

City of Brookings

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415
Monday, March 10, 2014

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: City Manager Gary Milliman, Parks & Technical Services Supervisor Tony Baron, Planning Manager Donna Colby-Hanks, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: Pilot Reporter Jane Stebbins and approximately 13 others.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Appointment of Linda Matlock to the Budget Committee.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to appoint Linda Matlock to the Budget Committee.

Scheduled Public Appearances

Presentation on Public Safety Matters by Curry County Sheriff John Bishop.

Sheriff Bishop presented a power point regarding the costs associated with consolidating Curry County's jail with Coos County's, generally stating that, according to his analysis, it would cost Curry County more to consolidate with Coos County than to continue to operate the current jail. Bishop then proposed a \$0.68/\$1,000, three year property tax levy that would only fund the jail and would remove it from the general fund. He said while the jail is old, it could be grandfathered in; the overhead sprinkler system was the only large item remaining to be fixed. Once the jail is funded, Bishop said, they could then discuss unifying 9-1-1.

Councilor Hodges asked why the unification of 9-1-1 couldn't be done now and Bishop said it was because 9-1-1 staff also provided command and control for the jail.

Mayor Hedenskog said this would free up \$1 million in the general fund for juvenile, District Attorney's office and courts and Bishop said it could.

Councilor McClain asked what the Sheriff's total budget was and Bishop said it was roughly \$4 million. McClain asked what portion of general fund went towards law enforcement and Bishop said it was probably around \$2 million out of the \$4 million budget.

Councilor Pieper asked what the County Commissioner's take was on his proposal and Bishop said they were on board with it.

Councilor McClain asked if the \$0.68 would be earmarked 100% for the jail and Bishop said it would.

Councilor Hamilton asked Bishop how he felt about the formation of a law enforcement district and Bishop said he didn't mind patrol districts but there were some mutual aid issues that might have to be worked through.

Hamilton said a \$0.92 levy had been discussed at one time to cover the jail and some patrol and wondered if Bishop thought something like that could pass and Bishop said the higher you go the harder it is to pass, but he really didn't know. The \$0.68, Bishop said, was what it would cost to run it correctly.

Hamilton asked about fund raising possibilities, and if a volunteer citizen group could be formed to help with fundraising for something like the sprinkler system and Bishop said it could and he would welcome any fund raising activities.

Hamilton commended Bishop on all the hard work he had done on his proposal and said he thought Bishop was going in the right direction. Hamilton added that a lot of people seemed to be confused about where the money from the last levy on the ballot was going to go.

Councilor Hodges said there were a lot of overlapping districts and county services and the \$0.68 levy for the jail made sense and Bishop said the jail did not overlap districts.

Councilor Pieper said the jail is open today and is costing \$900,000, yet Bishop is saying it will cost \$1.6 million. He said the citizens want bare bones and asked Bishop how he planned to sell a budget that was twice what it is now.

Sheriff Bishop said \$0.68 is the best figure to run the jail correctly, efficiently and effectively. With dedicated funding, he said, any additional revenue the jail received over the budget could go towards capital improvement. If people want to have additional revenue go someplace else, that would be fine, he said.

Councilor McClain said "there is the feeling out there" that people want bare bones and one of his fears in giving yourself a buffer was that there's no motivation to cut costs. He added that if housing prices start to rise, then property tax revenue will too.

Bishop said he couldn't predict what might happen, but today this is what it will cost to run the jail. He said we can have that conversation again in three years if assessed values do go up.

Councilor McClain said he wanted to feel like this was a skinny budget and if there is excess revenue he'd like to see that excess going to the County's general fund.

Mayor Hedenskog said Council had been adamant that the jail was an essential County service and commended Bishop for coming up with a good three year levy which he could support based on what he'd heard tonight.

Councilor Pieper said the jail levy was a good idea, but it would need to beat other measures to the ballot. He said he supported the concept and it was the best tax measure idea to come from a County official. Pieper said it had a better chance of passing than anything else that's come forward.

Councilor Hamilton said he thought it was a good start, but felt it could be bumped up a little. He said it would likely get more support if it was clear that it's just for the jail.

Councilors McClain thanked Bishop for bringing this conversation to the Council and said he liked the concept.

Councilor Hodges thanked Bishop and said it was a move in the right direction and added, "I'd support this."

Mayor Hedenskog said Bishop had proposed holding a town hall in the south end of the County with a neutral facilitator on neutral ground and suggested using Reverend Bernie Lindley as a facilitator.

Sheriff Bishop said he would be opposed to any other tax measure being on the ballot at the same time as the jail measure and he thought Lindley was a great choice for a facilitator. He said this was topic he felt both the Council and Commissioner were together on and proposed keeping the subject on this topic.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to direct staff to establish a date, time and place for a south County or County wide Town Hall meeting.

Resolutions

Adoption of resolutions authorizing submission of grant applications for the phase one of the Azalea Park Ball Field Rehabilitation Project.

Supervisor Baron presented the staff report.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 14-R-1027, authorizing submission of a Land and Water Conservation application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Park improvements projects at Azalea Park.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 14-R-1028, authorizing submission of a Local Government Grant application o the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Park improvements projects at Azalea Park.

Staff Reports

Authorization to execute Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation for a grant to update the Transportation System Plan.

Manager Colby-Hanks gave the staff report and in response to a question from Mayor Hedenskog, said the process would involve two advisory committees, one technical and one comprised of citizens.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation for the Transportation Growth Management Grant [to update the Transportation System Plan].

Adoption of the City of Brookings 2014 Strategic Plan.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Councilor Hodges said that over time the plan had become a lot more focused and it was good to see them hitting some of the goals.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2014 Strategic Plan

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Council minutes for February 24, 2014.
2. Accept a permanent public utility easement from Smith River Rancheria for the Airport Infrastructure Project and authorize the City Manger to sign on behalf of the City.
3. Accept a temporary public utility easement from Gary and Elizabeth Wimberley and a permanent public utility waterline easement from Milton J. and Betty Lou Gowman for the Airport Infrastructure Project, and affirm the City Manager's authorization to sign the easements on behalf of the City.
4. Accept February 2014 Vouchers in the amount of \$301,949.06.

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

Remarks from Mayor and Councilors


Councilor Hamilton remarked on losing Dave Gordon to San Jose and expressed his appreciation for all Dave had done and for encouraging him to run for office. He said he wished him the best and his prayers were with Dave and his wife.

Councilor McClain offered his comments on several statements made at a County Commissioner Board meeting as reported in the Pilot regarding the proposed Home Rule Charter which he said were not factual and people should base their opinions on the facts, not on someone's strong opinion.

Adjournment

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adjourn by voice vote at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 25th day of March 2014:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder