

City of Brookings

City Council Meeting MINUTES

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

Call to Order

Mayor Hedenskog called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Public Works & Development Director Loree Pryce, Parks & Technical Services Supervisor Tony Baron, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: Curry Coastal Pilot Reporter Jane Stebbins and approximately 9 others.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to add Item G-7 [an emergency procurement of a biogas valve] to the agenda.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to appoint Emmalea Keskeny to the Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee.

Mayor Hedenskog proclaimed March as General Aviation Appreciation Month.

Public Comments - non-agenda items

Laurie Brand, Brookings, asked if Council could hold a workshop to allow comments and discussion on sign regulations and Mayor Hedenskog said a workshop had been scheduled and will be publicized.

Councilor Pieper suggested that anyone wanting to present written testimony turn that in to the City Recorder prior to the meeting so Council has time to review it.

Staff Reports

Approval to support submission of a National Disaster Resiliency Competition proposal in partnership with the State of Oregon and City of Reedsport w/ public comment period.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog opened the public comment period at 7:20 PM. Hearing no comments, the period was closed at 7:21 PM.

Councilor McClain moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to support the submission of a proposal in partnership with the State of Oregon and City of Reedsport under the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.

Approval to allocate funding for the 2015 Fourth of July Fireworks program.

City Manager Milliman gave the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog said he was concerned about using Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee (TPAC) funds for this purpose.

Councilor Pieper asked if this had been vetted through TPAC, and Milliman said it had not but could be; the next meeting is in about two weeks.

Councilor McClain said he would like to involve TPAC in the process and Councilor Hamilton agreed.

Councilor Pieper said Council was going to want a say in how much money was allocated. He said he was okay with it going back to TPAC, but in the future he would like this item considered as part of the annual budget process.

Mayor Hedenskog asked if they could make a motion with an amount and still send it back to TPAC and Milliman said they could.

Councilor Hodges said he thought \$2,000 would be a good amount.

Councilor Hamilton asked if the allocation could be split between TPAC and another fund to reduce the impact on TPAC's budget and Mayor Hedenskog suggested that Council wait for TPAC's decision; there would still be time to make changes, if needed.

Councilor Pieper added that TPAC had a little over \$20,000 left in this fiscal year budget which was quickly coming to an end.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to allocate \$2,000 from the TPAC fund to the VFW fireworks program and schedule the item for TPAC for their input to determine which fund to take it from.

City-wide Vehicle Inventory.

City Manager Milliman presented the staff report.

Councilor Pieper said he would like to see this as a running list given to Council annually as part of the budget process.

Councilor McClain asked how often the vehicle would be used and Baron said it would be used daily. McClain then asked if it would retire another vehicle and Baron said this is one of a kind. Councilor Pieper then noted that McClain was discussing the next agenda item.

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

Supervisor Baron provided the staff report.

Councilor Pieper asked what the \$5,753 in unallocated funding had originally been intended for and Baron said the funds were to be used to resurface the pool which wasn't going to happen this year.

Mayor Hedenskog said the City would get a lot of use out of this vehicle and Hamilton asked if it was fuel and electric. Baron said it ran on diesel.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$15,753.03 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a utility vehicle for park and trail maintenance.

Approval to execute an agreement with the Azalea Park Foundation for a Community Garden in Azalea Park.

Supervisor Baron gave the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog said it was a great idea for an under-utilized area of the park.

Azalea Foundation President, Lynette McPherson, said she'd taught gardening in Crescent City for 20 years and the community garden in Azalea Park will be run similar to the one at the high school, which she also planned. The garden, she said, will help people learn how to grow their own food and any excess would go to the food bank and community kitchen. Scott Clapson said a number of people had "come out of the woodwork" to tell him they wanted be involved in the project.

Mayor Hedenskog asked where they would get the topsoil and Clapson said the community was extremely generous and he didn't think it would be an issue.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Azalea Park Foundation for a Community Garden in Azalea Park.

Approval to allocate Transient Occupancy Tax revenue for the production and distribution of an event rack card as proposed by the Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee.

City Manager Milliman presented the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog recalled that Council had felt this was one of the least effective ways to spend this money when the funds had been going to the Chamber.

Councilor McClain said print advertising had all but disappeared and was becoming more internet based.

Councilor Pieper said TPAC had a budget approved by Council and he was more concerned about something going out on a card without business or event collaboration because if a date gets changed or cancelled, the organizer hasn't paid anything toward it and so isn't going to be invested.

Councilor McClain said he preferred giving money to specific programs where the organizers have a plan about how to promote it. Once this card gets printed, it's done, he added.

Milliman, at Mayor Hedenskog's request, discussed a smaller QR code card that when scanned, would send the individual to a website where they could get information that was regularly updated. This, he said, was what he was more often seeing.

TPAC member, Candice Michel, said the intent for the card was to get some of the motorhome travelers coming through town who might not know what's going on here. She said the card would only include events that were known to occur annually, like the Azalea Festival and Slam'n Salmon. The cards would appeal to people who don't use their smart phone or listen to radio or TV ads, she added.

Councilor McClain asked if there was a way to measure the program and Michel said they had discussed making a questionnaire available at hotels and McClain said he didn't want to fill out a questionnaire when he was at a hotel, and it's important to find out if there is market for this kind of thing.

Councilor Hodges said the one problem he had with the event card is that a lot of the events specifically target the Port area. While they are great events, the hotels on this side of the bridge provide the funding and he wondered if anyone had contacted the Chamber or the Port about contributing. He said he would feel better about funding a rack card if that happened.

Michel said she wouldn't hold her breath on that happening. The Chamber, she said, "won't give us the time of day." She added that they might be able to work with the Port on some things.

Councilor Hamilton said when his parents had owned and operated a motel they'd had a beautiful brochure filled rack that didn't get much activity, in part because he didn't think it was distributed correctly. And when he had worked for a jet boat company, the brochures they sent to visitor centers along the highway went so quickly they'd had to increase production which sky-rocketed their printing costs. Also, he added, with an event rack card, they would need to be picked up at the right time to be effective.

Mayor Hedenskog said he also didn't want a card produced by the City to compete with one produced by the Chamber, and Michel said she thought they'd asked around and there didn't seem to be one out there about Brookings.

Councilor Pieper said print advertising should be about Brookings and not about specific events and Councilor McClain said a rack card didn't meet his criteria.

No action was taken.

Emergency procurement of a valve for the bio-gas air compressor on the anaerobic digester.

Director Pryce said the valve on the shelf they planned to use to replace the malfunctioning valve was not in good working condition and couldn't be repaired. She said staff proposed putting off the sewer rate study budgeted this year as it would be better to do it after the Sewer Master Plan was completed. The valve, she said, was one of a few parts that they hadn't known was close to failure, and was one of the reasons sewer master plans are so critical. Pryce said that Dyer Engineering was in the process of updating it at present, and the update included assessing all of the City's equipment so the City could be better prepared for this kind of thing.

Mayor Hedenskog said the part had been 15 years in a corrosive environment and he was surprised it had lasted this long. It's a critical component, and an emergency, he said, and for him was a "go."

Councilor Hodges asked if they could rebuild one as a replacement and Pryce said the one they were removing would be sent in for repair to serve as a spare.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to purchase a new compressor [for] \$23,152, under an emergency situation.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Council minutes for February 23, 2015.
2. Approve the reinstatement of the annual Yard of the Month program for five months beginning in May, 2015.
3. Approve rescheduling the May 25, 2015 Council meeting to Tuesday, May 26, 2015 due to the Memorial Day Holiday.
4. Accept the permanent Strom Drain Easement for Tax Lot 800; Map 41-13-05BC, located at 408 Pacific Avenue, from the Ann Christensen Family Trust and authorize the City Manager to sign the easement.

5. Accept the permanent Slope Easement for Tax Lot 1804; Map 41-13-05A, located on North Bank Chetco River Road, from Eagle Cap Rentals, and authorize the City Manager to sign the easement.
6. Accept Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee minutes for December 18, 2014 and January 15, 2015.
7. Accept February 2015 Vouchers in the amount of \$165,356.31.

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

Remarks from Mayor and Councilors

Mayor Hedenskog remarked on a comment he'd received that the City had jumped the gun getting their tax measure on the ballot ahead of the Sheriff's levy. Hedenskog said the City had acted on its measure well before the Sheriff's levy had come up.

Councilor McClain remarked on the confusion created by the Pilot article that said we were instituting a sidewalk fee. Council, he said, had not discussed this at all and the fuel tax measure would replace the System Replacement fee.

Councilor Hamilton commented that he found the political cartoon about childhood immunizations and kids bringing guns to school, published in an earlier addition of the Pilot, to be an insult to parents and schools. Hamilton said it was the most upset he had been in 14 years, and he was not requesting an apology from the Pilot, but was requiring one.

City Manager Milliman commented on the week's tragedies of a deadly fire and police officer injury in an incident that morning. He said the Police Department had also provided an officer to assist in Del Norte County with an incident involving an at-large suspect and gun fire exchanges. He said we ask a lot of our public safety volunteers and it's stressful to them. Milliman also remarked that the City's Emergency Operating Center had been used by State Troopers as a command post for the earlier incident, and as an after-incident counseling location for fire responders involved with the fire. The City's public safety volunteers involved in these events, Milliman said, were outstanding and they had worked very hard and very well this past week. "It's not a sleepy little town," he said. "It's been an intense couple of weeks and our folks have met the test."

Adjournment

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



 Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
 this 23rd day of March 2015:



 Joyce Heffington, City Recorder