

Special City Council Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

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

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Council Present: Mayor Ron Hedenskog, Councilors Dave Gordon, Jake Pieper, and Brent Hodges; a quorum present.

Staff Present: City Manager Gary Milliman, Finance & HR Director Janell Howard, Public Works & Development Director Loree Pryce, Public Safety Director Chris Wallace, Building Official LauraLee Snook, HR/Accountant Lu Ehlers and City Recorder Joyce Heffington.

Others Present: Pilot Reporter Jane Stebbins and approximately 11 others.

Ceremonies/Appointments/Announcements

Appointment of Ken Bryan to the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee.

Councilor Pieper asked if there had been a resignation and Mayor Hedenskog said there had not. Pieper then said that Council had stipulated a seven member committee and this would make nine members. Pieper said that Council was aware of what happened with the Chamber contract when Bryan had been Chamber Chair and said that if an appointment were to be made, he hoped Council would be willing to intercede if politics or "bad blood" came into play. "If there's an appointment made," Pieper said, "I for one, as one Councilor, will be watching closely for that and be ready to intercede if necessary."

Councilor McClain said the committee was formed to look for new ideas and he was concerned, if this appointment would bring "the right attitude," to the committee, due to an email he'd received from Bryan in which Bryan had basically said, "Leave it alone, you don't have the right to do that."

Councilor Hodges asked why there were eight members and Mayor Hedenskog said he felt that Bryan, a motel owner in the City, was a stakeholder and that he welcomed him to the committee as having something to add.

Councilor Gordon said he had worked with Bryan on the Chamber and found him to be knowledgeable, with good ideas, and a gentleman, and he didn't anticipate any of the problems alluded to by Pieper; if they did, he added, Council could respond.

Councilor Gordon moved, Mayor Hedenskog seconded, and the motion to appoint Ken Bryan to the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee failed, with "No" votes from Councilors Pieper, McClain and Hodges, and "Yes" votes from Councilor Gordon and Mayor Hedenskog.

Staff Reports

Storm Related Issues and Recovery Efforts.

City Manager Milliman introduced staff members which, as a team, handled various aspects of the storm event, narrated a slide show of storm event photos and presented the staff report

which went into some depth regarding storm damage and mitigation efforts.

Council members generally commended staff and volunteers for their efforts in responding to the storm event.

Milliman pointed out that not every battle was won. Residents suffered damage, he said, and that the City needed to find ways to further mitigate future potential damage in specific areas, as well as finding ways to assist residents in recovering from damage to their property. The City did what it could, he said, with what resources it had available to them.

Councilor Gordon asked about Public Works staffing and Milliman said that there were seven employees in that department, but due to the reduced level of staffing in that department, coupled with long term medical leaves and family illnesses, the department was short staffed. Milliman said it was difficult to keep a sufficient crew to handle this kind of event given current staffing levels. However, he added, the City had been able to fill a number of gaps with volunteers.

At Mayor Hedenskog's invitation, several residents commented on property damage.

City Manager Milliman advised anyone experiencing damage inside City limits to report it to the City and the County as well as to their personal insurance company, and if they think the City may have some responsibility, to also submit a claim to the Finance & HR Director.

Councilor Gordon commented on the high level of leadership and response and also added that in addition to the comments he made at the previous meeting regarding the fine Police officers employed by the City, the City's 9-1-1 dispatchers also do an amazing job getting information to the officers.

Councilor McClain encouraged citizens to check their properties for anything that might end up in drainage ditches as he planned to do.

Adjournment

Councilor Pieper moved, a second followed and Council voted unanimously to adjourn by voice vote at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Ron Hedenskog, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 12th day of December 2012:



Joyce Heffington, City Recorder