

City of Brookings

MEETING Minutes

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, February 11, 2013, 7:00pm

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

The City Council met in Executive Session at 6:30pm, in the City Manager's office, under authority of ORS 192.660 (2) (h) to consult with counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Call to Order

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

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, Finance & Human Resources Director Janell Howard, Public Works & Development Director Loree Pryce, Building Official LauraLee Snook, City Attorney Martha Rice and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: Pilot Reporter Jane Stebbins and approximately 4 others.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Approval to reappoint Garth Richey to Parks & Recreation Commission.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to reappoint Garth Richey to Parks & Recreation Commission.

Approval to appoint Betty Pomerleau to the Planning Commission.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to appoint Betty Pomerleau to the Planning Commission.

Staff Reports

Authorization to proceed with Phase I study of the Wastewater System Development Charges.

Building Official Snook gave the staff report.

In response to questions from Councilor Hodges, Snook said in 26 years the City had received only \$60,000 from conversions and that removing SDC fees for conversions might encourage new businesses to locate here that might otherwise be discouraged by the fees. The administrative fee charged by the City, Snook said, was to pay for staff's processing time, including financial assessments.

Councilor McClain asked if the City could eliminate the SDC fee for conversion of existing buildings without justification and Mayor Hedenskog questioned the legality of doing so.

City Attorney Rice said she would need to research the process, but thought it could definitely be done if that was the direction Council wanted to go.

Director Pryce said Phase II would be an update of the Wastewater Master Plan identifying future capital improvement projects to later be incorporated into the SDC study.

Mayor Hedenskog said that whatever the City decided to charge needed to be defensible.

Councilor Pieper said that the study determines a maximum amount the City could charge, not a minimum; whatever the City decided to charge within that limitation was a policy decision.

Councilor McClain asked if a study was actually needed to determine the maximum SDC when the goal was to reduce certain fees.

Mayor Hedenskog said it was best to update the study every five years and after the study was completed, Council could make its policies decision.

Councilor Pieper said he was looking for good, factual data upon which to make decisions.

Councilor Hodges moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to proceed with Phase I of the Wastewater System Development Charge Study.

Authorization to investigate and prepare preliminary budget for implementation of an alternative plan for providing law enforcement, prosecution and prisoner services.

City Manager Milliman provided the staff report.

In response to questions from Councilor Hodges, Milliman said the Road Department receives state funding which, over the years, it had built up as a "rainy day" fund and that he didn't know if the state could mandate an increase in property taxes should the tax levy fail.

Mayor Hedenskog asked how the City would go about handling legal processes, such as hiring a District Attorney, and Milliman said it would be far less costly to work with the existing structure.

Council Pieper said he wanted to see a budget for handling only legally required law enforcement services.

Councilor McClain said he didn't want to see Brookings citizens "carry the County," and that in talking to people he didn't think there was any confidence that a tax increase was going to solve anything. "It's just kind of feeding the beast," he said.

Councilor Hamilton wondered why he hadn't heard anything about the County considering salary reductions for Commissioners or key staff, but said he was glad to see the County combining departments.

Councilor Hodges said the figures proposed in the tax levy didn't seem to be "a good balance of costs across the board."

Councilor Pieper said the City can't "build up a mote," around itself, and related waiting 45 minutes for someone from the County to show up after his family had been involved in a car accident. The City's decision to have more officers, Pieper added, ultimately resulted in a heavier use of the County's criminal justice system. "I can't fault Harbor residents for my decision to have more cops," Pieper said, and added that Council was going to have some hard decisions to make after looking at a budget, including possibly accepting lower law enforcement levels.

In response to questions from Councilor McClain, Milliman said the state didn't seem to have a plan for handling law enforcement in absence of the County providing it and that state regulations limited the length of time the City could hold detainees in its holding cells to four hours.

Councilor McClain said the County needed to move to a Commissioner/Administrator model, similar to the City's. The County, he said, has three paid Commissioners with no particular experience in running County government and without this change the problems will never be

solved. "It makes me sick," McClain said, in reference to the County's inaction toward implementing any of the ideas it had been presented.

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to investigate and prepare a preliminary budget for implementation of an alternative plan for providing law enforcement, prosecution and prisoner services as described in the Plan B discussion section of the Council Agenda Report dated February 11, 2013.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve Council minutes for January 28, 2013.
2. Accept Parks & Recreation minutes for December 13, 2013.
3. Accept January 2013, Vouchers in the amount of \$378,931.03.

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

Adjournment

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

A meeting of the Urban Renewal Agency immediately followed.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 27th day of February 2013:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder