



March 18, 2010  
City Council Regular Session  
City Council Room  
48318 E. First Street, Oakridge OR 97463  
7:00 p.m.



## MINUTES

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### 1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Council Present: Don Hampton, Mayor  
Amy Kordosky, Council President  
Randy Dreiling  
Glenn Fortune  
Gerald Shorey  
Rayetta Clark  
Robert Moe

Staff Present: Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator  
Tim Demers, Fire Chief  
Louis Gomez, Police Chief  
Kevin Urban, Community Services Director  
Jackie Baker, Assistant Planner

Mayor Hampton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT –

Leo Robb, PO Box 156 Oakridge, discussed the EMS decision on tonight's agenda. He is concerned about the volunteers and the second-out ambulance. As an active volunteer, he is concerned about the volunteers being able to meet the obligation of the second-out unit.

Barbara Leary, 47675 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, also was concerned about the ambulance situation. This should be a top priority and put on the front burner.

Patrick Waldiwski, 48404 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street, discussed the proposed storm water retention basin. He wants to know if the city is buying the piece of property on Douglas from Lane County. He is interested in that property and is concerned about the city putting in a storm water plant. Will there be standing water and visible pipes? He is also concerned about chemicals and the property becoming an eyesore. He would like to see about working with the city on this property.

Mayor Hampton stated that we will be discussing this in section 7.2 and we will give him a chance to join the discussion.

Don Hadley, 47696 Beaver Street. He was told to talk to his senators and congressmen and he did. They actually answered his letters which is more than he can say for some people. He conducted his own library survey and passed on the results to the council. If you look at the survey, it says the citizens do not want a library and he wonders why we spend this kind of money when the citizens don't want this. Mr. Hadley plans to go to the "grant people" and let them know how the citizens of Oakridge feel about building this library. Mr. Hadley invited the Mayor and Council to the High School. He handed out a flier explaining what would be taking place.

Dan Barclay, 47487 Hwy 58, explained that with the exception of councilors Moe and Shorey, he had nothing to do with the Councilors being elected. He wanted to apologize to Councilor Kordosky. He did not like how Mayor Hampton chastised Councilor Kordosky at the last meeting. It was inappropriate and should have been done in private. In regards to the room taxes, it has been the same numbers for the last three years that he has been here. He has never said anything against events in the city and has nothing against Councilor Dreiling. Councilor Dreiling's event has sold out seven of the eight times he has put it on. The grant applications are the same year after year. Six out of the seven applicants are the same as last year.

### **3.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Councilor Shorey addressed the comments made by Mr. Hadley regarding the library survey. He appreciates Mr. Hadley going out and doing that. He appreciates people coming to council meetings and sharing their comments. That is how we get feedback from the community.

Regarding the upgrade of the dispatch center, that issue was already discussed at the Public Safety meetings. It may not have been discussed in a council meeting, but it came up as an opportunity to save about \$70,000 for the city.

Councilor Moe said he also appreciates everyone coming here and sharing their thoughts and grievances. He encourages people to come to them outside of the meetings as well, because the only time he is hearing anything is here at the meeting.

Mayor Hampton addressed people that are not happy with the way he conducts the meetings. He gave some background on why he does the things that he does. First of all Chapter 4 Section 16 of the Charter defines his function at the council meetings. He read aloud from the charter regarding "preserving order." Secondly he read from the Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual. It addresses public comment. Mayor Hampton read from page 126. This is state law telling him he has authority to preserve order. Also on page 126 it talks about public attendance. It is a public attendance law, not a public participation law. It is because he puts "public comment" on the agenda that citizens get to speak. He could say that he would like to limit public participation to written testimony.

#### **4.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Item 8.1 regarding the social host ordinance was pulled. The City attorney has multiple suggested changes.

#### **5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **5.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 4, 2010**

**Motion:** Councilor Fortune moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Shorey seconded the motion. G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), R. Moe (Aye), G. Shorey (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

#### **6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

##### **6.1 Returning Veterans Presentation from Lane County DHS**

Peg Jennette from the Department of Health and Human Services is here representing the Veterans Sub Committee of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. In a couple of years we will have a large number of soldiers returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are seeing more and more soldiers coming home and not receiving adequate support. People come home and they start self medicating and the communities see more problems associated with mental health and addiction disorders. Lane County has the largest number of registered veterans in the region between Sacramento and Portland. As many veterans have died from suicide as have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ms. Jennette handed out a resource list for anyone interested in more information on returning veterans and how as a community we can help them adjust.

##### **6.2 Goals Adoption was postponed until the next meeting.**

##### **6.3 Transient Room Tax**

Councilor Dreiling declared an actual conflict of interest because he applied for room tax funds for his business' event Mountain Bike Oregon.

Councilor Kordosky asked if they can deny any one event on the list or do they have to accept all. She has an objection to one of the applicants.

Mayor Hampton said they have been given the list of applicants and the conditions of granting so they can accept it the way it is or lobby for something different.

Councilor Kordosky's question is can she object to an applicant individually?

Mayor Hampton asked if she wanted to remove an applicant from the list.

Councilor Kordosky said she wants it questioned.

Mayor Hampton said she can make a motion to approve the distribution with the exclusion of so and so.

Councilor Kordosky asked about the people applying for the grant. She is under the understanding is that they are applying because they need the money and they don't show a profit.

Gordon stated these are mostly non-profit groups.

Councilor Kordosky stated the applicant in question is Mountain Bike Oregon (MBO) because they show a huge budget. They don't need the money. It is more of want for them.

Gordon stated that they also generate a lot of room tax.

Mayor Hampton recommended the Council look at the requirements. It requires that each event generate room stays. Every person on here estimated a number of room stays. It doesn't say you have to need the money.

Councilor Moe stated that what he is hearing is that MBO already has money in their pocket and they don't need the money.

Councilor Clark said that according the information they got from the motels, there is one on here that doesn't have any room stays.

Councilor Kordosky's objection is not room stays. It is an as needed basis, not a want.

Mayor Hampton suggested that if they aren't evaluating this just on room stays, how about something as simple as impact or value to the community.

Councilor Kordosky said her dispute is that this event generates money. He has eight employees. He has a profit and the others do not.

Mayor Hampton understands that there are other things she might consider. If being able to prove that the event generates room stays, then they probably wouldn't fund any of them.

Councilor Shorey said his understanding was like Councilor Kordosky's. These events generate people in the community which is important. His understanding is that Council decided to use the room tax to strengthen the Chamber of Commerce, not financially but to give them more credibility. If the Council is going to support them and if you don't like how the process works, then we are going to say "Let's do it ourselves."

Mayor Hampton said that is an option.

Councilor Shorey said the Fireworks Committee should apply for this kind of money rather than taking tax dollars. He would rather use tax dollars for other projects.

Recognized in the audience, Gary Carl asked Mr. Barclay what events do generate overnight stays in Oakridge.

Mr. Barclay said when he is speaking he is only speaking for his motel. He doesn't have knowledge of what happens at the other motels. He said most of these events don't generate a significant amount of tourism.

Mr. Carl asked then what does generate them.

Mr. Barclay said he doesn't say anything about the other events because the community has the opportunity to benefit from them. These other organizations haven't seen gross sales of over \$160,000 for two weekends. It will be more this year because the entry fee went up.

Councilor Fortune asked Mr. Barclay what he thinks is a significant amount of money brought into this community by room tax.

Mr. Barclay said significant is a subjective point of view.

Councilor Kordosky said she was under the impression that by applying for the room tax it was as needed basis, not as wanted.

Councilor Fortune asked that when the Chamber considers these applications is there any study throughout the year that the correct number of rooms were rented.

Gordon stated we just ask if room stays were generated, not how many.

Councilor Clark asked if everyone that applied got a certain amount of money.

**Motion:** Councilor Fortune moved to approve the distribution of the transient room tax funds received from Travel Lane County as recommended by the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Councilor Clark seconded the motion.

Councilor Shorey would like to change how they decide who gets the room tax money. They are pretty far into it this year and maybe next year look at changing the policy.

Mayor Hampton asked what policy they are talking about.

Councilor Shorey said the way the applications are looked at, not necessarily a policy but a procedure.

Councilor Fortune said that is something they voted on.

Councilor Shorey said his recommendation is to accept it the way it is this year and try to change it next year.

**Amended Motion:** Councilor Kordosky moved to approve the distribution of the transient room tax funds received from Travel Lane County as recommended by the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce Board, but to exclude Mtn. Bike Oregon. Councilor Shorey seconded the motion.

Councilor Moe stated Mr. Barclay has been talking about how well Randy's performance is and now we are discussing maybe it isn't quite clear how well his performance is. This is a hard decision to make.

Councilor Fortune said he has never looked at this as a needed basis. If you have an organization that is bringing people to the community, but not only that is generating worldwide interest, is it wrong to not send some of this money back to this particular organization. I don't know that it is.

Councilor Shorey said one misconception is a lot of the money generated by fees is gross income not net income. The organization's net income may be considerably less than the gross income because of the expenses.

R. Clark (Nay), G. Shorey (Nay), Mayor Hampton (Nay), A. Kordosky (Aye), G. Fortune (Nay), R. Moe (Nay). Motion to amend failed 1-5.

**Original Motion:** Councilor Fortune moved to approve the distribution of the transient room tax funds received from Travel Lane County as recommended by the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Councilor Clark seconded the motion.

G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), G. Shorey (Aye), A. Kordosky (Nay), R. Moe (Nay), Mayor Hampton (Aye). Motion carried 4-2.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **7.1 Adopt Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) plan**

Kevin Urban stated no changes to the staff report.

Mayor Hampton stated for clarity that adopting the plan is at no cost, but the implementation is \$2,431,422.

**Motion:** Councilor Dreiling moved to approve the Oakridge Sanitary Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Plan for 2010-2012. Councilor Fortune seconded the motion.

Councilor Moe asked if we adopt this plan are we saying we are agreeing that this is a good thing. The reason he is asking he was just reading about another city was able to get a better deal than what we got.

Mayor Hampton said we are not talking about expenditure of money; we are talking about adopting the plan. DEQ is telling us we have to do something.

A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), G. Shorey (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), R. Moe (Nay), R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 6-1.

## **7.2 Purchase of Stormwater Retention Property**

In regards to Mr. Waldiwski's questions at the beginning of the meeting, Kevin stated that this will be a retention pond. It is not a storm water plant. Unless there is heavy rain and the pond retains the water, it is dry. It doesn't detain it. It slows down the flow of the water. People on Jasper Drive will tell you that during heavy rains their back yards will flood. We have problems like that all over town. This is just one of five or six places in town that we will want to this type of retention basin in. We are not interested in the lot with the shed on it.

Mayor Hampton asked where this money will come from.

Kevin said it will come from the Storm Water Fund.

Mayor Hampton asked what the amount is in the storm water fund.

Gordon said the total amount is somewhere between \$80,000 and \$90,000.

Kevin said this is exactly what this fund was set up for.

Being recognized from the audience, James Affa asked if this is going to be stagnant water.

Kevin said no. It is not and explained how it will work again.

Councilor Clark wanted clarification on the parcel that we are voting on. It is only for Tax Lot 8900 and not Tax Lot 8800.

Kevin stated that yes that is correct.

Mr. Waldiwski asked about the size of the pond.

Kevin said they usually run between three and four feet deep, sometimes a little more.

Councilor Fortune asked if this was just for this area and if there is a heavy rain is there a chance of it overflowing.

Kevin said there is an overflow outlet included in the design of the pond.

**Motion:** Councilor Clark moved to approve the purchase of tax parcel 21-35-16-14, lot number 08900 from Lane County for \$14,000. Councilor Shorey seconded the motion.

Gordon said that if Mr. Waldiwiski buys the lot next to this, we will work with him to help achieve his goals and help us achieve our goals.

G. Shorey (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), R. Moe (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

## **8.0 POLICE SERVICES**

### **8.1 First reading of Ord. 900 Social Hosts Regulations Postponed**

Chief Gomez is presently in discussion with the City Attorney trying to understand why he made the changes that he made.

Chief Gomez reported that Oakridge/Westfir Together is putting on an event April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the WAC. It will have informational tables set up on things like underage drinking, identity theft, etc. OWT hopes to have Kiwanis there to distribute bike helmets. He wants to talk to the Willamette Mountain Mercantile about doing bicycle safety checks. This normally is called Safety Night.

## **9.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES –**

Chief Demers said the firefighters' banquet was last Saturday. They had great food and the event went well.

The awards they gave out were:

- Matt Seckler - EMS Provider of the year
- Kelley Shaw - Firefighter of the year
- Jim McKee and Matt Seckler - Co-Volunteers of the year
- Cody Crawford - Rookie of the year

### **9.1 Emergency Services Level of Service**

Mayor Hampton asked if this came from the Public Safety Committee or directly from the Fire Department.



Chief Demers said this came through the Public Safety Committee. It came up with three different options, reviewed what they could afford of those three, and what they could agree to with the union.

Mayor Hampton said what this comes down to is a budgetary decision. We could spend the money to hire another person, but that would mean we would not have money to spend somewhere else. It could require laying off somebody in another department to come up with this kind of money.

Chief Demers said if you were looking to replace this person you are looking at \$45,000 to \$48,000 salary plus benefits for ten months for a total of \$75,000.

The possible plan is not to cover the vacant shift, but leave the four person rotation with call back. There are coverage issues and the length of time our employees will be on duty.

The last choice was to move our employees to a three person shift and standby rotation.

Chief Demers explained the different options and the costs associated with them. He explained the toll it will take on the employees and volunteers and the hours that they will have to work. The bottom line is when someone calls 911, the ambulance goes to pick them up because they have a significant issue. They leave the city limits and caller #2 calls in. If there is no one scheduled to cover, it could be a three-hour wait. We will do the best we can. This is what the tiered dispatch is so that people aren't given a false impression that it is business as usual.

Councilor Fortune asked about the tiered dispatch--how many of the second-out calls indicated they needed to be done to start with.

Chief Demers said his staff does a wonderful job triaging these people. There are people here that have significant health issues. They do the best they can. When someone has a medical problem, they are going to go to town.

Councilor Fortune asked what the tiered dispatch will do.

Chief Demers said for example; the other night they sent an ALS ambulance to a lady with a sore throat who told the dispatcher she had it for three days and has been seen by a doctor but is in pain. That person in a tiered dispatch system will fall into an A or B category rather than a C or D. C or D indicated the event is an emergency.

Recognized from the audience, Don Hadley said that the fire department is very important. Is it possible that someone can be let go that works for the city?

Gordon said that is one of the options for the council.

Councilor Shorey said we have a two-week window here. Our employee goes out on medical leave April 1 and may not return until January of next year. It wouldn't be quite fair to cut someone from another department and then in ten months hire someone to replace him/her. The advantage of the tiered dispatch is it allows the dispatchers to triage calls when they come in, which they don't do now.

Councilor Fortune asked how many departments have ambulances that are on Priority Dispatch.

Chief Demers said virtually all of them. We are not inventing anything new; this has been around for 15 years or more.

Councilor Clark asked if we will still have three ambulances available if we have staffing for them.

Chief Demers said that is correct. We will be doing business differently. There are three ambulances in the bay. If there is not an EMT basic or above available, we cannot transport. There is an internal discussion on whether or not they take it to the scene. We have people that can get to someone and stop bleeding, do basic first aid, breath for them, or administer CPR, but they cannot transport them in an ambulance.

Councilor Clark said she has driven the ambulance for years and sometimes you just don't know. She has taken people to town who seem to be just fine and an hour later they died from a heart attack. Are we going to liable if we don't transport these people?

Chief Demers said yes, we are liable.

Gordon said if we have the improved priority and we follow it, our liability lessens because we are following an established program.

Hopefully if 10% of the time over our 600 calls we are able to weed out that person that doesn't need to go the first time, that is a sixty-call reduction.

Recognized from the audience, Jim McKee said if we can't field out a second out ambulance, in some of those 15 days, three separate patients would have died at home. Are we willing to put money in front of lives? He is willing to take as many calls as he can, but he is not here all of the time. We should do whatever it takes to get more money to fund another person.

Councilor Shorey said that we are talking about \$70,000.

Councilor Moe said that our community is mostly seniors; we have a lot of heart attacks. On the serious side of it he thinks we have too many police officers. He has been here for many years. We have had very few police officers who have been able to do our job.

Chief Gomez said that this community was not rated one of the top four safest because we weren't doing something. As you reduce another department, you are going to see things start to climb again. Why does it have to be the Police Department?

Barbara Leary asked if there was a way to raise money, for instance get a bond.

Councilor Fortune said the Public Safety Committee is dealing with this issue; this is not just one issue because we have one person gone, and this is an ongoing issue. The Ambulance service is losing money and a big part is because of Medicare. Chief Demers says we are losing revenue by not taking second out ambulance. If we take the second out we lose money, so what's the difference.

Councilor Dreiling said he agrees that they don't want to lose a life, but if they cut someone, where do they cut? He can't make a vote without looking at a budget.

**Motion:** Councilor Shorey moved to approve the change in the level of ambulance service provided by Oakridge Fire & EMS and to implement a dispatch triage protocol system to reduce non-emergency transports. Councilor Fortune seconded the motion.

Councilor Shorey said he agrees 100% with Jim, but the question is the time frame they are looking at is a month and they may not be able to respond or raise money in a month. Between now and when we do a new budget we still have to make a decision on how we are going to handle this. If we don't pass this we don't pass this, then nothing happens.

Councilor Fortune said some of the options they are discussing in Public Safety are a number of options and how they will be funded. The question that is always on his mind is whether this community really cares. Are they willing to step up to come up with more money to fund it at a level you all want to have? We want to save lives but then you don't know if that person is going to die. He may or may not. If the community is not willing to step up itself, he is not willing as a City Councilor to shut down the rest of the City for the Ambulance and Fire service.

Again recognized from the audience, Jim McKee said he agrees 100% that is the absolute way to do it. Put a bond before the citizens, make sure they understand the bond, and if they vote against it, then we will drop it to whatever we say on the bond. His concern is that most of the town doesn't even know this is happening right now.

Councilor Clark said we have to make a decision tonight. We can't hire someone tonight. There is no money available so we just have to go with what we can.

Councilor Shorey said the Public Safety Committee has been meeting every other week looking at the goals of the council and one of the goals assigned to the Public Safety Committee is to find funds for the operation and equipment for the Fire Department. If we do find a solution or preferred alternative, they will present it to the Council, but none of these things will take place tomorrow.

Kevin asked if someone in another department gets laid off does the unemployment that they will file for actually come from the City coffers.

Gordon said yes.

Kevin said if you lay someone off you are basically robbing Peter to pay Paul, it is not necessarily an attractive option as it seemed. Kevin suggested taking furlough days throughout the entire city.

Councilor Fortune said the City of Eugene is going through this right now through court because they furloughed people and the union came back on them.

Kevin said this is an emergency and it is not permanent. Can we take that to the union?

Gordon said our Police and Fire are represented by the same union as the City of Eugene. They went to court to fight the layoffs and won.

Councilor Dreiling wanted clarification that what we are proposing other agencies have been doing for years?

Chief Demers indicated yes, that is true.

Mayor Hampton (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), R. Dreiling (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), G. Shorey (Aye), R. Moe (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Fortune said the Public Safety Committee is open to people coming in and discussing the issue regarding the future of our Emergency Services.

## **10.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Administration:** They looked into Planning Commissioners living outside the City limits. Since we govern planning and zoning outside the city limits, but within the urban growth boundary, there is logic to having someone outside the city limits.

**Public Safety:** Will meet Wednesday.

**Chamber of Commerce:** The Tree planting Princesses gave their speeches.

**Tree Planting:** They are finalizing the brochures. The committee asked people who had their activity in the brochure that earned money to pay the Tree Planting Committee money for doing that. There was one organization who said it will not do that. The committee is deciding whether to eliminate that one organization or not charge anyone for the listing.

**Team Oakridge:** We exchanged information among the organizations represented.

**Regional Fiber Consortium:** Mayor Hampton went to the Register-Guard on Tuesday and met with two of the editors. They tried their best to explain what the grant they are getting for \$8.3 million would mean to the three counties that are involved. In yesterday's Register Guard was a nice editorial on how this was a worthy project and was not a "bridge to nowhere." The Regional Fiber Consortium has a tentative list of the sites in Oakridge and everywhere else that will become active broadband sites.

**Parks, Trail and Trees:** The students from the U of O will be here March 31 to help with the Parks Master Plan.

**Census:** The WAC Manager had a letter that said the census folks were supposed to place a box in the WAC on March 8, 2010. We have people going to the WAC to pick them up and they still aren't there.

**Area Commission on Transportation:** They spent three hours going over things and will have to have an extra meeting to finally reach some kind of consensus. The final approval is from the Board of County Commissioners. If they don't like it, they can say no, they don't recommend this.

**Recessed 5 minutes then went into Executive Session 9:40 p.m.**

**11.0 Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property Negotiations**

**Ended the Executive Session and reconvened into Open session 9:56 p.m.**

The Mayor discussed ODOT closing the tunnel between Oakridge and Crescent for repairs several weeks during the summer of 2012. He is concerned about the economy of Oakridge if no traffic is coming through and the lack of emergency services to the people of Crescent if our ambulance can't get through.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Council adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council April 1, 2010.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donald E. Hampton, Mayor

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Baker, Assistant City Recorder