



December 4, 2014
City Council Regular Session
Willamette Activity Center- Room 8
47674 School Street
7:00 p.m.



MINUTES

1.0 CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Present: Gerald Shorey, Mayor
Rayetta Clark, Council President
Jim Coey
Les Biggerstaff
Christine Slaven

Staff Present: Louis Gomez, City Administrator
Albert Alcalde, Fire Chief
Jackie Taylor, Assistant Planner / Public Works Secretary
Susie LaDuke, Finance Director/City Recorder
Kevin Martin, Acting Police Chief

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

James Affa Garden Road, Oakridge – Vehicle tax, he doesn't think we are going to get much for our money. He doesn't see how, we don't have bridges or county roads in the city that we do a lot with. They are going to suck money out of the city that is disposable income from a largely retirement committee. He is on a fixed income. He read their polling questions and has found them to be somewhat deceptive. He doesn't see how this is going to help the City of Oakridge.

Mayor Shorey said if there are any other people that have questions about this Registration Fee he will give you time at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Shorey welcomed our County Commissioner Faye Stewart.

Don Carson 47858 W 1st Street, Oakridge – He wanted to speak about the registration fee, he will speak after the presentation.

3.0 MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Clark thanked the City crews for putting up the snowflakes, they look really nice and brighten up the highway. She wanted to thank everyone who came and helped change the light bulbs.

Mayor Shorey said we now have new Councilors for our January 8th meeting.

Dawn Kinyon asked if we are meeting on the 8th or the 1st.

Mayor Shorey said the 1st is New Year's Day, we don't have a meeting that day.

4.0 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda – minutes not ready

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

6.1 City Administrators Report

Hwy 58 Pedestrian Study/Hwy 58 Crosswalk – One of things we are working on at this time is to get a crosswalk put in on Hwy 58, we don't have a location at this time. The City Engineer is working with ODOT to get some 30% plans done. He is pretty confident that we will see a crosswalk put in next year, just don't know when.

Appraisal of 76276 Industrial Park Way – We had some appraisals done on some property at the Industrial Park. It came in at about \$52,000.00. Louis got a hold of the appraiser and asked him to look at it again and it came in at \$101,000.00, it was to the benefit of the City that he did that.

Franchise Agreement – They are working with LCOG on the Fiber Consortium to get some Fiber hooked up to Orchid Health and Postal Pharmacy. Lane County Economic Development is working with us to close the gap on that. They are also going to see if they can get fiber to the Cascade General Store and A & W and Subway if they so wish.

Marijuana Dispensary Moratorium and Recreational Marijuana Language - Louis spoke with the City Attorney, he gave her some draft language and she should have something for him next week. Part of the process is that we have to send that language to DLCD if we are going to make any changes to the zoning manual.

Comcast Franchise Agreements – Hopefully Comcast should be in our area in a couple of years, we are trying to solidify an agreement with Charter at this point before they get here. Once Comcast gets here they will assume Charters Franchise Agreement.

6.2 Finance Report by City Recorder

Susan gave the Financial Report to the Council.

She is still working with the Auditors, she should have the draft next week.

Susan presented the Election results:

We have a new Mayor, Jim Coey and we have two new Councilors Gary Carl and Judy Rowland. The write in Councilor is Dawn Kinyon. There were 309 votes cast for 92 different people.

Susan handed out the Certificates of Election, before you are sworn in you have to have a certificate of Election.

Motion: Councilor Clark moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Councilor Coey seconded the motion.

L. Biggerstaff (Aye), Mayor Shorey (Aye), C. Slaven (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), J. Coey (Aye). Motion carried 5-0

6.3 Lane County Vehicle Registration Fee Presentation

Lydia McKinney with Lane County Transportation Planning, Commissioner Faye Stewart is with us and so is Bill Morgan the County Engineer.

She is here to talk about the Lane County Regional Road Fund Revenue Restoration and some of the challenges they have been facing.

The Board of County Commissioners has known and has been hearing from staff and public works for a number of years that there has been a sharp decrease in the amount of money coming in to the road fund. The board said they want them to go to the Roads Advisory Committee and ask them to discuss the number of revenue options. After the Roads Advisory Committee did their analysis they came back and made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to consider the Vehicle Registration Fee.

One of the things that was important to the board is that they do this in a reasonable manner by coming to talk to the cities. They are on a 12 City tour, we are city number five.

With the reduction of the SRS and the decline of the Gas Tax dollars they are reaching a critical point in terms of being able to fund their road fund. The road fund issue is not a county issue, it's a regional issue that affects our cities as well.

They are looking at a \$35.00 annual fee per vehicle. (\$20.00 for motorcycles) She went over what vehicles would be exempt from this.

County Commissioner Faye Stewart said ten years ago when he took office they were receiving approximately \$147 million dollars a year from the Federal Government. Today those payments are gone, they have known the reductions would happen, they realize they aren't going to replace this by putting it solely on the backs of the citizens. They also knew that they had to do it in small chunks. This is the last year in their budget cycle that they will have reserves that are able to bridge the gap. We are here today to ask for consideration of about six and a half million dollars. That will help them be able to address the deficit and keep the roads safe.

Loren Hogue asked how long the surcharge they are proposing will last.

Ms. McKinney said it will be permanent.

Don Carson said he spoke to Lydia about 10 days ago, his main objection to this is where the money is coming from. People who drive light weight cars should not be paying the same as someone driving a large vehicle. The gas tax would be more fair.

Ms. McKinney said that there really isn't that much difference in driving an 8,000 pound car and a 2,000 pound car as far as the damage to the road.

James Affa asked what Oakridge has to gain from this?

Ms. McKinney said the City will receive \$58,000 a year from this.

Councilor Coey asked what this money would buy us in roads.

Louis said it would depend on the project, 500 feet of road would roughly cost us \$160,000.

Councilor Coey said he doesn't like what they said about government owned vehicles being exempt from this, that doesn't seem fair.

County Commissioner Faye Stewart said he understands what they are saying but they have very little flexibility at this moment.

Councilor Biggerstaff said he would be more than happy to put this up to the voters, he doesn't think this will pass, most of the people in Oakridge drive to Eugene or Springfield every day for work. , there should be a studded tire tax, you are trying to fix everything with one \$35.00 fee and it is not that simple.

Councilor Clark said the biggest complaint she is hearing from people is the amount of miles they drive a year, some people drive a lot more than others.

Sandy Edds asked about putting license plates on bicycles and having them pay too.

Ms. McKinney said no one is required to register a bicycle.

Councilor Biggerstaff said he received an email asking him if he'd be willing to join a pilot program asking if he would have a device installed in his car so they would know how many miles he drives.

Ms. McKinney said that is part of the State road user fee. That has been very unpopular so far by people.

Mayor Shorey asked what happens if they pass the registration fee and the state passes the mileage fee then you are getting hit twice for the same vehicle. What is the State going to charge for collection fees?

Mr. Morgan said out of the 11 million dollars it would be about \$80,000. The County will pay for that, it won't be taken out of the Cities share.

County Commissioner Faye Stewart said they are still working on other ways to do this.

Councilor Coey said when he lived in California the registration fees were based on the value of the vehicle, why can't we do something like that here.

Ms. McKinney said that would require them going to the Legislature for that.

Mayor Shorey asked if there are any more questions for Ms. McKinney.

Ms. McKinney said they are going to the board on the 16th so they need to be able to report to them if we support this or not.

Motion: Councilor Biggerstaff moved that we support the vote of the people to determine the outcome of the fee. Councilor Coey seconded the motion.

Councilor Slaven said if we polled our community she thinks we would get much lower than 53% so it would be very difficult to try and fund projects. She thinks it will probably pass, the people who are willing to do the \$35.00 increase have a bigger income and it's not that big of a deal and they will outweigh the people who have a lower income. She thinks this could be really hard for our community if it does pass.

Mayor Shorey (Aye), C. Slaven (Aye), J. Coey (Aye), L. Biggerstaff (Aye), R. Clark (Aye). Motion carried 5-0

County Commissioner Faye Stewart said he chairs the Regional Fiber Consortium and he wanted to share that they approved a \$20,000 grant to the City of Oakridge for the fiber connection, it is his understanding that Hunter is going to pony up about \$13,000 and their economic development department is trying to bridge the gap so they can get the fiber to the health clinic. The other piece is that Councilor Fortune was on the LCOG Executive Board and he would like to appoint someone, if anyone is interested let Louis know and he will try to help get them appointed. He enjoyed working with Councilor Fortune.

6.4 Presentation by Rich Zylstra Interactive Map

Rick Zylstra presented his interactive map of Oakridge, the access will be through the City's website.

Councilor Slaven said she thinks of the website as her ugly baby, she has worked very hard on it and she is still not where she wants to be with it but, she is not sure she will be able to call it that any longer, she is so pleased with this and how wonderful it is, thank you.

Motion: Councilor Clark moved that we accept the Interactive Map Project as presented. Councilor Slaven seconded the motion.

C. Slaven (Aye), L. Biggerstaff (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), J. Coey (Aye), Mayor Shorey (Aye). Motion carried 5-0

6.5 Public Hearing for North Ash Street Local Improvement District

Open Public Hearing 8:28 P.M.

Staff Report – Louis presented the staff report

Statements in Favor –

Sandy Price, said she is in favor of this, she rides her motorcycle down the hill, there are so many potholes and so much loose gravel that you can't stop at the bottom of the hill.

Doug Bergner said he is in favor, he is one of the property owners. The street is dangerous, people fall when they walk down the hill, both he and his wife have both fallen.

Steve Saxon is one of the property owners, the street has no maintenance by the city. He has also seen people fall on that hill and has problems stopping in his vehicles at the bottom of the street that goes directly into another street.

Statements in Opposition – None

Statements in General - None

Close Public Hearing – 8:34 P.M.

Council Discussion and Motion

Motion: Councilor Coey moved that having found that an insufficient number of remonstrance's were submitted to the City, and having determined that it is in the City's best interest to complete the North Ash Street LID Project, I hereby move to proceed with the proposed improvement known as the North Ash Street LID Project. Councilor Clark seconded the motion.

Mayor Shorey (Aye), J. Coey (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), L. Biggerstaff (Aye), C. Slaven (Aye). Motion carried 5-0.

7.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1 Oakridge WWTP SCADA Upgrade

Louis said this is a computerized program that they use to control the sewer plant. What is in there right now is from 1994, the current operating system is Windows 98, and they want to move it to Windows 7 Pro. This would include the primary software and it comes with a remote monitoring system. This will monitor the plant 24/7 and to have modern software. We do have the funds budgeted for this.

Motion: I move that we approve the purchase for the Oakridge Waste Water Treatment Plant SCADA PC upgrade and remote monitoring System no to exceed \$18,000.00. Councilor Clark seconded the motion.

J. Coey (Aye), R. Clark (Aye), Mayor Shorey (Aye), C. Slaven (Aye), L. Biggerstaff (Aye). Motion carried 5-0.

8.0 POLICE SERVICES

Chief Martin said they had 178 calls for service which resulted in 41 reports. They had 41 citations. The reserves have pulled a lot of shifts since they are still short staffed.

The new hire will start the academy in March and go until July, it has been two years since we have had a full staff.

9.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Alcalde said they had 70 calls which resulted in 30 transports. They still have staffing issues, they have four Firefighter Paramedics, and one of those will be off for three months which makes it difficult for them. It puts them in a situation where they are working a lot of hours.

10.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Public Safety – Talked about getting body cameras for the Police Department. They are also in need of new patches for the uniforms.

We are having the 5th annual Tree Lighting on December 6, 2014.

December 13, 2014 is the Toys for Tots and December 19th is the Light Parade.

They are down to one plumbing job for the cattery and are still working on the Animal ordinance.

We will have our annual potluck at the next City Council meeting.

Tourism Alliance is still working on the Flee the Fog, they are working with Lane Electric to get cameras and the weather station. They want to put it on the tower behind the old library.

They are turning in a \$5,000 grant for the We Speak program.

They have created a calendar, an email and a Facebook page to get out there more.

Their meetings are open to the public, they are held every first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Uptown building.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted before the City Council December 18, 2014

Signed: _____
Jerry Shorey, Mayor

Signed: _____
Susan LaDuke, City Recorder