

CITY OF BROOKINGS
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES*
City Hall Council Chambers
898 Elk Drive, Brookings, Oregon
July 14, 1999
3:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORS192.640(3)*

Mayor Bob Hagbom called the emergency meeting to order at 3:32PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Councilor George Ciapusci

III. ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Bob Hagbom, Council President Larry Curry, Councilors Keith Pepper, Frances Johns, and George Ciapusci

Council Absent: Ex-Officio Councilor Shiloh Thom

Staff Present: City Manager Tom Weldon, Finance Director/Recorder Gail Hedding, Community Development Director Leo Lightle, Fire Chief William Sharp, Chief Treatment Plan Operator Joe Ingwerson, Accounts Payable Clerk Hilary Thompson, and Administrative Secretary Sharon Ridens

Media Present: Chuck Hayward, Curry Coastal Pilot

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY REQUEST

A. Regulation of Water Usage

City Manager Tom Weldon advised the City Council, through the counsel of City Attorney John Trew, all appropriate notifications and measures had been taken for the declared emergency meeting.

Community Development Director Leo Lightle advised the Council by the filtration plant pumps pumping 24-hours per day, the emergency water situation has slowly been approaching for approximately two weeks. After checking and double checking data information produced by the system and looking for any possible leaks, overflow switch problems, and noting the water levels gained some days slightly, and lost some days, there was obviously an extremely high demand for unknown reasons. Lightle informed the Council that yesterday during the evening hours, the water storage tanks were dropping at extreme rates - approximately 10%, which meant this could only result from excessive irrigations. If the decline in water levels was due to leaks, it would be occurring 24-hours a day. Lightle noted in his 25-years of experience in these matters, he has never seen the water levels of the storage tanks drop this rapidly - two feet in less than 24-hours. He stated he is concerned Brookings Water System users at various elevation levels will begin having water problems in their residents and businesses, unless immediate action is taken. Additionally, he noted with the water demand causing the water storage tanks to deplete to critical levels, the City

would not be able to adequately provide fire protection or any emergency preparedness (earthquake) needs. Lightle noted many different efforts had been made to correct this situation, including calling in an outside team of experts to also inspect for leaks. Discussion ensued, including the prospects of immediate future rain in the area.

Lightle asked the Council to authorize the City Manager to be able to implement necessary measures to control any such problem throughout the summer. He also informed the Council, he would continue to advise the Council at each regular common council meeting as to the status. Long range solution discussions ensued, including noting the emergency problem today was not due to lack of water, but due to the inability of processing enough water through the filtrations plant based on the current demand - which is greater than 2-million gallons per day (the current system's maximum rate).

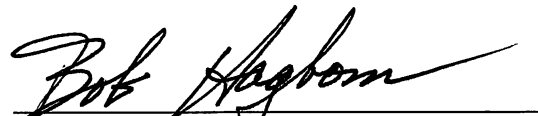
City Manager Weldon and Community Development Director Lightle will provide statement(s) and explanation to all media regarding the Council's recommendations from today's meeting. Councilor Pepper discussed the possible time line on any such future possible water problem. Lightle confirmed the anticipation of lifting any immediately placed restrictions in a short period of time was his expected response from the citizens using the Brookings Water System. However, any prohibitions would remain in place until the emergency is cleared up.

Councilor Pepper moved, Councilor Ciapusci seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to invoke a restriction on all irrigation until water storage tank levels are recovered, and if necessary, to otherwise limit the amount of water used by customers in order to conserve the city water supply. This authorization extends to October 1, 1999, with reports to the City Council at their regularly scheduled Council meetings.

V. ADJOURN

Councilor Pepper moved, Councilor Johns seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Bob Hagbom

Mayor

ATTEST:



Gail Hedding
Finance Director/Recorder