

**MINUTES**  
**Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**Troutdale City Hall – Council Chambers**  
**104 SE Kibling Avenue**  
**Troutdale, OR 97060-2099**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

**1. ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE**

Mayor Kight called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Kight, Councilor Ripma, Councilor Anderson, Councilor Thomas, Councilor White, Councilor Allen, and Councilor Daoust.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** Craig Ward, City Manager; Debbie Stickney, City Recorder; David Ross, City Attorney; Charlie Warren, Public Works Director; Dick Bohlmann, Building Official; Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer; Amy Pepper, Civil Engineer, and Erich Mueller Finance Director.

**GUESTS:** See Attached

Mayor Kight asked are there any updates to the agenda?

Craig Ward stated we have published a revised agenda, which is what has been distributed this evening.

**2 - A. OATH OF OFFICE: Officer David Lilly**

Mayor Kight administered the Oath of Office to Officer David Lilly.

Chief Scott Anderson explained the selection process that Officer Lilly went through.

Chief Anderson stated we are very proud of the fact that David successfully went through this process. To his family and friends, my job now is to give him the tools that he needs to be successful; and that means to keep him safe. My first commitment to you is that I am going to do everything that I can to make sure that he has a very long career here in Troutdale, and that he is safe. This is not just a job change; this is a career choice that could last 25 to 30 years. He is going to need your continued support because he is going to go through some situations that he hasn't faced yet and we know how tough that can be. But with our support he can succeed. David, I am very proud of you and very happy that you are part of our team. I am looking forward to working with you well into the future. Congratulations.

**2 - B. Election:** Election of the 2012 Council President

**NOMINATION:** Councilor Thomas nominated Councilor Daoust, our current Council President, to continue as Council President for 2012. Seconded by Councilor Anderson.

No other nominations received.

**Nomination approved unanimously by the Council.**

Councilor Daoust stated I appreciate the confidence that the Council has shown in me over the last ten years.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**3.1 ACCEPT MINUTES:** December 13, 2011 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilor Ripma moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor White. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Please restrict comments to non-agenda items at this time.

Mayor Kight stated I believe that the majority of the audience is here tonight to speak to a specific issue. The Council will not be responding, however, we are going to ask that staff prepare a response to the comments made here this evening.

Dennis Goss, resident of Troutdale, stated I have been a construction estimator and a member of two different unions. I found something that disturbed me on the IBEW website. I found a letter that accused Troutdale of basically locking out the union in a bid that I have learned was a fair bid. We have a team of folks who are working on getting us a police facility; they are doing an excellent job. The more we leave them alone the better product they deliver. When it was time for the electrical contractor they published a set of requirements and only two bidders met those requirements. The group that is planning the building awarded the bid to the lowest bidder. The next highest bidder was \$200,000 higher. The group that is controlling the construction of the building wisely selected the lower bidder. What I read on the IBEW website said that this was grossly unfair; the union was being locked out. That just doesn't seem to be the case. Tonight, if you don't remember anything else from my remarks, remember this – either you look out for our voters or you throw all of that away and you throw competitive bidding away and you respond to whatever pressure comes into this room. Many times when the Council Chambers is filled with people of one persuasion the Council tends to go along with that. I hope you do not do that tonight because you owe something greater to the voters of Troutdale.

Dave Jacobsen, resident, stated I have lived in Troutdale for 32 years and in those 32 years I have been a union electrician. I have paid my taxes, supported Boy Scout

Troops, and through all of this time I have been a proud Troutdale resident. The gentleman that just spoke is speaking to responsibilities to the voters of Troutdale. I also believe that you have a responsibility to the people who live here and work here. When I first started my career as an electrician I worked in Gresham at Fujitsu, 5 minutes from my home. Now with the economy I get up every morning at 4am and drive 1 hour to Hillsboro to work at Intel. Is it my choice, not really, it is either work there or not work. My experience as an electrician is that paper mills take the lowest bidder and then our union goes in and fixes the job that they have done and that money comes from that company. I am not saying that the contractor that was selected for this job will do a bad job, but I will tell you from experience that the extras and other items that come in to meet code will exceed that \$200,000. IBEW 48 prides themselves on doing the job right the first time on budget, and we fix our mistakes at no cost to the voters.

Greg Johnson, resident of Gresham, stated I have been a union electrician for 39 years. A construction job is similar to adding short-term jobs for blue-collar folks. The local spending offers more jobs to people who stock shelves and wait on customers, and it allows for less reluctance to vote for bonds that increase and enhance public service agencies. When the police facility is done much of the money will be in Washington. Wouldn't it be better to have the police facility and the money?

Dave Davis, Corbett resident, stated I have lived in Corbett all my life, which is in very close proximity to Troutdale so I have a vested interest in Troutdale. I am a union electrician. I am quite upset about this job being awarded to an out-of-state contractor. It is a slap in the face to those folks who live here in the area who are out of work. You have shot yourselves in the foot by allowing this out-of-state company to have this job. I get my hair cut at the Troutdale Barbershop and have done so for 20 years. I like to take my wife to dinner at Ristorante Di Pompeyo. My wife shops at the Outlet Mall and we buy our groceries and fuel locally. People are a creature of habit and those folks that are coming over from Vancouver to work on the new police facility are the same. They are going to earn their money here and they are going to spend it there. I am really disappointed to have heard that an out-of-state company was awarded this job.

Debra Smith, resident of Troutdale, stated I am a long-time Oregon resident and I have lived in Troutdale for 20 years. I am married to an electrician who belongs to IBEW Local 48. I do not know the aspects of this work, I only know that he has been receiving regular training to maintain his license. I know that he has attended all of his training every year. He has shown me the requirements outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. He has explained to me that the non-union electricians are only required to have 24 hours of training every 3 years to keep their license current. The union agreement calls for considerably more. All union electricians agree to drug testing. Drug free workers are more efficient and have fewer accidents. I will never support another bond levy unless there is assurance that you will keep my husband, his union and his neighbors in our state working.

Lynn Lehrbach, Gresham resident, stated I am the head of the Teamsters Union in the State of Oregon. I am here in support of Local 48 electricians. When I see tax dollars

spent outside of the State of Oregon that bothers me. This is taxpayers money; your taxpayers money that is being given to a contractor from another state. If you hire a qualified electrical contractor within your area then the money stays in the state and most of it gets spent in your community.

Lee Duncan, Damascus resident, stated I have been an electrical worker in the Local 48 for 20 plus years. I have helped coordinate volunteer efforts. An example is the score board that we installed at the Reynolds ball field. That was a value of \$30,000 and took a lot of man-hours. That was all done for free by the Local 48. To let you know what kind of contractor Prairie is, and I know this first-hand, there is a house being built in Vancouver for an Iraq war widow and their kids. Prairie put a bid in on it to do the work and then the group that was starting it came to us to try and get material. We told them that we would help them get the material but only if they let us come do the work for free. I have done countless hours of volunteer work in these communities, because as a Local 48 electrician it is just the right thing to do and we like to do that. Prairie doesn't care; they won't even do volunteer work in their back yard. You are sending all of these tax dollars over to Washington; I am sorry gentleman but it isn't the right thing to do.

Mike Ostman, resident of Troutdale, stated I am also a Local 48 member. With the lack of work around here I have probably only worked about six months in the last year. Even though I only worked half of the year my taxes don't get cut in half. We are here to try to work; to give our work to out-of-state electricians I just don't feel is fair.

Clif Davis, Business Manager for IBEW Local 48. I want to comment on the first person's testimony that the bid was \$200,000 lower. I would like to say that I received written documentation from the City that in fact the union contractor was \$20,000 lower. Mr. Davis read a letter into the record (copy attached as Exhibit A).

Francis Layton, resident of Troutdale for 20 years, stated I was an electrical apprentice but I am totally out of work. The decision making that took place here has a direct bearing on not just my situation, but many people. I care about this community. I appreciate you re-addressing the decision making in the future.

Female, stated I am a Troutdale resident and my husband works for Local 48. Actually he is not working because there are no jobs. I was wondering if we have to pay taxes in Washington instead of Troutdale because you sent our jobs over there?

Mike Smith, resident of Troutdale, stated I want to put a good word in for Glenn Otto who was one of the first Mayors here. He was a Local 48 member. He came here with great visions to make this a good place to live. I think he did a very good job. People have moved here and they have lived here for a very long time and they have enjoyed it. Above all he was fair. He lived to serve the people and to partner with the people. Partnerships are a big part of life; partnerships with your work, family and your friends. When you are partnering be aware of a new friend that will destroy valuable partnerships. I hope you do Glenn Otto a favor and respect his contributions.

Michale Flores, resident of Troutdale, stated I pay taxes on two houses in Troutdale. Both of my kids attended high school here. I am very pleased at the sense of community and the feel that I get from all of the people that help in the community. As many people here, I have also volunteered by coaching baseball and I did some work on one of the city buildings, which at the time I wasn't aware was a city building – the snack shack at Imagine Station. I am an IBEW member. I think the Chief summed it up with one word “family”. We can extend that to community, and the heartfelt feeling that we have with the people here that care about each other.

Ernie Singer, resident of Troutdale, stated I have done a lot of work in this area – Troutdale, Corbett, Wood Village. I have been in Local 48 for 31 years and I think we do an excellent job. When I found out that the police facility job was being given to a company that was out-of-state I was really shocked. I can't see how you can do that to your neighbors. It has nothing to do with union versus non-union. The people that would be working on your job from Local 48 spend their money here; a lot of them live here. There are a lot of union contractors out here. I wish there was some way that you could reconsider this.

Mayor Kight stated as I stated in my opening comments, we would ask that staff put together a response to some of the issues that have been raised tonight.

A union member asked that the response be sent to Clif Davis at Local 48 because he knows how to get in touch with all of us.

Mayor Kight replied okay. We really appreciate what IBEW has done for the City in the past.

## **5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Craig Ward, City Manager, updated the Council on the following:

- The folks being interviewed tomorrow evening by the Council for committee vacancies have been notified that the location of the interviews has been changed from City Hall to the City Conference Building. Staff will not be attending the interviews, and unless I am directed otherwise I have asked the staff to not participate.
- The City Council Work Session scheduled for Thursday night will also be held in the City Conference Building.
- We received notice today that the State of Oregon Business Oregon has awarded us the Brownfields Redevelopment Funds Supplemental Assessment Grant for \$65,600. That is only possible with Eastwind's commitment of their local match (bringing the grant total to \$78,800), which we also received written confirmation today. This grant will help us proceed with the work needed to clean-up the Urban Renewal area.

## **6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Ripma wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilor Anderson also wished everyone a happy new year. I would also like to thank everyone who came in tonight and gave up their time to tell us how they feel. It does not go unnoticed; it is very appreciated.

Councilor Thomas wished everyone a great new year. We received a letter responding to the questions we had about MC3. I would like to have that added to our next agenda to see if we can move that forward.

In regards to the request from IBEW, I would hope that a response would be provided from staff before the next council meeting.

Mayor Kight stated regarding MC3, at the last East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC) this issue was brought up and it looks like we are moving that direction, and we will include the land use piece. I believe it will be called MC4. The City of Portland has indicated that they will not be attending those meetings. This group meets monthly in Gresham with the four cities, Tri-Met, ODOT and other transportation partners and we are going to broaden that by adding the land use piece. Often times when you have transportation issues it also impacts land use. So it looks like we are moving that direction. We did ask staff to come forward with a proposal.

Councilor Ripma asked does this mean that EMCTC is going to take on land use also?

Mayor Kight replied it appears that way. We have yet to make a definitive decision, but it appears that it is moving that direction. EMCTC would be changed to MC4, which would be a more appropriate representative of the transportation and land use piece.

Mayor Kight thanked the folks who spoke this evening. We have heard you. We are your neighbors. We act as politicians, but we are right here in the community. We understand your comments and we are going to look at things very closely. There were some really good suggestions made and we are going to take that to heart. We are very concerned about what took place. We are going to communicate back to you so that you get the rest of the story.

Councilor White stated thank you to all of the generous folks who donated to the Toy Drive. I also want to thank the Troutdale Police Department for their efforts, SnoCap who delivered the toys, and the members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee who spent a lot of volunteer hours on the Toy Drive. They set a new record of over 220 barrels of toys. Thank you to all of you for your efforts.

Councilor Allen stated I really appreciate all of you who came to the meeting tonight to talk to us. It is important for us to hear what you have to say.

Councilor Daoust thanked the IBEW Local 48 members. You have made some excellent points. Anytime you relate to volunteers, which is what we are, you win some

points by telling us about all the volunteer work that you do in the community. It is very impressive when you hear people talk about all of the work that they have done. I appreciated that.

The Council needs to step up and start thinking about putting articles in the Troutdale Champion. I think the citizens in Troutdale would like to know more about each of us.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: Councilor Ripma moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

**Mayor Jim Kight**

**Approved February 28, 2012**

**ATTEST:**

**Debbie Stickney, City Recorder**