

March 15, 2007
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

Council Present: Donald Hampton, Mayor
Rayetta Clark, Council President
Carina Schorer
Dan Rehwalt
Randy Dreiling
Amy Kordosky
Glenn Fortune

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

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Phillips, 47699 W. 2nd Street, Oakridge: Mr. Phillips commended City Recorder Chantell Steiner for working with him to correct his statements in the minutes of March 1, 2007. He also commended Joy Kingsbury for the great job that she does on reporting council meeting activities in the newspaper.

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of Regular Session of March 1, 2007

Council took a few minutes to review the changes that were made by the Recorder to reflect accurate statements made by Dean Phillips.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to approve the consent agenda to include the minutes with the requested changes. C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Hampton

(Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), and A. Kordosky (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

5.1 Tree Planting Princesses Presentation

Tree Planting Court Coordinator Linda Keller introduced the four tree planting princesses. Each princess gave a small speech about herself and her community involvement. Princesses included Samantha Boyd, Samantha Hardy, Zoe Skordahl, and Cassie Parrish. Council and citizens present voted for their choice for the Tree Planting Queen.

5.2 Adoption of Council Goals

Gordon presented the Council with an updated version of the goals to include two final Council members' votes. He said these goals are organized based on how the Council individually categorized and prioritized each one. He said there are a lot of goals this year but the staff will do as much as it can based on the resources available.

Mayor Hampton noted that the process of prioritizing the goals is difficult because it is hard to compare such things as finishing work at the industrial park versus fixing a street. He thinks that the next process will need to have more categories that have goals related to that category rather than just having general short-term, long-term and administrative goals.

Councilor Fortune agreed that there should be more specific categories and then prioritizing within those categories.

Mayor Hampton said some of the goals that are at the bottom of the lists could also be followed up by individual councilors. He said he would support a councilor taking on any of these goals even if the City is not working on that goal at that time.

Motion by R. Dreiling and seconded by G. Fortune to adopt the goals presented and prioritized by the Council for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008. R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), and C. Schorer (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Hampton suggested that councilors keep and review these goals often to ensure that we are staying on track as far as progress.

Councilor Fortune recommended putting them on a large list in the Council Chambers so they could be marked off when accomplished.

Gordon noted that he also does the quarterly update to address the goals.

Mayor Hampton asked that Gordon notify the Council when a particular goal is completed.

5.3 Acceptance of Audit

Mayor Hampton said that he would prefer the Council vote on the audit after it has had more time to consider the data. He directed staff to add this to the next agenda.

5.4 Approval of Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce Transient Room Tax Distribution Recommendation

Councilor Dreiling noted an actual conflict of interest and would refrain from voting on the following motion.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by C. Schorer to approve the distribution of the transient room tax funds received from CVALCO (Convention and Visitors Association in Lane County) as recommended by the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce Board. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), and Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Hampton noted that there were no public members that attended the meeting, although it was advertised according to Rustie Ackland. He said the Chamber Board members were the only ones present to make the recommendations.

5.5 First Reading of Ordinance 887 Amending Ordinance 680 to Allow Mayor to Vote

Mayor Hampton noted that if the ordinance is very long, it is normal to have someone read the ordinance by title only.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by R. Dreiling to read Ordinance 887 by title only. R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), and D. Rehwalt (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by G. Fortune to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 887, amending Ordinance No. 680, to allow the mayor to vote on all issues placed before the Council. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), and Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 Appointment of Planning Commissioners

Mayor Hampton asked the Council what process they would choose to use to make the appointments.

Councilor Rehwalt suggested using the process of tallying all seven Councilors answers on the board so the total votes for all could be seen before appointing. He also would like to ask each of the applicants' an additional question.

Councilor Dreiling noted that he also had a question to ask each of the applicants.

The Council proceeded to ask several questions of each member and listened intently to each of their answers. Mayor Hampton noted that this was going to be a difficult appointment because there are seven excellent applicants. He asked those present that if they do not get appointed tonight, would they be willing to serve the City in another capacity. All of them expressed interest for involvement with the City.

Councilor Fortune suggested that the Council use the process of just nominating applicants individually and voting on them.

Mayor Hampton proceeded to allow Councilors to make individual motions for appointment.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by A. Kordosky to appoint Larry Phipps to the Oakridge Planning Commission. A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), and R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by D. Rehwalt and seconded by R. Clark to appoint Pat Harmon to the Oakridge Planning Commission. C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Nay), R. Clark (Aye), and A. Kordosky (Aye). Motion carried 6-1.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by A. Kordosky to appoint Criss Steiner to the Oakridge Planning Commission. R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), and C. Schorer (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by D. Rehwalt to appoint Keith Leavitt to the Oakridge Planning Commission. Mayor Hampton (Aye), A. Kordosky (Nay), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Nay), C. Schorer (Aye), and D. Rehwalt (Aye). Motion carried 5-2.

6.2 Highway 58 Refinement Plan Discussion

Councilor Rehwalt reminded the Council that he would like to create an ad hoc committee to start reviewing the process.

Mayor Hampton noted that the historical summary presented by Mr. Zimmerman is excellent. He said the summary is well known by the Council but will need to be made available to the public. It will be good to have an ODOT representative at future

meetings because the ones present in the past have had conflicting answers. We need to know the parameters of the project and the facts need to be stated clearly. He would also like to see the maps that were presented at the public hearing with the Planning Commission at a future meeting. Having this information all in one place at one time will be the best way for the Council to make a decision on this matter.

Councilor Dreiling started off by saying that there have been twelve meetings over the last few years that were publicized. He has heard the complaints about medians and would like to see this clarified that it is not the intent of the plan. There may be some islands along the highway, but there will be no medians. He continued to address the comment from the last Council meeting where Mr. Phillips stated that the staff is driving this project. He said this is absolutely not true and this has been a Council goal for at least the last three fiscal years. He noted that a few of the current Councilors were here when it began and were involved in many of those first meetings.

Mayor Hampton said that we need to reflect on what will happen if we do or don't do this plan and he wants an ODOT representative present to answer this. He said it would be nice if ODOT would not do the work if that were what the community prefers, but he believes that is just wishful thinking. He prefers that the City review and make recommendations to ODOT since they are allowing us the opportunity. He hopes this decision can be made with at least one more public meeting so the community can be heard.

Councilor Rehwalt reminded the Council that beautification could be done without changing the make-up of the highway. He said the highway would look much more appealing if some minor work such as painting and cleaning up was done. He noted that there are places that do need sidewalks and that should be fixed. He hopes that one more meeting will help to bring in more input from the community. He suggested that the committee include two council members and two community members that have no tremendous or tainted opinion on the matter. He said that if we move carefully and swiftly then hopefully we can arrive at a plan that has the community's support.

Mayor Hampton said he would like to add to Councilor Rehwalt's comments and request an ODOT representative be present. He wants to hear from a current ODOT representative what guidelines are required and what options exist.

Councilor Rehwalt suggested including someone from the trucking industry because they will have a large impact on what can be done.

Councilor Dreiling said he thinks we will need more time than just one meeting.

Mayor Hampton said the meeting might have to be set a few months in advance to allow for all the representatives to be invited. He wants to see this event well advertised and attended by as many as possible.

Councilor Fortune noted that a few of the councilors, including him, attended all of the meetings. He said the new councilors might need to hear all of the information that the other councilors already know before proceeding.

Mayor Hampton appointed the Public Services Committee as the ad hoc committee. He said the committee could add as many people as it chooses to be on the ad hoc committee. He wants the committee to figure out who the ODOT representative is and be sure to invite him/her to the meeting along with any other representatives including the public, the Council, and the Planning Commission members. He expects to have a recommendation from this committee after they have had the town hall meeting.

7.0 POLICE SERVICES

None.

8.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

None.

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Fortune attended the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency meeting. He said they are working on strategic planning at this time.

Councilor Dreiling said the Trails Committee would meet again next week.

Councilor Rehwalt attended the Library Board meeting and reviewed the timeline for the new library that should be completed around December 2007. He said this is a great committee with good fellowship and he looks forward to going back. He continued to say that he attended a wonderful session put on by the League of Oregon Cities called Governing 101. He said it was very information and he learned a lot of good information. He plans to attend more training in the future.

Councilor Clark said the Council Administrative Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 26th at City Hall.

Mayor Hampton was recently appointed to the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Executive Committee and the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Steering Committee. These appointments will help give Oakridge a "presence" where we have not had one before.

Mayor Hampton said the County is preparing an emergency plan for what it calls "vulnerable populations." These would include seniors, tourists, and several other groups that will need special attention if there is a natural disaster. He was the only elected official that attended, and he recommended that more elected officials be invited to future meetings.

Mayor Hampton attended the Read Across America event at the Oakridge Elementary School. He said this event went much better than in the past and was very successful. He thanked the Library Board for being one of the supporting forces.

10.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Dreiling noted that he plans to work very hard on this Highway 58 Project. He has not formed a personal opinion on the project yet, but wants everyone to know that he will take the time to listen and try to make sure all of the information is presented fairly and factually.

Councilor Schorer said she is anxious to get the proper information out and to hear from ODOT as to what the plans can or cannot be.

Mayor Hampton said there would be an annual hazardous waste clean-up this Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm at the Dexter Fire Hall. If you have questions about what is hazardous, it is on the county website for review.

Mayor Hampton reported that LCOG is working on offering a training for elected officials to be held in Eugene. He said the time will be announced when finalized and there will likely be several representatives present to ask questions. He said every time he has attended one of these trainings he has learned something new.

Mayor Hampton informed everyone that the Oregon Mayor's Association has a yearly contest called, "If I were the Mayor." Elementary students can enter a poster and the High School Students do essay writing. He is not sure about the Middle School students.

Gordon noted that he is not sure either, but he did forward the information to the superintendent via e-mail.

Mayor Hampton said he would choose the winner in each age-group for Oakridge and then forward those onto the OMA for submission at the annual League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Conference. He said he would like to give a prize to the local winners from the City and noted that the prize for winning the statewide contest is a laptop computer. He advises students interested in this to write about current local issues.

Mayor Hampton said he had made several comments in his State of the City speech that he feels should be included in the Emergency Plan. He said the lady who runs the senior meals said to him, "As site coordinator, she would be happy to contribute to the community emergency plan that includes senior concerns and interests." He said the first thing that pops into his mind is Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). He hopes to see the community get these into place because all emergency action cannot be done entirely by City emergency service personnel.

ADJOURN

