

December 7, 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, arrived at 7:10
Rayetta Clark
Criss Steiner
Amy Kordosky
Glenn Fortune

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

2.0 CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Karla D. Hurst, 48228 Hwy 58 #52, Oakridge: Miss Hurst has come this evening to inform the community of her expertise in creating, training, and maintaining a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Through a series of eight units, a person is trained on how to respond to different disasters such as fire, earthquakes, floods, etc. After an initial disaster, the CERT teams would take care of the community needs until the first responders could arrive. This would include locating and moving injured and/or seniors to a safe location. She said this is very important for every community to have in place before a disaster strikes and anyone from the age of eight to eighty can be a member of a CERT. Oakridge does not yet have CERT's in place and Miss Hurst noted how important this is based on the results of the hurricanes in the South. She said it is very important that we learn to take care of ourselves for the immediate response following a disaster. Grants could be received to help train people that are interested in forming a CERT. She also has a booklet and website address for more information for those interested in starting a CERT.

Mayor Bond thanked Miss Hurst for providing this information.

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Minutes of Regular Session of November 16, 2006
- 4.2 Certification of Election Results

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

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Gordon Zimmerman presented outgoing Councilor Steiner and Mayor Bond with a Certificate of Appreciation for their participation on the City Council. Councilor Steiner has been on the Council since being appointed in September and Mayor Bond has been on the City Council for fourteen years as a Councilor and Mayor.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 6.1 ECONorthwest Grant Contract

Kevin Urban reminded the Council of a grant award of \$12,000 from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for an economic opportunity analysis, particularly as it relates to tourism. The DLCD has approved ECONorthwest as the contracted planning agency. The contract with ECONorthwest now needs to be approved by the Council to proceed.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by G. Fortune to authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract with ECONorthwest. A. Kordosky (Aye), C. Steiner (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Bond (Aye), and G. Fortune (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

7.0 POLICE SERVICES

Police Chief Gomez updated the Council on the complaints submitted by Mr. John Ryon. Chief Gomez said the department is working with several of the people to allow them enough time to comply with the notices that were given.

Mayor Bond asked where the department is in developing the amendments to the animal ordinance.

Chief Gomez said he has worked on tightening the animal neglect piece with Councilor Clark's information and is starting to work on the limits.

8.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief Jerry Shorey reported that there would be some training for First Responders (50 hours) beginning in January. This will help improve the ranks of the staff and volunteers in Oakridge as well as comply with requirements. After the First Responder class is done in April, an EMT Basic class (150 hours) will be offered at the Fire Hall.

Gordon said that if anyone is interested in this training, he/she should contact Jerry.

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None.

10.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Fortune explained that there will be an article coming out in the Register Guard about the dissolution of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA). He would like to know what the Council's position would be on this matter. He said the chairman of LRAPA made a statement that Springfield and other cities may be interested in dissolving the agency. Councilor Fortune was surprised to hear this because Oakridge was noted as one of those cities, a fact which was news to him. He wants to know how the Council feels about this and if it would be in support of the dissolution of the agency.

Mayor Bond asked Councilor Fortune when this question was asked of him.

Councilor Fortune said it was two days ago.

Gordon noted that even if the agency dissolves that would not stop Oakridge from the current practice of monitoring the air quality, maintaining equipment, and enforcing City Ordinances. It would result in the City having to respond to citizen phone calls/complaints and enforcement. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would also step in to ensure compliance. He feels that the DEQ would not be as responsive as LRAPA has been for the citizens and the City. LRAPA has done a lot of good things for Oakridge in the last few years with such projects as woodstove replacements. He is not sure what would be gained for the City except that it would no longer have to pay a membership fee to LRAPA.

Mayor Bond said the last \$350,000 grant that the City received for housing rehabilitation was partly due to the data and work done by LRAPA. She understands that there are a lot of complaints about LRAPA from individuals but she would not want to see them go for all of the good work that they have done for the community.

Gordon said he is not sure if this will solve anything because there is no supporting data for this accusation.

Mayor Bond asked Councilor Fortune where this was coming from.

Councilor Fortune said it is coming from Dave Ralston of the Springfield City Council, although he does not think it is necessarily just he who is coming up with this idea. Because the composition of the board is made up with Eugene having four positions that seem to be filled by personnel who want to stop total pollution emissions, it has caused issues with the board. For instance, there was a situation where Egge Sand and Gravel was fined for creating dust on a particular road. There are many other small instances that have targeted particular businesses as well where the fine structure is not very clear. It seems to him that some of these board members want to run LRAPA in detail rather than just setting policy as originally defined. He said it was news to him about Springfield taking this position. This will be his last month on the board. He said Springfield would not likely initiate this because Lane County will have to hop on board first. At this point, it is likely just talk. He thinks the composition of the board is unbalanced and in order to change this, the bylaws would need to be changed through the state legislature.

Councilor Hampton said it is hard to be popular and be an enforcement agency. Without LRAPA Oakridge would not have known how to comply with the federal regulations. He said it is very easy for the federal government to require compliance but his experience is that there is not a lot of help from those levels. He thinks this idea of eliminating LRAPA comes up every so often because it is the last remaining local air regulation organization that some people think is unnecessary. It is the difference of having somebody locally to help you versus someone at the state or federal level. He believes we get more assistance through LRAPA. He said Springfield has been on a "let's do it all ourselves" kick and this could be why it is filtering from there.

Councilor Fortune mentioned that the Eugene/Springfield area recently had a yellow alert day while Oakridge had a green day. To add follow-up to his conversation he said the LRAPA board is thinking of sending a letter that would urge legislators to support a ban on field burning in Oregon. He said three of the board members did not like how the letter was crafted but they were the minority. This would only affect a few people rather than all people and that does not make sense to him. He said we tend to allow entities like the Forest Service who slash burn and farmers who do tilling to not be penalized while others are for less pollution. He said somewhere along the line the things you do have to make sense and this does not make sense to him.

Councilor Clark said, "I would like to congratulate the new members of our City Council and welcome them aboard. For those not elected, please continue to use all your positive energy; there are so many ways this community can benefit from your time and efforts on committees, boards, and volunteer groups; and we always need your help and input. I would like to take a moment to commend our outgoing Mayor, Sue Bond. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with her for the last five years. Her commitment to this community is undeniable. There have been so many forward strides for our city during her time as Mayor. We have had a council who worked together and along with an exceptional staff, things are getting done. I know for Sue this is not an end but only a new beginning--so watch out--here she comes."

Mayor Bond wanted to thank everyone for the last fourteen years and said that it has been really great. She really wants to thank this Council and it pleases her to see how well Councilors have worked together and the advancements they have made. She said the Council has done a terrific job and she is very proud of each member. She also thanked the staff and said the Council could not have done it without them. With the creativity, innovation, and consistency it has really made the Council's job much easier. A lot of projects that she did not believe could be accomplished have been done because of the staff efforts. She personally thanked Gordon Zimmerman for the last year and said he has done an outstanding job. She said he is an inspiration to us all.

11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORS 192.660 (2) d Labor Negotiations

The Council convened into executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (D) Labor Negotiations at 7:25 p.m.

Executive session ended and Council reconvened in open session at 7:36 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mayor Bond adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council January 4, 2007.

Signed: _____
Donald E. Hampton, Mayor Date

Attest: _____
Chantell R. Steiner, City Recorder Date