

April 5, 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
City Recorder Chantell Steiner
Fire Chief Jerry Shorey

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Phipps, 47744 Portal Drive, Oakridge: Mr. Phipps noted that the Fireworks Committee would be meeting to discuss the lack of funding and not being able to have the fireworks show this year. It was noted that \$750 is coming from Westfir, \$750 from the Transient Room Tax Funds and \$500 from Mr. Phipps. Of the \$5,000 needed this leaves a gap of \$3,000. In order to sign the contract, he will need to have that amount obligated or donated. He believes the contract should have been signed by last week.

Dean Phillips, 47699 W. 2nd Street, Oakridge: "I have been attending these council meetings on a fairly regular basis for the last, slightly over, two years. The experience has been an education in and of itself. It has been enjoyable. It's been morose. It's been humorous. It's been disappointing. It's been informative, and it's been frustrating. Today however, the emotion is indescribable for two distinct reasons. Both of them are directly related to the article in the recent Dead Mountain Echo entitled, "Highway 58, A Look Back and the Look Forward," from the Oakridge City Council. The two things that I want to say first is that this ad makes it pretty obvious that the 'modus operandi' of the old city council has already been dictated to the new elected council members, and I am sure you all know what that means. Secondly, if this high-powered sales pitch is really the mission of the City Council, and it evidently is because it was put out by the City Council, wouldn't you think the citizenry may be wondering why you are trying to put them through the absurd pretence of wanting their input for either the third or the fourth time?" He thanked the Council for listening to his speech.

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Hampton added item 4.3, a request for waiver of park fees for the Oakridge Kiwanis Club Easter egg hunt this weekend.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Minutes of Regular Session of Mar. 15, 2007
- 4.2 Request for Waiver of WAC fee from Cub Scouts
- 4.3 Request for Waiver of Park fees from Oakridge Kiwanis Club

Mayor Hampton pulled Item 4.2 for Councilor Rehwalt's question.

Motion by C. Schorer and seconded by R. Clark to approve the consent agenda with items 4.1 and 4.3. 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.

Councilor Rehwalt asked what the fee would be for the Cub Scouts and was told that it is \$10.00.

Mayor Hampton noted that this fee is traditionally waived for the Cub Scouts.

Motion by R. Clark and seconded by R. Dreiling to approve item 4.2. Mayor Hampton (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), and D. Rehwalt (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- 5.1 Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 887 Amending Ordinance 680 to Allow Mayor to Vote

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 887 by title only. A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), and G. Fortune (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Fortune proceeded to read Ordinance 887 by title only.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by A. Kordosky to adopt Ordinance No. 887 read by title only, amending Ordinance No. 680, to allow the mayor to vote on all issues placed before the Council. 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.

- 5.2 Acceptance of Audit

Mayor Hampton noted that the Council is accepting the audit rather than approving the audit document for content.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Dreiling to accept the 2005-2006 Audit from Pauly Rogers. 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.

- 5.3 Appointment of Library Board

Motion by R. Dreiling and seconded by R. Clark to nominate William Meyers and Sharon Cameron to the open positions on the Library Board. 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.

5.4 Future Meetings (May 3 Council and May 7 Budget)

The Council discussed the conflict of the Tree Planting Festival activities around the May 3rd Council meeting and the May 7th budget meeting. Council decided to cancel the May 3rd Council meeting, with the option to have a meeting, if necessary, when the Budget Committee meets. Council set the first Budget Committee meeting to begin at 6:00 PM on Monday May 14, 2007.

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to cancel the May 3, 2007 Council meeting. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), C. Schorer (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), and Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

5.5 Budget Committee Appointments

Motion by D. Rehwalt and seconded by A. Kordosky to appoint Sue Bond to the budget committee. 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.

Motion by R. Dreiling to appoint Criss Steiner for the second vacancy.

Councilor Rehwalt noted that it could be a conflict since the wife of Mr. Steiner is the City Finance Director.

A discussion followed by the Mayor and several members of the Council to point out that this is quite common in a smaller community. Mayor Hampton noted the other councilors that also have a conflict with certain pieces of the budget and how it is not a hindrance to the process of the committee. Mr. Steiner would probably need to state a conflict of interest when his wife's salary is discussed, but not the budget as a whole.

Councilor Dreiling noted that he wants to appoint Mr. Steiner over the other applicant because he has showed his interest by attending the meeting this evening.

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

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 Utility Billing Procedure Policy Change

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by R. Clark to approve the addition to our Water and Sewer Policies and Procedures of language concerning the acceptance of checks from customers with a history of previously bad checks that were not honored by their banks. 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.

Councilors were surprised to find that the City had not already had this in place and felt it was necessary to have this language in the policy and procedures.

7.0 POLICE SERVICES

Gordon noted that Police Chief Louis Gomez is attending training with the district attorney this evening.

8.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief Jerry Shorey reported on a public meeting from last night with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service. They were informing people about the urban interface and wildfire protection that has been taking place for some time now. Some of the results of the home assessments were presented last night. They talked about some funding and grants that are available. There will be a follow-up meeting on Saturday April 21, 2007 from 2:00 to 4:00. The same information will be repeated at this meeting. The Forest Service is planning a large 3500-acre fuels reduction project adjacent to Hazeldell and High Prairie involving 80 to 120-year-old timber for fuel reduction.

Mayor Hampton, who also attended the meeting, said he was surprised about the amount of comments relating to Oakridge homes. He said it had to do with the homes that were assessed along West 2nd Street and others that are backed up by forestland and how they are just as vulnerable as homes in the Hazeldell area.

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Fortune said the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) met today to hear the main report from the budget director. There were questions regarding why it takes so long to fine individuals for burning such things as tires and plastic. It was determined that each case must be looked at individually and that increased the time that it takes to review.

Mayor Hampton said the bad news for Oakridge is that the Warm Homes Grant will be expiring and LRAPA does not see any new funds for the future at this time.

Councilor Dreiling attended the Trails Committee meeting and thanked Rod Wood, who was in attendance in the audience, for his \$100 donation for the printing of the Trails Plan. The Trails plan should be out by next week with a 30-day period for public comment.

Councilor Dreiling reported that the Community Services Committee met before this meeting to discuss the Highway 58 public meeting that is scheduled for May 9, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Oakridge High School Auditorium. He noted the two citizens that are working with the committee are John Milandin and Barbara Leary.

Councilor Schorer noted that the Community Services Committee and Planning Commissioner Pat Harmon had also met a week prior with Councilor Rehwalt to learn about techniques on how to conduct a productive public meeting. She said Councilor Rehwalt did a great job and she was very pleased with the information he presented.

The Administration Committee (Councilors Clark and Rehwalt and City Administrator) met with Gordon Zimmerman and discussed the volunteer recognition in Oakridge. They came to the conclusion that most areas of volunteerism already do a fairly good job or recognizing their

volunteers. Councilor Clark noted the annual Fire Department banquet and summer picnic, the Senior Meals Program does a big dinner and picnic for their volunteers, the Chamber and the Kiwanis also honor their volunteers. She said they were not sure about the Food Box so Gordon has sent a letter to Mrs. Hampton to find out. They are also not sure about the Police Reserves. The committee then discussed the issue with the rent and the Senior Lounge. Councilor Clark and Gordon met with members of the Senior Lounge and had a good discussion and came to a resolution. Gordon has written up a contract for them to have on file as well.

Mayor Hampton attended a Fiber Consortia meeting and they are dealing with some financial difficulties. He said the good news for Oakridge is that there are still three companies that are interested in some way to provide broadband service to smaller communities. One of them even said Oakridge is either on their list to be analyzed or has already been analyzed.

Mayor Hampton said the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council has hired an educational coordinator and a person to facilitate projects. The current project is at Elijah Bristow Park where they are removing blackberries and putting back native plants.

Mayor Hampton reported that the Tree Planting Committee met and the informational fliers should be coming out soon. He said there are still some issues with the insurance required of vendors, in particular the craft vendors. He is not sure how this will affect the street fair portion of the event.

10.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Schorer said that the person she wanted to direct her comment to is no longer here this evening. She noted for the record that when Mr. Phillips spoke earlier, he commented about the newly elected councilors, and she wanted to know what he meant by that. She did not understand what he meant and would like to challenge his comment. The other thing she wanted to comment on had to do with his comment about the article in the newspaper being a sales pitch. She said it is not a sales pitch, it is merely stating the facts that have occurred.

Councilor Dreiling continued to agree that it was a fact sheet and it is unfortunate that this happens all the time when statements are made. He said it was put out to give the correct information and was not any type of propaganda. He said there are so many rumors going around so that sheet was put out to clarify the facts only.

Mayor Hampton said the community in general would have an opportunity to get things clarified on May 9th.

Councilor Dreiling noted that the citizens are having a meeting on April 10, 2007 at the Golf Course to discuss Highway 58 and no one from the City or the Oregon Department of Transportation has been invited. Several Councilors noted that they would likely attend it as well.

Mayor Hampton redirected the Council and said that the debate of this topic should be done at the May 9th meeting.

Councilor Rehwalt continued to comment about the article that was referenced in the *Dead Mountain Echo*. He said the article gave a defense for the objections that have been raised for the Highway 58 Plan. You can call it the truth or propaganda but no matter who you are, you

may have read it differently. This is a free country and you can say what you want, but the article must not have been considered newsworthy because it was published like a paid advertisement. However, Councilor Rehwalt believes the method of how the permission was obtained to use the signature was not appropriate. He said next month we will have another meeting to receive input on the Highway 58 Refinement Plan and then the Council will discuss and vote on the issue. The publishing of the article over the signature of the Council compromised the Council's ability to do anything with this. It especially compromised the ability of the committee to hear input because the position of the City Council has already been put in the newspaper as to what it believes. His real objection is that the article was created by the City Administrator and not by the Council. The Council may have edited it a little bit but nothing substantially was changed. Publishing it over the Council's signature at the very least would not pass a smell test in his opinion, and at most, may have been a violation of public meeting law. He said a vote taken by e-mail is not allowed and that was how it was done. You can do it by telephone or speakerphone but not by e-mail. It was a little less than open and he feels it should have been published over the author of the article, which was the City Administrator. The city government including the Council and Staff needs all the credibility it can muster because there is quite a lack of trust in the community right now. The publication of this article was a further erosion of that credibility.

Mayor Hampton noted that his recommendation to that article was that the City Administrator sign it.

Mayor Hampton said he has received two proclamations that he will sign. One is for the National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, which honors the dispatchers that work for the Oakridge Police Department. He also has a request from the Red Hat Society for its annual proclamation.

Mayor Hampton said he would like to be clearer about the volunteer recognition. He was not trying to say that the community does not recognize the volunteers, but rather the Council does not recognize the volunteers. He said as a representative of the City, the Council needs to be actively thanking individuals for their work. He remembers hosting a Council-sponsored barbeque that recognized all community volunteers. He feels the Council needs to take an active role, and if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, he would like to hear them.

Mayor Hampton received a letter from Harold and Mary Beamer about the new lights on Rose and Second Street. He assigned the Community Services Committee to review and respond to their specific questions. He said the committee could take care of this after the Highway 58 meeting if need be, but it should be done in a timely manner.

Mayor Hampton asked if the Council would like to join the Tree Planting Parade in riding on the city fire trucks and ambulances this year.

Chief Shorey requested that if anyone wants to ride then he/she needs to respect the fact that there will be no candy tossing from the vehicles. He said it is a safety issue for the children that could run out into the street. You will be able to walk along the side of the vehicles to mingle and hand candy to the crowd. There will be no riding on the hose beds themselves.

Mayor Hampton reminded the staff that the Statement of Economic Interest is due soon and if someone wants to ask him questions this evening they could.

Councilor Fortune confirmed that the July 5th meeting was cancelled at a prior meeting.

