

City of Brookings CITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415
Monday, August 25, 2014

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, Brent Hodges and Bill Hamilton; a quorum present.

Staff present: City Manager Gary Milliman, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: Curry Coastal Pilot Report Jane Stebbins and approximately 6 others.

Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to remove Item F.2 from the agenda.

Resolutions

Resolution 14-R-1045 calling for placement of a fuel tax measure on the May, 2015 election ballot.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Public Comment: Carlo Pelaccio, Brookings, said he fully supported the gas tax.

Councilor McClain said the City would have to increase the System Replacement Charge (SRF) fee on City water bills to complete needed street repairs. The City, he said, could get more revenue with a fuel tax and tourists filling up their RV's in town would help pay the cost of repairs. McClain said he wouldn't support a fuel tax unless it saved the residents money. He also said he'd talked with a local high volume fuel user who would pay a few hundred dollars a year more than he pays now and suggested that the City offer a refund to high volume users at some point.

Pelaccio said he thought it should be the same across the board; a business using more gas uses the streets more.

Councilor McClain said that the user he'd talked to typically drives some distance after re-fueling in Brookings.

Councilor Pieper said high volume users put more wear and tear on the road.

Councilor Hodges said he was in favor of a capped dollar amount and he disagreed with Pieper about high volume users. Larger users aren't driving around our residential sites, but rather to the highway and out of town. He said he'd liked to know what Fred Meyers sells in a week.

Councilor McClain said we'd all like to know how much fuel is actually sold here but it's been made clear that no one is going to provide that information.

Councilor Hodges said his fear is that if four cents isn't enough, then it will become five or ten cents.

Councilor McClain said he was confident that the City would collect more than it does now and Brookings citizens will pay less.

Councilor Hamilton said he originally opposed the tax because he wasn't confident about the numbers but he now felt four cents was do-able and should be acceptable. Hamilton said we should all pay our fair share.

Mayor Hedenskog asked if the measure would allow the City to collect more than four cents a gallon or \$300,000 a year and Milliman said they could not collect more than four cents a gallon in taxes and City Attorney Rice said that if they took in more than \$300,000 in a year, they would adjust the tax accordingly in the following year.

Milliman reviewed fuel sales figures for cities with smaller sized populations and pointed out that Eugene provides an 80% refund for large volume users. He then asked Rice if a refund policy could be defined by ordinance and Rice said the ordinance could include any details that need to be worked out once the tax was passed.

Mayor Hedenskog asked if they should put something in the resolution about not having good fuel sales numbers and McClain and Pieper said it wasn't needed.

Councilor Hamilton said the fuel tax would take some pressure off of the City's water customers and that they would need to do a lot of PR in the next few months to sell it.

Councilor McClain said the SRF on the water bill will go away. He also said that he found it funny that people didn't want to make tourists pay more when this is a tourist town.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 14-R-1045, calling for a measure proposing a local tax on motor vehicle fuel sales and directing the City Election Officer to place the measure on the May 19, 2015 Primary Election ballot.

Staff Reports

Refer Carousel proposal for Azalea Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City staff for review and recommendation.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to refer the inquiry from A Carousel for Brookings, Inc., concerning a possible location and operation/ownership of a carousel at Azalea Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Staff for review and recommendation.

Authorize Mayor to send letter to Curry County Board of Commissioners requesting financial assistance with North Bank Chetco River Road repairs.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

Mayor Hedenskog said he'd had this added to the agenda after learning at a DeFazio breakfast that the County receives funds to maintain and repair roads that are used to access federal lands.

Councilor Pieper said the section of North Bank being discussed was inside the City limits and he seriously doubted that the County Commissioners would take such a request seriously.

Councilor McClain said everyone in the County pays taxes toward road repair and this is a County road. The County, he said, should, at the very least, pitch in. McClain added that it was a smart idea to send the letter.

Councilor Hodges said he agreed with McClain that the road exclusively serves County residents, but everyone living in the area would be effected.

Councilor Hamilton said it wouldn't hurt to send the letter, but he could also see what Pieper meant and he would rather see some of the [County's road] funds pay for this.

Councilor McClain moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Curry County Board of Commissioners requesting assistance with funding repairs to North Bank Chetco River Road.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Special Council minutes for August 4, 2014.
2. Approve Regular Council minutes for August 11, 2014.
3. Accept Public Art Committee Minutes for July 7, 2014.
4. Receive July 2014 monthly financial report.

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 that he liked the Bruin Bear's new location.

Councilor Hamilton remarked on the recent death of his good friend and wanted to tell people that it's a bad idea to cross Chetco Avenue without a crosswalk. He also said another crosswalk might be needed between Crissey and Arnold.

Councilor McClain offered clarification regarding a recent news article and explained how he'd derived at a ranking of 18 out of 36 counties for Curry in terms of taxes as opposed to Jim Kolen's, the Curry County Tax Assessor, ranking of 23. He said he would be happy to sit down with the County and go over the numbers with them.

Adjournment

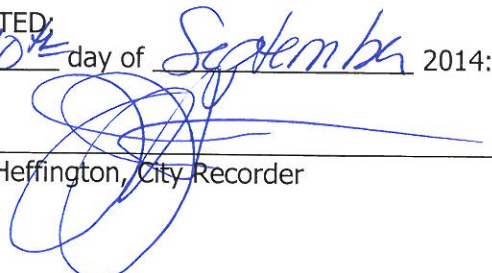
Mayor Hedenskog moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 10th day of September 2014:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder