

City of Brookings

City Council Meeting MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415
Monday, February 23, 2015

Call to Order

Mayor Hedenskog called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call

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

Staff present: City Manager Gary Milliman, Public Works & Development Director Loree Pryce, Parks & Technical Services Supervisor Tony Baron, Planning Manager Donna Colby-Hanks, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: No media and approximately 11 others.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to reappointment of Ray "Skip" Hunter to the Planning Commission.

Staff Reports

Information and discussion regarding flag, banner and sign regulations.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog said he'd given this a lot of thought and he didn't want to be amending the regulations every time a store owner disagreed with the sign ordinance.

Councilor McClain said he had visited the owner of the yarn store and then asked Planning Manager Colby-Hanks about the sign issues at that location.

Colby-Hanks said she'd received a complaint about this particular store at which time she reviewed signage and provided information about sign regulations to business owners in the downtown core. She said the yarn store had two banners that had contained wording.

McClain asked about the banners he'd seen at the marijuana store and whether these were allowed because they didn't have words on them and Colby-Hanks said yes.

City Manager Milliman said there had been a proliferation of flags and banners and he had received several complaints from business owners asking why there were regulations if they weren't going to be enforced, or why permit applications had been denied while other businesses that hadn't applied for a permit were getting away with having flags and banners. Milliman added that the banner at the marijuana store, as well as other locations, while meeting City regulations, might not meet ODOT regulations.

Councilor Hodges said Council had discussed sandwich board signs in workshop some time ago and had ended up allowing them, with certain specifications that Council felt were needed.

Councilor McClain asked about the reasoning behind allowing symbols but not text and said he would be willing to revisit this subject.

Councilor Pieper said he was willing to revisit this subject at a workshop and asked Colby-Hanks to provide specific examples of text. Colby-Hanks said some had advertised insurance companies or cell phone service and Milliman added that restaurants had also had banners with food related text.

Councilor Pieper asked if the City had typically been reactive as opposed to proactive about the regulations and Colby-Hanks said she had initially provided information to all downtown core businesses about the new regulations, and other signage options that might meet their needs and Milliman added that this had followed a letter he'd sent out asking for voluntary compliance.

Councilor Hodges said he would be willing to revisit the matter at another workshop to allow business owners to have their say. He added that there were some areas where there was more room for signage.

Councilor McClain said he could understand the yarn business owner's position, given the location, and if he were in her position, he would feel the same. To him, he said, it should be either no flags allowed or a more reasonable rule regarding what can be on the flags.

Councilor Pieper said he would prefer looking at the whole sign ordinance and having Councilor Hamilton's input was important as well, as he had not been on the Council during previous discussions on this topic.

Mayor Hedenskog said Council had done its due diligence when it looked at this before.

Councilor Hodges asked if he could get a permit for a banner with text and Colby-Hanks said typically a permitted banner would be one that was mounted to qualify as a sign.

City Manager Milliman asked if the yarn shop was maxed out on allowed signage and Colby-Hanks said she didn't know. He said if flags and banners were being considered as signs, it would seem to follow that someone could get a permit for that and perhaps that was something to be considered at the workshop as well. He also said that it was important to keep in mind ADA requirements and that some banners, where the sidewalk is narrow, could impair freedom of movement. He also added that some sandwich board signs were placed where they impaired wheelchair access.

Mayor Hedenskog said Council had reviewed signage twice since he was on the Council and ADA requirements were always considered as part of the regulations. He then asked if staff could notify business owners that Council would be discussing this in a one-topic workshop and allow public input.

Councilor Hodges and Councilor Pieper volunteered to help spread the word about the workshop.

Approval to purchase a utility vehicle for park and trail maintenance.

Supervisor Baron gave the staff report.

Councilor Pieper said he had no objection to the request, but would like to see a complete list of the City's equipment, with the exception of Police Department equipment, with the year and mileage and that sort of information.

Councilor Hodges said he'd used this type of vehicle a lot and it was immensely useful. He asked if this was budgeted this year and Baron said \$10,000 of it was. The balance would come from the capital reserve.

Councilor McClain asked how park maintenance was currently being handled and Baron said the City had not had to take care of the Harris Beach multi-use path before but will when it is complete. Some of the gravel paths in the parks, he said, are currently maintained with a pretty rough, very old tractor that can't climb some of the hills and sometimes doesn't start. This new vehicle will allow staff to get into areas that it currently has to access on foot where there is often significant debris.

Councilor Pieper said he'd heard a number of comments from the public regarding City parks not being "up to snuff," which he did not blame on staff but rather on approvals by Council through budget cycles. He said the comments had made him take a closer look and it was time to start looking at them. Our parks, he said, are a big commodity and if a one-time purchase like this will help, and if this is what staff is saying is one of the best ways to address it, he was willing to go that route.

Councilor McClain said he would like to see a list of City equipment as well before approving this purchase. He said the City could buy any number of vehicles to make things easier but he wanted to be sure tax payer money is being spent as wisely as possible.

Councilor Pieper said if they were asking for another $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup, he would question it too, but this would be the only vehicle like it and he trusts that there is a need for it.

Councilor Hodges said \$10,000 was already budgeted so it would only cost another \$5,000 from this budget and Councilor McClain asked if it was really needed this year since the path wasn't going to be finished for several months.

Councilor Pieper said he also wanted to see a comprehensive list of all mobile equipment before approving another vehicle purchase and City Manager Milliman said staff would recommend not taking action on this item until the next meeting when staff would provide that list.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to postpone this until the next meeting when staff will bring back a comprehensive list of vehicles.

Authorization to execute a contract with Civil West Engineering Services, Inc., for a Redundant Water Supply Plan.

Director Pryce presented the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog said the lack of a redundant water supply had long been a concern of his and he thought it was a good idea.

Milliman said it was important to develop a redundant water source and pointed out that the city's original point of diversion from the Chetco River had been moved up river due to occasional salt water intrusion and the City still had a water right for that location. The consultant, he said, would look at this and other sources, such as the Ferry Creek reservoir. The reservoir, he said, if cleaned and refitted for seismic safety could be capable of storing a 30 day water supply and could possibly be kept filled by pumping water from the Chetco River.

Councilor Hodges moved and a second followed to authorize execution of a contract with Civil West Engineering Services, Inc., for a Redundant Water Supply Plan and the motion failed, 2-2, with Mayor Hedenskog and Councilor Hodges voting "Yes," and Councilors McClain and Pieper voting "No."

During further discussion, Councilor McClain said the City needed to be prepared but had just postponed purchase of a \$15,000 vehicle. This, he said, is another \$35,000 for a study. McClain said he said there is water everywhere around here and in an emergency, there must be other things that can be done to obtain water. He said he would rather take the funds and develop the other point of diversion and asked why staff couldn't look at that intake themselves.

Pryce said she was not an expert on water intakes and staff time was also a consideration.

Mayor Hedenskog said the City had around 3.5 million gallons of water storage currently available which is way less than what is needed. This study, he said, could help resolve this issue.

Councilor Pieper suggested that staff be directed to bring the matter back to Council to allow more time for he and Councilor McClain to consider it; McClain agreed.

Councilor Hodges said he was ready to approve it; it's an important issue.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Council minutes for February 9, 2015.
2. Accept Public Art Committee minutes for December 1 and December 15, 2014 and for January 5, 2015.
3. Receive monthly financial report for January 2015.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve the consent Calendar as written.

Adjournment

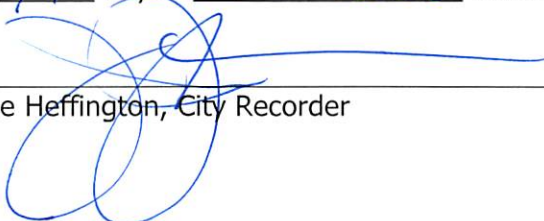
Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 17 day of March 2015:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder