

# City of Brookings

## City Council Meeting MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415  
Monday, February 9, 2015

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Hedenskog called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

### **Roll Call**

Council present: Mayor Ron Hedenskog, Councilors Jake Pieper, Kelly McClain, Brent Hodges and Bill Hamilton; a quorum present.

Staff present: City Manager Gary Milliman and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: No media and approximately 20 others.

### **Scheduled Public Appearances**

The Central Building Centennial Committee, represented by Carolyn Milliman and Jennifer White, gave a report on the upcoming event.

### **Public Comments: *non-agenda items.***

Lauri Brand, Chetco Avenue business owner, commented on a recent complaint she'd received regarding signs displayed at her business location. She asked Council if disallowing signs might not be limiting the City's growth and hindering small business. Brand said her flags and a sandwich board sign had been in place for 14 months with no complaints. She said she was not opposed to limiting signs, but she thought Council might allow each business to have at least one and asked Council to reconsider its sign regulations.

Mayor Hedenskog said Council had reviewed its sign regulations at length and explained that signs along the highway were regulated by ODOT, to include signage off the highway in some cases.

Brand said ODOT had sent her the rules, and they all referred to signs being placed in the right of way. She said she did not believe that her building was in the right of way.

City Manager Milliman said the post holes being used by businesses had been provided by ODOT specifically for display of American flags as an "Avenue of Flags." He said that, while the City had chosen not to enforce sandwich board signs along the ODOT right of way, a flag containing text would fall under the sign regulation section of the Code. Milliman said he would be happy to provide Council the regulations so they could give direction about any changes they wished staff to pursue. He said there was concern that, in some instances, flags being placed in the holes along the highway were obstructing pedestrians and traffic. If Council wished to go consider making an arrangement with ODOT to allow flags, he said, some kind of regulation would still be needed. Milliman pointed out that ODOT occasionally picked up signs placed in their right of way. The City, he said, was trying to maintain a balance local desires to place advertising in the right of way and state right of way regulations, which in most instances along Chetco Avenue, included the sidewalk up to the building.

Brand said her building was probably 50 to 60 feet off the highway and her signs had been up against the building.

Councilor McClain said he was pro-business and would look into this to see what the City can do about it, as the regulations seemed "ridiculous."

Pete Roenfanz, Brookings, commented that the speed limit, from Dairy Queen to O'Reilly's, should be reduced to 25 mph and the City should encourage advertising by business owners.

Connie Hunter, English Court, commented that design standards were needed and while she was not a shareholder in a business, she was a stakeholder in the community. She went on to list her accomplishments over the last six years in response to a comment made during a previous asking her where she'd been six years ago.

Jeannie Giumarra, Cape Ferrelo, commented that she and Connie Hunter had a vision for Brookings and were not afraid to act on it. She asked if Council wanted Brookings to be known for its thrift stores and said she was all for progress if it fits and brings people to the community. Giumarra said design standards and a vision for Brookings was needed.

Councilor McClain said it was not the City's job to tell people to whom they can sell their property. Brookings can have standards, he said, but zoning is another issue. If people want high end restaurants and hotels, or a bowling alley, McClain said, "You need to talk with your pocket book." Right now, he said, Brookings restaurants and hotels are struggling and people need to be realistic about what they can be done.

Councilor Pieper said the property on which Dollar General is located was zoned commercial. He asked Giumarra what she wanted, or believed, the City could do to keep a private property owner from selling their property to something like a Salvation Army. Giumarra said she wanted Council to do whatever it could do within the law. Pieper said he wasn't sure how the City could regulate the sell of a private property and Giumarra said the City could change the zoning.

Mayor Hedenskog said this discussion belonged at the committee level.

Hunter said the City or Chamber could enter into a "land trust" and then look for a specific type of business to locate on the property and added that she'd been told by TPAC members that they were interested in eco-tourism.

Councilor Hamilton said if he had a piece of property for sale and Wal-Mart wanted to buy it, he would probably sell it to them if they offered a good price. He said there was a lot of negative talk about corporations and wasn't sure that everyone realized that that McDonalds and Rays were also corporations. Hamilton said he would like to see a citizen designs standards committee.

### **Staff Reports**

*Authorization to install a live Blue Spruce tree at the pocket park at the intersection of Chetco Avenue and Hillside Drive.*

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

**Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize the installation of a live Blue Spruce tree at the pocket park at**

**the intersection of Chetco Avenue and Hillside Drive, tree to be approximately 20 feet in height with a cost not to exceed \$700.**

**Consent Calendar**

1. Approve Council minutes for January 26, 2015.
2. Accept Parks & Recreation minutes for October 16, 2014.
3. Accept Planning Commission minutes for December 2, 2014.
4. Accept January, 2015 Vouchers in the amount of \$351,212.05.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as written.

**Remarks from Mayor and Councilors**


Mayor Hedenskog said he was on the Sheriff's law enforcement levy committee which unanimously approved the split tax rate being proposed.

Councilor Hamilton remarked that the Boy Scouts were celebrating their 104 year anniversary this week. Hamilton said the Boy Scout program in this town is outstanding with great leadership and resources.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:  
this 23 day of February 2015:

  
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Joyce Heffington, City Recorder