

City of Brookings

CITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415

Monday, May 11, 2015

Call to Order

Mayor Hedenskog called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call

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

Staff present: City Manager Gary Milliman, Public Works & Development Director LauraLee Snook, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

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

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Yard of Month Awards

- Commercial: Chet's Nursery, owners Cliff and Roxanne Bennett
- Residential: 961 Helen Lane, owners Jim & Coo Clarkson

Ordinances/Resolutions

Ordinance moving Chapter 15.15, Flood Damage Prevention, to Brookings Municipal Code Title 17, Land Development Code.

Director Snook provided the staff report.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to do a first reading of Ordinance 15-O-743.

Mayor Hedenskog read the title.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to do a second reading of Ordinance 15-O-743.

Mayor Hedenskog read the title.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 15-O-743.

Yvonne Maitland, Brookings, commented that certain sections of the appeals process in the ordinance did not comply with land use regulations and should be updated.

City Manager Milliman directed staff to review it with the City Attorney and bring it back to Council.

Resolution approving the annexation of the City into the Curry Health District (CHD) and calling for an election.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Virginia Razo, CHD's new Chief Executive Officer, said this is a historic moment and Brookings would benefit from having one cohesive health system. Her approach, she said, was to improve health care for the entire region. She said most rural hospitals are closing the doors and she commended current CHD members for supporting the new Gold Beach Hospital general obligation

bond. She said CHD was looking to partner with Brookings to ensure that anyone living in the southern coast region can receive high quality medical services when needed.

Councilor McClain asked how annexation would work for Harbor and Milliman said existing district voters would vote as to whether or not to expand the district and Brookings and Harbor voters would vote to annex the territory which is essentially defined by the local Port district.

Mayor Hedenskog pointed out that the resolution would not annex the City into the district. However, he said, state law requires the City Council to be in favor of the annexation and call for it to be put to the voter for approval.

Ken Landau, CHD Chief Financial Officer, said the goodwill between the City and the district began with the reduction in interest on outstanding SDC's a couple of years ago. He said the additional revenue would be spent in Brookings.

Councilor McClain said his understanding was that district members currently pay \$0.74/\$1,000 and with the bond for the Gold Beach hospital, it would increase to \$1.34/\$1,000. The annexation of Brookings and Harbor in the district, he said, would provide for a rate for everyone of \$0.99/\$1,000 and the result would be that Brookings would have an Emergency Department and the clinic would be expanded to provide additional services. Landau concurred.

Councilor Pieper said he was glad CHD had recognized that the SDC reduction was an act of goodwill. He said if this came to fruition, it would be a great thing for Brookings.

Councilor McClain said it was a historic time that would improve the quality of life as well as property values. As a realtor, he said, he knows that the number one reason people left the area was medical.

Councilor Hamilton said he had made two flights to Medford in the recent past, and he would be relieved for himself and everyone in town who would benefit, if this happened.

Mayor Hedenskog said the CHD resolution provided that, upon annexation, we would have interim representation on the board until the election in 2017.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 15-R-1054, approving annexation to the Curry Health District and calling for an election.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to recess for approximately 15 minutes [to allow time to sign the resolution and provide a certified copy to CHD].

Mayor Hedenskog called the meeting back to order at 7:52 PM.

Staff Reports

Social Security Bar gate.

City Manager Milliman delivered the staff report and distributed additional information to Council.

Lucille Semenuk, Brookings, commented that the County told her they were unable to respond to calls due to the lack of a deputy and she felt a gate would be very helpful.

Teresa Rice, Brookings, commented that if you walked the Bar you would see broken bottles, nails, dirty diapers and hypodermic needles and they needed the City's help.

Mayor Hedenskog said the City owns the only access and when Council discussed this before the issue of a gate had come down to the inability to have someone available to open and close the gate.

Councilor Pieper said Council had discussed a gate but had never committed to installing one. The biggest problems, he said, wouldn't be solved with a gate.

Teresa Rice asked why an officer could not be used to open and lock the gate. She said the only other access is on her mother's property which they planned to gate. Mayor Hedenskog said the state also owns a piece of property with access along the bar, and Rice said it did, and it was gated.

Councilor Pieper said this wouldn't be an issue if the Sheriff had adequate deputies. He added that the cons of putting in a gate outweigh the pros.

Councilor McClain said he wasn't sure why the City owned the access and went on to describe a similar issue he had with his own property. He said he had installed a gate which he'd had to replace three times due to vandalism. The only one, he said, who can do anything about the issues at the Bar is the Sheriff and no one will vote to give the Sheriff's department more staff.

Councilor Hamilton said a locked gate would be a fruitless effort as there are foot trails as well.

Mayor Hedenskog said he felt it was time for the City to do something and a gate would help. He suggested a possible solution might be to dedicate the access and then sell it.

Councilor Pieper said if this had gone to a workshop first, there would have been others in attendance arguing against the gate.

Bill Smythe, Brookings, said he lives right on the river and thought the Mayor's idea to sell the access was a good one. He related a story about a family who were unable to allow their children to go more than 20 feet away from their campsite due vehicles going 50 mph in the river and said someone was going to get killed. He added that the state had wanted to close it years ago but a local official had intervened and it had remained open.

Councilor McClain said if the City closed the access, no one could go down on the Bar and he wasn't willing to close it. He said this conversation should be taking place at the County level as the City doesn't own the land and has no jurisdiction over what goes on at the Bar. He then asked if the City could give the access to the County.

Councilor Pieper said the same issues at the Social Security Bar happen at all the other bars on the river. He said he recreated there and dealt with the same issues, but that was part of being able to recreate freely. People that own property on the river could still walk their dogs if it was gated, he said, but if the access were given to another group, they could close it and he wasn't willing to take that risk.

Councilor McClain said the people of Brookings pay taxes for law enforcement and if the City had a problem area, the City's Police Department would take care of it and if the people in the County want to have protection they have to pay for it. He said "I'm so sick of this." The people in the County, he said, keep acting like they can have patrol and not pay for it. "They have to pay for it," he said and added that it's not the City's problem.

Councilor Hamilton asked if the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife had patrol officers and Milliman said the Bar is under the Oregon Department of State Lands and policing it is the responsibility of the Oregon State Police and the County Sheriff's Department. Milliman said if the

County and State felt it was a priority they could determine the times of day when the greatest issues occur and provide patrol in that area during those times.

Councilor Hamilton asked if Council could provide a letter referring the matter to the state agencies.

Mayor Hedenskog said that closing the gate in the summer was not being proposed; it would remain open for recreational activities and fishing every day. He said he was advocating a gate with responsible people to open and close it at reasonable times and would talk to the Sheriff and the State about this issue. He said it was clear if he made a motion it wouldn't go anywhere, but he would talk to the Sheriff about it.

Councilor Hamilton suggested that the matter be referred back to a workshop after the Mayor talks to the Sheriff and State Police.

Councilor McClain asked if they could put together a letter to the Sheriff, adding that if deputies broke things up on party nights, the partiers would go elsewhere. A gate, he said, is not the answer. He said if he were one of the homeowners, he'd hold a big group barbeque on the Bar with the other owners on problem nights as the thing kids hate more than anything is a bunch of adults. There are simple solutions to the problem, he said.

Councilor McClain moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the Sheriff asking him to patrol the area, to contact Teresa [Rice] to find out key times to be down there to patrol that area for illegal activity and copy the letter to the Oregon State Police.

Status of Downtown Standards Committee.

Director Snook gave the staff report.

Councilor Hamilton said he thought an advisory committee, similar to the Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee (TPAC) was a good idea and he knew a couple of people who would be interested in participating on the committee.

Councilor Pieper said he thought it was a waste of time as it was a vicious cycle with standards being proposed and then the merchants and downtown property owners protesting the changes, and then the it dies. He said if Council wanted standards, they just needed to deal with it.

Councilor McClain said he didn't feel they needed to be super restrictive, but some standards would give the City a better overall look. He said he would be in favor of forming a committee.

Mayor Hedenskog said Council had already put together a blight ordinance, but not without a fight. He said it was obvious to him that Council didn't favor a lot of restrictions, but he would be in favor of a color palette and proposed they put together a committee to come up with standards to bring to Council.

Snook said it would be August before staff could take it on and Hedenskog and McClain said that was fine.

Councilor McClain said he'd like to see some minimum number of business owners on the committee and Hedenskog said it would be a Council-appointed committee.

Councilor Pieper said he wasn't sure they were all on the same page and suggested that Council come up with some guidelines and Hedenskog said he agreed.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to move [the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update to proceed the Chamber item].

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update.

Director Snook provided the staff report which was information only.

Participation in Brookings Harbor Chamber Map/Brochure.

City Manager Milliman gave the staff report.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to approve participation in the Brookings Harbor Chamber of Commerce 2015-17 map publication at a cost not to exceed \$595 utilizing Transient occupancy Tax funds, contingent upon TPAC approval.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Council minutes for April 13, 2015.
2. Approve Council minutes for April 27, 2015.
3. Accept Public Art Committee minutes for April 6, 2015.
4. Accept March 2015 Vouchers in the amount of \$209,041.01.

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

Remarks from Mayor and Councilors

Councilor Hamilton apologized for using the term "negative nelly," at a previous meeting and said he would be providing an apology to the woman who complained in an upcoming issue of the Pilot.

Adjournment

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 29th day of May 2015:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder