

August 2, 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 (via speaker phone)
Rayetta Clark, Council President
Dan Rehwalt
Amy Kordosky
Glenn Fortune
Randy Dreiling

Council Excused: Carina Schorer

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

Council President Rayetta Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Phillips, 47699 W 2nd Street, Oakridge: Mr. Phillips read a paragraph to the Council from the Oregon Public Meetings Law that discussed the benefits of the government laws for the government and the public through deliberation.

Councilor Clark thanked Mr. Phillips for his comments.

3.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of Regular Session of July 19, 2007

Motion by G. Fortune and seconded by A. Kordosky to approve the consent agenda. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), and Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

5.1 League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference Registration

Gordon Zimmerman encouraged the Council to complete the registration forms for this annual event and return to Chantell to complete online.

5.2 Solid Waste Rate Request

Gordon introduced Keith and Janice Flack of Oakridge Sani-Haul.

Janice Flack, PO Box 434, Oakridge: Mrs. Flack said that she had received notice last week that the County intends to increase the dump fees by 44%. She noted that there has been no rate increase in Oakridge for eleven years. She said an increase would help to cover the costs of the County fees as well as a small amount for cost of living adjustments for the employees of Oakridge Sani-Haul. She feels the projected increases are as low as possible especially if they are compared to rates of other cities as shown in her documentation. She said this was a very difficult decision because they do not like to raise rates, but it is necessary for the business to continue.

Gordon informed the Council that they could direct staff to have a public hearing at the next meeting that would allow Oakridge Sani-Haul to have the new rates in effect as of September 1st.

Councilor Rehwalt noted that this puts the Council in an odd situation since he noted that his recent waste bill already said there would be a rate increase in September. He is not against the rate increase, but he feels that the Council is being pushed into accepting it based on what was printed before the public hearing.

Motion by D. Rehwalt and seconded by G. Fortune to conduct a public hearing on August 16th to consider the rate increase applied for by Sani-Haul. R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), and D. Rehwalt (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

5.3 Greenwaters Park Alcohol Permit Request for Old Time Radio Show

Gordon said we have a preliminary request for the Old Time Radio Show for alcohol in Greenwaters Park.

Councilor Kordosky and was seconded by R. Dreiling to approve the application from the Parks Projects Committee for an alcohol permit at Greenwaters park on August 24th and 25th.

Mayor Hampton asked for clarification about the liability insurance on whether it would be properly taken care of.

Gordon confirmed that there would not be an issue with the insurance.

Councilor Rehwalt noted that he does not support alcohol being consumed when the only means of transportation is by vehicle. He reiterated the fact that had occurred with the public hearing request in that the flyers were mailed out already stating that there would be alcohol at the event even though the Council had yet to approve the permit. He said this is putting the Council in a bind and is not fair to anyone involved. Based on these facts he urges the Council to vote against the permit.

Councilor Dreiling agreed with Councilor Rehwalt in that it seems to put the Council in a bind and he agreed that the permits should be done well in advance of an event. He felt that it was insulting though to assume that someone will come and drink and not have a designated driver. He also believes that the parks belong to all the taxpayers and many of them do support the alcohol. He does not see an issue with the permit process and the requirements.

Councilor Clark agreed that the event coordinators should be getting the permit before doing any advertising.

Mayor Hampton noted that the permit process and a deadline requirement were assigned as a task for the Community Services Committee. He said that this issue would be resolved once they have convened and brought back a recommendation.

Councilor Fortune had the same concerns and thinks that this permit should have been requested long before this meeting since it was known to occur months previously.

Kevin Urban apologized for getting the flyer out before getting the permit approved. He noted that the flyers were paid for out of the Park Project Fund.

Council continued to discuss whether alcohol would be sold by the glass or by the bottle and whether the guests would be allowed to open the bottles.

Motion by D. Rehwalt and seconded by G. Fortune to amend the original motion to approve the alcohol permit with the stipulation to sell the bottles, but not to open the bottles anywhere in the park, and there is no alcohol allowed on the stage or behind the stage. A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Nay), D. Rehwalt (Aye), and R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 5-1.

Motion by A. Kordosky and seconded by R. Dreiling to approve the application from the Parks Projects Committee for an alcohol permit at Greenwaters Park on August 24th and 25th. A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Nay), R. Dreiling (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), and G. Fortune (Aye). Motion carried 5-1.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

None.

7.0 POLICE SERVICES

None.

8.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief Tim Demers reported that the department has been very busy over the last month. He noted that the trends are showing high activity and that they have broken records on the number of call outs.

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilor Fortune reported that the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency completed the review of the Executive Director with an overall rating average of 4.34. They agreed to give him a 4.85% pay increase. He said they are working on redefining the rules on open burning and looking at reclassifying the little fire burners that are for back patios as recreational.

Councilor Dreiling noted that the Trails Committee would reconvene sometime in October.

Councilor Rehwalt noted that the Council Administrative Committee would be meeting on the last Monday of August. He said they will be reviewing the noise ordinance and making recommendations for Council review after that. They plan to discuss the issues of creating a railroad quiet zone at the Beech Street crossing through town to the tunnel. He asked for a motion from the Council to move forward on establishing a traffic count across the Beech Street crossing using City funds. He responded to Councilor Dreiling that they would also look at the rules for trains that idle.

Motion by D. Rehwalt and seconded by R. Clark to have the City Administrator or his designee conduct a traffic count at the Beech Street crossing. The traffic will be counted for thirty days and the results of the count will be reported to the Council at the first meeting of October 2007. Mayor Hampton (Aye), D. Rehwalt (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), and A. Kordosky (Aye). Motion carried 6-0.

Councilors Rehwalt and Clark responded to Councilor Dreiling that they would also look at the rules for trains that idle.

Mayor Hampton noted that the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council is proceeding with their application for becoming a 501 (c)3 nonprofit. This would eliminate the City as the fiscal agent for them.

Mayor Hampton reminded the Councilors of the Lane Council of Governments Board meeting and lunch at Greenwaters Park on September 22nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Lunch will follow the meeting.

Gordon reminded the Councilors to return the City Administrator reviews to the Mayor for compilation.

Dean Phillips said that he thinks it is very impolite of the Mayor to attend the meeting via a speakerphone and noted that if he does not have the time to attend the meetings then he should resign. He was also hoping that he would get more than a little thank you in terms of what he presented to the Council earlier. Unfortunately, what has happened is that a group of individuals have filed a suit against the City because they believe there have never been any appropriate deliberations on the Highway 58 project. He said it would now be up to the Judge to decide how the project will proceed. Mr. Phillips thanked the Council for their time and left the room.

10.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Dreiling said he is frustrated by Mr. Phillips comments because the City has been deliberating with the citizens and has had their involvement for the last four years. He said it is unfortunate that a small group of individuals that feel the way they do are now wasting taxpayers' money to fight something that only they feel justified in getting with no consideration to those that do support and have participated in the project. He said the decisions made are for everyone, not just a small group of people and it discourages him to see what is happening.

Councilor Fortune said a future discussion item would be to review the alcohol permits in the park. Since the whole concept of what was started has changed since the amphitheater was built. He feels it should now become a public discussion through hearings. Research of other cities' parks and allowance of alcohol should be a piece of this review. He said this issue needs to be addressed and needs to be done publicly.

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

The Council convened into executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property Negotiations and (2) (d) Labor Negotiations at 7:43 p.m.

Executive session ended and Council reconvened in open session at 7:59 p.m.

Gordon reported that he has accepted the letter of resignation from Chantell Steiner, Finance Director/City Recorder. He noted that her last day would be August 31st.

Councilor Clark confirmed that the Council was in consensus to allow the City Administrator to place an interim person into the Finance Director position until the proper hiring process could occur.

Kevin Urban asked where Mayor Hampton is at this time.

