



February 17, 2011
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: Don Hampton, Mayor
Gerald Shorey, Council President (absent)
Daniel Barclay
Ernest Baszler
Rayetta Clark
Amy Kordosky
Glenn Fortune (absent)

Staff Present: Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator (absent)
Tim Demers, Fire Chief (absent)
Louis Gomez, Police Chief
Kevin Urban, Community Services Director
Ruthann Plumlee, Finance Director/City Recorder

Mayor Hampton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT –

Rustie Ackland – PO Box 233 - Asking for direction from the Council on the Lane County room tax grant process. The Chamber has assisted them in the last ten years by reviewing applications and making recommendations as to distribution of the funds. The Chamber has not yet heard if they want them to continue assisting with the process. They are requesting that two Councilors assist them and be part of the process.

Jim Coey - PO Box 122. - Formal announcement, on February 23, 2011, at the high school auditorium there will be public forum meetings. These are not complaint sessions; these are idea sessions. This is sponsored by OEDAC. Members are trying to stimulate some job growth in town and help new businesses. There will be a second public forum meeting on March 2, 2011; both meetings are at 7:00 pm.

Don Hadley – 47696 Beaver St- Has been to several meetings on the sign code. He doesn't understand how Vivian Erickson has her sign--and he isn't against her having the reader board--but he thinks the City should change the ordinance so the school district sign and Vivian's sign are legal.

Gary Carl – 48175 E 1st Street - Every time something really interesting happens, the Council goes in to executive session and we don't get to hear what's going on. Gary looked up

executive session regulations and read some key parts. He asked the Council to come back to the following Council meetings and tell the public what they talked about.

3.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilor Barclay announced that after 40 years of two packs a day he promised his wife he would quit smoking next week. Asked Mayor Hampton if he was going to address Mr. Affa's comments from the last meeting?

Mayor Hampton said he could or anyone up here can address them.

Councilor Barclay said he thought Mr. Affa brought up some good points. It would be irresponsible of the Council not to respond to him about the allegations, whether there was wrongdoing or no wrongdoing at all.

Mayor Hampton stated that the City Administrator did make contact with the person at the Secretary of State's office, and the only recommendation that was made was that we had not filed an extension for our 2010 audit. We need to have our auditors file that; he said there are plenty of cities asking for extensions, so this is nothing out of the ordinary. We are not in trouble with the Secretary of State's Office; if we were they would have come to us directly. The State is happy with what we have done so far; the Councilors may not be happy that we are behind on the audits, but they know why the City is behind. It has nothing to do with trying to conceal information or anything like that; you can get the same information from all of the budget documentation that the city puts out.

The reason the State allows us to have executive sessions is so that government bodies don't have to reveal what they discuss in the executive sessions. For example--labor negotiations; it would be counterproductive for us to talk about labor negotiations. Then at the next meeting say what they talked about in private. The reason that governmental bodies have the authority to talk about labor negotiations is because they represent one side and the unions represent another viewpoint; and they don't want to give away information to the other side. We make all of our decisions in public, not in an executive session.

4.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Hampton has a correction on tonight's executive session; should read ORS192.660 paragraph 2 subsection F for the consideration of information of records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

We have a letter from the attorney that we will be reviewing during executive session; we won't be reviewing the chief executive's performance.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Clark moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Baszler seconded the motion. E. Baszler (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), D. Barclay (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye). Motion carried 5-0

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

None

7.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1 Public Hearing on proposed Sign Code Changes

7.1.1 Staff Report

No changes

7.1.2 Statements in Favor

None

7.1.3 Statements in Opposition

Gary Carl is not opposed to it, but he is opposed changing it to allow anybody and everybody to have flashing reader boards in front of their businesses.

Mr. Hadley said Vivian got a reader board four years ago that was against code. What he was saying is that she has one, and now we are saying the school district sign is illegal. If one can have it, they all should be able to have it.

7.1.4 Statements in General

None

7.1.5 Council Discussion

Councilor Barclay said that anyone who drives around Oakridge can see the City is not consistent with regulating the sign codes. He doesn't have a problem with them (Vivian and the school district) displaying community events on the reader boards but the sign code should be consistent and it should be fair.

Councilor Clark said when she read through this she wondered why Vivian got a building permit that was approved through the building department and did not go through the planning commission. Councilor Clark asked if the school went through the planning commission.

Kevin said it did not. Kevin wanted to clarify; Vivian's sign, school sign, DQ sign, none of them are against code. The school sign could be, but they got a variance through the Planning Commission. The reason that the DQ sign is considered within code is because they don't have moving messages. Right now the code is complaint-based; no one has complained. Vivian's has been scrolling and no one has made a complaint. Kevin said we could get into even more trouble if we just send everyone out and say we are going to take care of all the code violations in the city. It would be a very difficult thing to do--to change over from being complaint-based to actually having a code enforcement division that is out actively looking for code violations.

Chief Gomez said another problem with signs is that when they are attached to buildings, then under our current code the enforcer has to be the building department. That may be something we need to change.

Mayor Hampton said that he thought he understood the sign codes of the city, but he now knows that he doesn't. Mayor Hampton suggested a joint session with the City Council and Planning Commission so they can get all of this figured out. And then they can direct Kevin to do something with more information than they have now.

Kevin said if someone wants to put up a sign, the actual construction of the sign is looked at by the building department. The building department isn't going to look at how big the sign is on the building. It's a difference between our city codes and the building department's building codes, which are usually State-mandated.

Mayor Hampton said he is sure if he took one of the councilors down to the highway and showed him/her a sign and asked if it was a legal sign, he/she wouldn't know any more than he would if it was legal.

Kevin asked why they would need to know that.

Mayor Hampton said if they are going to give Kevin's department direction they need a better understanding.

Councilor Kordosky wanted to say that she thinks there is nothing wrong with a school sign that displays messages for the community.

There was concern as to whether or not the sign is safe.

Kevin said it has been inspected.

8.0 POLICE SERVICES

Chief Gomez reported that they had a couple employees go to narcotics training. Narcotics, thefts and burglaries are some of their primary focuses.

9.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

None

10.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Community Services – Councilor Clark said they discussed the possibility of having future field trips when they can all go out and see how the city is run. They want to check out the water and sewer departments. They discussed sites for tree planting this year; they would like to do it at Osprey Park, Greenwaters Park and Salmon Creek Park.

The inflow and infiltration plan is done and storm water plan is in the works. The Parks Master Plan is going to the Planning Commission. For the access management plan we may go for a TGM grant to fund it.

Public Safety – Will meet on the 23rd

LCOG – Didn't meet

Chamber of Commerce –Has a meeting next Tuesday

Watershed Council –Postponed until the end of March

LRAPA –Mayor Hampton checks our air quality four or five times a day on the computer.

Tree Planting – Had a meeting on Monday night. Our Tree Planting Princesses this year are Kathy Burns, Elizabeth Ramirez and Karissa Bates. They are lining up their speaking engagements. There will be the street walk and an expanded street fair this year. The Salmon Run will be on Sunday this year.

Library – No report

OEDAC – Meeting on the 22nd

Team Oakridge – Mayor Hampton was unable to attend the last meeting. They are getting their ducks in a row and they have a meeting scheduled where all sorts of community organizations are going to gather and let them know if they like the concept of community calendar and sharing information with each other.

Regional Fiber –No meeting

GOATS - Councilor Kordosky said they discussed the Parks Master Plan and they talked about attending the public hearings for the Master Plan. They discussed the Safe Routes to School; there will be a meeting on March 1st at the High School at 4:00 p.m. The storm we had a few weeks ago did a lot of damage to signs out on the trails. You can go to wilamettemountainmercantile.com to find out the conditions of trails.

A.C.T. – Next meeting is March 9th.

Executive Session ORS 192.660 (2) F Consideration of information for records that is exempt by law from public inspections.

Gary Carl announced the Ford Foundation Community collaboration meeting will be on Monday the 21st.

James Affa said he called the Secretary of State's Office again.

There was discussion on how to handle the room tax funds and how the process works. It is not easy going through the applications and the Chamber would like the help from the Council.

Councilor Barclay thinks they should be done another way.

Councilor Clark said they have done a great job with the funds.

Rustie Ackland said everyone who applies has always gotten money; they just don't know how much they will get each year. It is a hard decision deciding who gets what.

Mayor Hampton asked Rustie if she thought it would help if we had two councilors sit in when they went through the process. Two Councilors volunteered to serve on the Chamber of Commerce room tax distribution committee.

Councilor Barclay said he asks his customers why they are in town. Not once in four years has anyone called him and asked how many people have had stayed for certain events.

ADJOURNMENT: The Council adjourned at 7:53 p.m. to go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) f

Respectfully submitted before the City Council March 3, 2011.

Signed: _____
Donald E. Hampton, Mayor

Signed: _____
Ruthann Plumlee, City Recorder