



July 7, 2011  
City Council Regular Session  
Oakridge High School Auditorium  
7:15 pm



# MINUTES

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## 1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Council Present: Don Hampton, Mayor  
Gerald Shorey, Council President  
Daniel Barclay  
Ernest Baszler  
Rayetta Clark  
Amy Kordosky  
Glenn Fortune

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 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Hampton explained the process of the public comment portion of the meeting.

We have about 15 people signed up to speak so he will allow three minutes per person.

Mayor Hampton said we need to keep order. We have rules of decorum here and they have already been violated tonight. If we have people who are disorderly he will call a recess and according to our lawyer those people can be removed. On the back of your agenda it tells you what the rules of decorum are and these rules are to be followed at City Hall or anywhere else we have a meeting.

Gordon Zimmerman read a statement to summarize our financial situation. (See attached.)

Mayor Hampton said if anyone has questions of a clarifying nature or you need something repeated that you didn't understand you may step down to the microphone.

Gary Carl asked how much of the shortfall consists of funds that missing and how much of the shortfall consist of loss of income.

Gordon said we don't know yet, that is what we are trying to determine. We don't think any funds are missing. We just think our reports are not accurate with the costs we have incurred and the revenue we receive. Until we do a performance audit on our software and we work with the auditors to go through the books, we won't have the answer.

Gary Carl said but it is for certain that there is money that is not there that we thought was there.

Gordon said on our accounting statements the money is there but in the bank it is not there. So we have to reconcile the software and the accounting statements. This could be a long process. We have to go back and review every transaction we did during the year.

Les Biggerstaff- asked about the water rates going up due to losing households.

Gordon said until we establish a lower base and have a rate study done, he can't tell you how much, but chances are the rates are going up.

Mayor Hampton said this is a process. For those of you who read the *Register-Guard* and only read the headline would come to the conclusion that the rate increase is a done deal. It is not a done deal until this council approves it. This council has taken no action on a rate increase. So please read the entire article and search for information. Reading the headline conveyed an inaccurate statement.

Les Biggerstaff said he didn't read the *Register-Guard* at all; he was just listening to Gordon and referring to what he said. He would like to say that if we are planning on raising the rates because fewer people pay for it that is just wrong.

Gordon said we have to cut our costs because the revenue is not there. We will cut the cost as required in order to still supply water to the citizens.

Les Biggerstaff said raising our rates doesn't cut your costs.

Gordon said that is correct; we have to look at the costs that have been cut. Then we have to divide the rates to recover the costs over all the people who pay for the service. That is required by law. We can't just give water away.

Jess Henryes said he apologizes for missing most of the introduction but he is curious about Gordon saying we are still investigating and we are going to have to go back and audit. Do we intend to use the same auditors?

Gordon said we will do an internal audit to make sure we did it according to our process.

Jess Henryes said he is concerned that after three years we still haven't got an audit report from the auditors. If you are going to do an internal audit with a smaller staff then this could be X number of years before we know the situation.

Gordon said we are only two years behind on our audits. The 2008-09 audit should be done in less than a month. The auditors will be here at the end of July to review the 2009-2010 field work for the audit and back in October to do the 2010-2011 audit. We will work with them to try to figure this out.

Dawn Kinyon- wanted it clarified how we could balance our checkbook every month and not know it doesn't balance.

Gordon said money is not missing. You are right; it's not in the bank. Gordon explained how we pay our bills each month. When we got to where we didn't have enough to pay our bills that is when the problem became known.

James Affa- How will we pay a loan back and where will we get the money to pay it back?

Gordon said the City assesses property taxes every year. Property taxes will not go up; they are set by the State. It's called a tax anticipation loan. In addition to that, because our cash flow is reduced, we are reducing all of our expenses and the services we provide.

Are we going to use contingency money?

Gordon said we have no contingency money.

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT –**

John Ryon – 47735 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St – When you only give me three minutes to speak you take away my constitutional right. Shady Cove got rid of their Police Department and they pay \$412,000 for the Sheriff's and State Police there 24/7. We pay \$1,300,000 for our police. Gomez should have been fired. Why do they all have credit cards for the city, even the secretaries have credit cards for the City? He used to take his ex girlfriend to buy weed for \$15.00 and told her she was going to get arrested. She said she won't because that is where Gomez gets his weed.

E R Welsh PO Box 309 – Zimmerman said he was going to raise water rates. He doesn't know how we got into this; this is why we have a Mayor, City Council and City Administrator. The City Council's job is to represent the people of Oakridge, not the elite friends of Oakridge. The recall for the Mayor and four of the City Councilors is going to cost the City more money.

Jess Henryes 47737 Portal Dr - He is concerned about the internal audit. He is concerned that the audit wasn't completed previously. We have had different finance directors but they all have the same procedures. Instead of an internal audit let's turn it over to the State Comptroller's Office. Outside eyes can see things that inside eyes cannot see. We can't talk about Gordon leaving --he has a contract.

Gene Tomlin - Teller Rd- He knows where the City Council is at, he sat there years ago. He does not see how we can go three years without an audit.

Gordon said it has been two years.

Gene Tomlin said even a couple of years is too long. We have had several finance directors and he can't see how someone would take that job unless they had audited books. It doesn't make sense. He intends to stay here, but we need answers. When it doesn't balance, it leaves you all suspect and you know it.

Bob Garr – 47889 Elgin Avenue- He asked how many people are paying for stormwater drains that they don't have. We all get charged and most don't have one. He goes to Springfield three times a week; the Oakridge Police passed him going 70 mph in Pleasant Hill and on I-5. He followed them all the way to the Police Department and he doesn't know what the hurry was. On his side of the tracks they don't have nice streets but on the other side they do.

Dirk Tarman – 47617 Paddock Lane- Someone he knows offered to pay \$450,000 to put in a business at the Industrial Park and Gordon rejected it.

Donald Barrows – 47888 Elgin Avenue- Has a problem with streets. Why did we get an \$80,000 grant to rebuild a street called Garden Street; he doesn't even know where that is. If a developer wants to put in a subdivision they should have to pay for it. We might as well lay off the dog catcher because he doesn't do anything anyway.

Eugene Cathcart – 76589 View Court- He moved here seven years ago. He is here tonight because he thought there was going to be a lot of angry people here. It's important that we keep this in perspective and remember how lucky we are to live in Oakridge. What we have here is a community that cares about each other and watches each other's back. It is easy to point fingers and blame people and get upset at each other and your neighbor; that's just not going to work. When you look at Iraq and the climate change and the people who are out of work all around the world, I think we have it really good here. We shouldn't take our aggressions out on the City Council who volunteer their time or the City Administrator who is doing the best that he can; it is time to help each other work through these problems and stay positive rather than coming down here and coming down on people who are volunteering their time. He is doing the best that he can to make this town a better place. I have thought about becoming a City Councilor and to him it seems like an awful job and all people do is give you hell for it.

Cara Stanton- Chubb Court- Eugene hasn't lived here long enough to be angry. All of her neighbors have the same problems. She has called the Police Department and three of those times have been told there is no one available. Water bills just went up. She agrees that the only change is a complete external review of the City, the City workers and the Police Department. These people are outraged. She doesn't have anything against any member of the City or who works for the City, but personally, she doesn't see anything being done to get this fixed. We have extremely high water bills and when she has tried to find information on that she has been told there is nothing she can do about it. And there is nobody that oversees the water company that is the City of Oakridge.

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

Gordon said we never had an offer for a new business at the Industrial Park from Mr. Tarman's friend.

Gordon stated that when subdivisions are put in, the contractors/developers do pay for all the costs of putting a subdivision in.

Councilor Barclay said he appreciates everyone showing up. Thanks to Councilor Shorey for getting the bigger room. Everyone should show a little more respect. When you are making statements that apply equally and evenly check your facts.

(The second side of the tape malfunctioned so I was not able to listen)

Mayor Hampton announced that the warm homes program has increased its rebates from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for households that do not meet the low-income requirement. If you have an uncertified woodstove, LRAPA will help replace it.

We don't have the completed evaluations for the Councilors and we will be delaying the evaluation for the City Administrator for another month.

Work continues on St. Vincent de Paul site. St. Vincent de Paul would like to have a show of support from the community. They will be doing the fundraising. They would like to be able to get \$25,000 in donations. They are a 501(c)3, so contributions are fully tax deductible.

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

None

### **5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **5.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 16, 2011**

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

### **6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **6.1 Charter Franchise Changes**

Right now Charter is required to give us 90 days notice to any changes, they want to change that to 30 days.

Mayor Hampton will be voting no; he would like to see some other business be able to come in and provide service.

No motion to approve; no action.

## 6.2 Financial Discussion

Councilor Barclay said during public comment he heard the word angry. He gets angry at the gas station; in this situation he is madder than hell. We need to get past the witch hunt and find out what happened when and what we are going to do about it. He agrees with Mr. Tomlin; who would take over in a situation like this. He has been asking about the auditors; this is a failure of leadership. He took this job and he needs to take ownership. The software is only as good as the person at the computer. Six of our friends/coworkers were laid off.

He got a call about this from KVAL at 3:00 pm. The majority of the Council had no knowledge of this and he didn't appreciate finding out through the media. We need to get to the root cause of this and we need to find different auditors.

Councilor Baszler asked if we wouldn't have this problem if the audits were up to date.

Gordon said that he doesn't know if that would affect it because he doesn't know what caused it.

Councilor Baszler is against the water rate hike. He hears all the time about the City Police being replaced by the Sheriff's department. This is being discussed by the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Barclay owes Mr. Hadley, Mr. Ryon and Mr. Affa an apology. Mr. Barclay was going to review their findings before this meeting, but he has not got to it yet. He said he would have it ready but he doesn't.

Councilor Baszler said regarding the recall he hopes for the best and that everyone can work together to see what we can do.

Councilor Kordosky said she will not support a water rate hike. A mistake was made and we shouldn't punish the citizens.

Councilor Shorey said since he has been on the Council he has attempted to bring financial accountability. He has asked for check registers and statements. When he found out about the layoffs this past Thursday, it was like a kick in the face. How did we get there? He does not support the Pauly Rogers accounting firm. We have been sandbagged by them. They have our information and audits are supposed to be done by December 31. They just delayed us two more weeks.

Councilor Shorey asked about water rates and how we establish base costs, what are the requirements for this.

Gordon said enterprise funds are required to fund themselves. We are still trying to give the same service.

Councilor Shorey said every time we have cash problems we look at the water rates. He feels like he failed the citizens. He said he guarantees that he will get answers.

Councilor Clark said we are all on the same page; we felt like we were slammed in the gut. We were elected by you to be here and none of us want a water rate increase. We have a lot of people on a fixed income. We need to find the problem and fix it.

Councilor Barclay said every Councilor took an oath; we had to lay off six people that had nothing to do with this.

Mayor Hampton said that none of us are pleased about this; we are angry too, but we can control ourselves and be dignified. We can blame and argue but it won't solve the problem. He wouldn't expect everyone to know the costs of the City. He sees them all the time. If we provide less than four of the services we are required to provide, we would become unincorporated. The County is cutting even more services. We will work to find solutions; some you will like, and some you won't.

Five minute recess at 8:40 p.m.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **7.1 Public Hearing for Sign Code Changes**

#### **7.1.1 Staff Report:**

Council has to pass each ordinance. This is for Electronic Reader Board Signs only.

#### **7.1.2 Statements in Favor:** None

#### **7.1.3 Statements in Opposition:** None

#### **7.1.4 Statement in General:**

Rusty Ackland said this is a good way to inform the citizens on upcoming events

#### **7.1.5 Council Discussion:**

There was discussion on what you can and can't put on the boards.

### **7.2 First Reading Ordinance No. 902 Sign Code Changes**

**7.1 / 7.2** Councilor Clark moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 902 read by title only, no council person present having requested it be read in full, adopting a sign code amendment for electronic signs. Seconded by Councilor Shorey.

R. Clark (Aye), G. Shorey (Aye), G. Fortune (Aye), A. Kordosky (Aye), D. Barclay (Aye), Mayor Hampton (Aye), E. Baszler (Aye). Motion carried 7-0.

## **8.0 POLICE SERVICES:** None

## **9.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES:** None

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

LCOG- No meeting. Busily working on the communications plan that he described before.

Chamber of Commerce – Had their BBQ out at the Fish Hatchery and it was very well attended. The Circus was put on by the Chamber and the Keg and Cask Committee. According to the report enough money was taken in for each of the agencies to get \$1500 after all the costs. They are improving their website and some effort has been made to make improvements at the tourist booth out at the rest area. Lane Electric has volunteered to put in double-pane windows. On July 18<sup>th</sup> they will have a general meeting at Big Mountain Pizza. No meeting in August. St. Vincent de Paul will be at the July meeting.

LRAPA –Sally Markos put out an email to see what's a good day to meet for the advisory committee.

Library – We have the Summer Reading Program going on. No meeting.

Regional Fiber – Mayor did attend that meeting. The consortium set a budget for the next year. He predicted that in a year's time fiber running through this town would be lit, which is great progress since it's been at least ten years since we thought this would all happen.

ACT - will meet Wednesday.

Lane Economic Committee – It was Lowell's turn to tell what they are doing for economic development. Their City Administrator listed some of their concerns which included political change, no interest in their Industrial Park and disposal of surplus government property. They just completed a water/sewer upgrade that goes out to Lowell Park. Lowell received a grant to study the blue-green algae problem that is all over the State.

HUB – ODOT said they are prepared to fix certain parts of the Highway.

UBRA - They will be volunteering to help at the Fiddlers camp out at Westridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mayors' Meeting – The meeting was held in Cottage Grove; Cottage Grove just acquired its old armory. City officials are estimating \$3-4 million dollars to restore the building to get it up to ADA and code compliance.

Administration - They discussed a policy naming City property after individuals and they recommended they don't do this. The other task they had was regarding a purchase order system, and at this time it is not feasible. We would need close to a full-time clerk to implement.

Community Services - No meeting. They hold their meetings on the first Monday of every month and this month it was on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The next meeting will be on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 at City Hall.

Public Safety – They met on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the City Hall. They discussed police service and discussed contracting out to other agencies. James Affa, John Ryon and Don Hadley presented the Shady Cove information. Lane County has a contract with Veneta and Creswell. The general consensus doesn't come down to money--it comes down to security and safety for families. The trade off would be getting something cheaper but not as safe. At this time it is not a better choice.

The cattery is almost finished; they are done with 95% of the sheetrock. Chief got the toilet today because they are required to have an ADA toilet.



Palmer Electric may donate the electrical work.

They discussed the crosswalks on Hills Street. This is important because of the free lunch program at Salmon Creek Park.

State Radio Project: the permits are hinging on gravel and debris removal.

Next meeting will be July 27<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

At the last City Council meeting they discussed long term ambulance service. Get the reserve fund set up and in place.

Mayor Hampton said the City of Junction City is hiring a new City Administrator. It had three applicants, two of which decided not to interview and the only person left had no government experience. Some people seem to think that it would be simple to say just get rid of the City Administrator. It is not that simple.

Mayor Hampton was helping a local caregiver get some equipment out at the Industrial Park; she wanted to tell him that she called the police because her cat got lodged between the water heater and the wall. The Police Chief came and assisted in rescuing the cat. I don't think contracting with the Sheriff's Department is going to provide that level of service. It isn't just what it costs; it is what service you receive.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Council adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council July 7, 2011.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruthann Plumlee, City Recorder