by D. Hampton to approve the first reading of Ordinance 885 by title only. R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), L. Chapman (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), and D. Shields (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Gordon Zimmerman proceeded to read the ordinance by title only.

3.2 Region 2050 Discussion

Gordon explained that because the City of Springfield is withdrawing from the Region 2050 process, the committee needs confirmation from the other cities to continue with the process without Springfield. Gordon is not sure why Springfield does not want to continue except that its Council believes that this program would somehow negatively impact Springfield. Gordon believes Region 2050 could benefit our community because it would expand the urban growth boundary (UGB). This would allow for more development in the City.

Councilor Chapman read in the paper about the City of Springfield and she felt from the article that Springfield does not want to participate because they feel that growth will control the ability to expand the UGB rather than the Region 2050 plan.

Gordon responded that the Region 2050 plan is only a plan. Springfield is concerned because they are trying to get more farmland within their UGB. They believe they can expand the UGB further because of this. He continued to say that Oakridge is projected to reach 13,000 people by 2050, but with our current UGB lines we cannot. Oakridge will need to expand the boundaries before the people can come. Many other small communities are in the same situation as Oakridge.

Councilor Fortune pointed out that he read that the projected number for Oakridge is 17,000 by 2050. He feels Springfield is pulling out because of the ongoing feud with Eugene.

Councilor Hampton said he thinks it would be good for us to stay in the process because of the flexibility that the City can have. He feels the other communities are being victimized by this feud between Eugene and Springfield. The Springfield Council is being very controlling of its city and he thinks it is trying to create its own identity.

Councilor Fortune said that if you have available land you are not going to be able to stop development.

Councilor Hampton said that growth has been expanding too quickly in some places and if proper planning is not done then corrections will need to be completed later at a cost to the citizens.

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by G. Fortune to continue the City of Oakridge's participation in the Region 2050 process. L. Chapman (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), D. Shields (Aye), and R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

3.3 Park Survey

Kevin Urban reported that the City recently received a Department of Land Conservation and Development grant for park planning. Part of this grant is to conduct a park survey. Kevin presented the survey that he compiled for Oakridge residents to fill out. A follow-up survey will go out later for citizens outside the City limits as well as visitors to complete. The results of these surveys will help get the data required for future grants for park equipment.

Councilor Chapman said she would like to see this survey go out to the children at the schools.

Councilor Hampton and Mayor Bond stated that legally we are not allowed to reach children through the schools.

The Council is pleased with the survey and told Kevin to proceed with the distribution through the weekly flyer.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Jerry Shorey has a Lane County Fire Transport meeting to attend today. The wildlife protection plan is proceeding for water source development in Lane County. A few months ago there was an emergency meeting with Linda Cook and some small rural areas were not notified. Chief Murray of Springfield agreed to start a committee to provide feedback to others for the process. Jerry plans to participate on the committee for the emergency planning process.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Hampton attended the Trails Committee meeting and discovered that the committee is farther ahead in planning than they expected they would be. The committee presented the plan to connect trails at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC) meeting. On the morning of April 18th the committee will make a presentation to the Kiwanis Club. That evening the committee will have an open house at Greenwaters Park from 6:00-8:00 PM to present the plan and proposed maps and ideas for connecting the parks, schools, and trails. The owner of Trillium Gardens in Dexter presented the other discussion at the MFWWC meeting. Her specialty is in the sale of natural and native plants. Councilor Hampton said that we have purchased plants from her in the past for Diamond Park.

Councilor Fortune reported that Councilor Hampton has been appointed to the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Budget Committee.

Mayor Bond attended a Lane Council of Governments meeting. Mayor Weathers of Lowell thinks that the economic development group, which includes Lane Metro Partnership, the standing Committee of Commissioners, and a few others, is overlapping in their efforts. Mayor Weathers, Commissioner Morrison, and Mayor Bond will be meeting to determine if there will be an overlap or not. She continued to say that the bidding process for the Regional Investment Board is now open. If anyone knows of a business looking to locate here he/she should inform him or her of this.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property Negotiations

The Council convened into executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property Negotiations at 8:27 p.m.

Executive session ended and Council reconvened in open session at 8:51 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor Bond adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council April 6, 2006.

Signed: _____
S. Sue Bond, Mayor Date

Attest: _____
Chantell R. Hayson, City Recorder Date