

**May 18, 2006
City Council Regular Session
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
Carina Schorer
Don Hampton
Rayetta Clark

Council Absent: Dawn Shields
Leah Chapman
Glenn Fortune

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

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- 2.2 Library
- 3.2 Community Garden

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1 Minutes of Regular Session of May 4, 2006
- 1.2 Resolution 8-2006 Audit Corrective Actions
- 1.3 Friends of Theater Arts Sign Permit

Motion by D. Hampton and seconded by R. Clark to approve the consent agenda. C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), D. Hampton (Aye), and R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Needs and Issues

Gordon explained that the County has decided to do a needs and issues survey of the top five priorities in each City. He said he received an email two weeks ago from Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) who has been delegated the responsibility of collecting the rural area projects and prioritization for the County. Gordon reviewed the 2006-2007 Council Goals and identified the top five items that are not funded as consideration for the request. He would like to know if the Council agrees with his prioritization or would like to make changes. He believes this could be a good source of funding and the work to submit is minimal. He will be attending a Lane Economic Committee meeting in June to present the list. He continued to say that whatever order they are listed in will be how they review the document.

Mayor Bond said the last she heard is that the State is not funding this. She said there has been a lot of talk at LCOG about continuing with this process even though the State has said they will not fund it. Her understanding is that they are not funding any part of Needs and Issues. She would like clarification before Gordon puts too much effort into the process.

Gordon said he understands that the State is not funding the process, but the City has to be on a local list of Needs and Issues to be considered for funding from Federal agencies.

Mayor Bond repeated that the State is not even going to have the list.

Gordon agreed that the State is not, but it is now at a County level and will be asking if the requests are on a list.

Mayor Bond is concerned with the amount of effort this will take, but if Gordon feels it is going to be productive, then it is okay to continue.

Councilor Hampton asked if Gordon knows who is providing the funds and for what projects.

Gordon replied that he does not know and will not know until they ask to see the list.

Councilor Hampton suggested that Gordon try to find out where the money is coming from so that the list can be prioritized based on that even though it may not be prioritized the way the City currently has them.

Mayor Bond asked if that info is available before it is common knowledge.

Gordon said that there are so many programs and different scenarios that he is not sure what questions to ask.

Councilor Hampton said to keep in mind that most projects are funded by more than one of the agencies and they will collaborate together. The rating and priority in some cases is meaningless.

Gordon agreed but they will look at certain items immediately and not fund them such as Wi-Fi.

Council Hampton then said that they used to prioritize in several different categories and then changed to a single format.

Gordon said there were several levels including infrastructure, community development, and economic development, but it all may be one prioritization now.

Mayor Bond said it might have changed since the last time with the change in leadership.

Councilor Hampton said it would be important to know the prejudices of the LEC (LCOG Economic Committee) and the State. For instance, if job creation is still a top priority, then we would want to spend our time on the process only if we have something to support this.

Mayor Bond is convinced that this would be a waste of time and she does not want staff doing this when there are other important issues to deal with.

Gordon said that is a good point because the staff has a lot already to do this year.

Councilor Hampton said that having an ongoing list year after year does carry some weight in the process so even if we don't get funds, it could be good to proceed with the process.

Councilor Schorer asked if the list seems to be in a good order.

Councilor Hampton reiterated that the list should go in order based on where the money is coming from if that can be determined first.

Kevin Urban mentioned reviewing the figures on the spreadsheet.

Councilor Hampton would like to give the City Administrator the authority to reorder the items based on what he sees fit after a little research on who is funding the project. Council gave consensus to that direction.

2.2 Library

Gordon read an email from Jackie Yoder of the Oregon Economic Community Development Department that says that the City has been approved for the \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to build a new library. He expects the bidding process to open in about four months with the concrete pouring starting around October. He hopes to see the project nearing completion by July 2007.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Second Reading and Approval of Ordinance No. 886: Levying Assessments for West Second Street LID

Councilor Clark noted that the projects are substantially completed with only street trees and lighting to be finished. She asked “aren’t the lights also supposed to be on Rainbow Road, and yet they are not there.”

Gordon said it is in the next fiscal year’s budget to finish the projects.

Councilor Clark said she understands, but she is receiving calls about when the project will be completed. It bothers her that we are asking them to pay for assessments when the work is not completed.

Gordon explained that there have been some delays with coordination of the two separate projects, but Councilor Clark is correct in that they both need to be finished in a timely manner. He noted that he, too, has been receiving calls from the residents.

Councilor Clark said that you would not take your car to a mechanic for a tire change and accept only three lug nuts on your tire as a completed job. So why should we expect these folks to accept paying on a street that is not completed?

Chantell Hayson said that the bills will go out on around June and the first payment will be due in six months.

Councilor Clark and Schorer clarified the timeline of the bills to understand that the first payment would not be due before the project is actually completed.

Kevin Urban said he hopes to finish the project by this year but can’t promise that.

Councilor Clark said okay but at least to make sure Rainbow is finished if not both of them.

Motion by C. Schorer and seconded by D. Hampton to adopt Ordinance 886 after being read the second time by title only. D. Hampton (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), and C. Schorer (Aye). Motion carried 4-0.

3.2 Community Garden

Kevin reported that he was approached by local resident Danielle Cleveringa, a master gardener, to create a community garden in Oakridge where residents could maintain their own plots. She would like to know if it is allowed and where it may be created. Kevin has thought this over and thinks a good location would be on some city property located just southwest of the City's well fields. This location would have two access points; one from an alley and the other from Y Drive. Kevin and Danielle agreed that this would be a good southern exposure location and possibly could be coordinated with the Upper Willamette Community Development Corporation for possible distribution of leftover foods to the Food Box and the Food for Lane County programs in Oakridge.

Councilor Hampton discussed the history of a former community garden that was sponsored by his church. He said that this type of project takes a lot of work and the problem was that no one in particular was in charge. This ultimately led to the failure of the garden. His other issue will pertain to water access. He would like to know where it is going to come from and who would pay for it. He is in favor of the project but wants to make sure these issues are addressed before proceeding. He mentioned also that a fence would be needed to keep out animals.

Kevin said the City has some unused water rights on Salmon Creek and he needs to look into that further. He continued to say that since the well fields are right there, city water would be easily accessible. He said a fence would have to be constructed to keep out animals and he is looking into that as well.

Gordon asked how big the garden was at the church.

Councilor Hampton said it covered two lots but was not fully utilized. He is not sure why the project was not successful, but it probably had to do with leadership.

Councilor Schorer asked about the property along Osprey Park that had been cleared along the bike trail. She is thinking that this location may also be a place to put it.

Kevin said that part that was cleared and is going to be planted with trees so it would not be a good location for a garden. He said he has also looked at some other locations, but like Osprey Park a master plan is going to be created. He said right now the land mentioned is not on a master plan to put something, such as a ballpark, and that is why it is a good location at this time.

Councilor Clark asked if the City would be helping to build this garden.

Kevin responded that the City has a lot to do right now and might help when it can.

Council consensus agreed to proceed with researching this project further.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Gomez attended a meeting in Eugene and realized that all the equipment bought last year for communication needs to be updated to stay current. In about two weeks the 911 systems are being updated to give latitude and longitude within thirty yards of where you are calling from on a cell phone. He said if you were in a moving car it would update every twenty seconds. Oregon Emergency Management will be working with the Lane Council of Government to insure the updates are done appropriately. He is also sending some officers to Emergency Vehicle Safety Training that will teach them to drive a car safely at high speeds.

Councilor Hampton asked Chief Gomez to talk about the upcoming Safety Night.

Chief Gomez said it is on May 25th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the High School. A number of agencies including the Fire Department, Police Department, Red Cross, and local banks will be participating. Posters will be going up in the community this weekend.

Councilor Hampton mentioned that the banks will be covering identity theft issues.

Chief Shorey said FireMed applications have been mailed to last year's members with a letter of explanation and they are already coming in. Another suggestion was made after they mailed out the applications to include the applications in the weekly Dead Mountain Echo flyer. He suggested that next year they will do it that way instead.

Councilor Schorer said that they should also put a message up on the reader board at the Fire Department.

Jerry said that is a good idea and would look into that.

Gordon said he thinks Jerry should go ahead and mail the applications this year in the flyer even if it duplicates 800. He said the cost of printing would be covered if only four people signed up and that could be very likely.

Jerry agreed and said they would get that out next week. He said the Fire Department has been swamped this last week in calls especially on car wrecks and fires. Today was a no burn day and they have been had to put out a few fires already. They have also been working on water safety and will be presenting this information at the Safety Fair.

Councilor Schorer asked when the official date is to stop burning.

Gordon said the LRAPA target is June 15th.

Jerry said he was unable to make a Fire Defense Board Meeting that would have covered this. He would check into that further.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Clark reported that Mayor Bond, Councilor Hampton, and she have been attending the Oakridge UPBEAT training with the Sirolli Institute for the new Enterprise Facilitator.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

Mayor Bond adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council June 15, 2006.

Signed: _____
S. Sue Bond, Mayor Date

Attest: _____
Chantell R. Hayson, City Recorder Date