

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

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

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

PRESENT: Mayor Kight, Councilor Hartmann, Councilor Wand, Councilor Thomas, Councilor Kyle and Councilor Daoust.

ABSENT: Councilor White (excused).

STAFF: Dave Nelson, City Administrator; Sarah Skroch, Deputy City Recorder; David Ross, City Attorney; Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer; and Steve Bevens, Sergeant.

GUESTS: See Attached.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 2.1 ACCEPT MINUTES:** March 10, 2009 Work Session #1 and March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting.
- 2.2 RESOLUTION:** A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Port of Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation for the I-84 Frontage Road Right-Turn-Lane Project.
- 2.3 MOTION:** A motion to adopt the 2009-2010 City Council Goals.
- 2.4 RESOLUTION:** A resolution adopting an Intergovernmental Agreement between Multnomah County and the Cities of Portland, Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview to apply for a Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Kyle. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

None.

4. PROCLAMATION: Proclaiming April 18, 2009 as Arbor Day in the City of Troutdale.

Mayor Kight read the proclamation.

5. REPORT: Annual Financial Report from West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce.

Alice Freuler, Executive Director of the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce (WCGCC), stated this is our annual report to the City to inform you on how the transient lodging tax is used by the Chamber to operate the WCGCC Visitor's Center, which is located in Troutdale. We have two charges this evening, one is the financial statement which will be presented by Steve Vanier and the second is a review of tourism and business related activities. During this last year the WCGCC has seen 6,478 visitors (documented). Looking back at the statistics that is about half of the number of people that have come through the Visitor's Center in past years. In 2001 the data shows that there were over 11,000 visitors. I believe this is due to a location issue. We have made efforts to have adequate signage to get visitors in the door. When they do come in we have staff on hand to speak to them. We partner with a number of groups in order to have adequate travel and tourism information available. We partner with Travel Oregon, Travel Portland, The Columbia River Gorge Visitor's Association, Port of Portland, US Forest Service, The Travel Information Council of Oregon, The Welcome Centers, The Clackamas County Tourism Department, and a number of service organizations. Another charge that the WCGCC has is assisting with the events in the City of Troutdale. Coming up July 18th is SummerFest where we provide a lot of assistance to the committee. Another event that we assist with is Wheels and Wings at the Troutdale Airport which will be held on August 1st. The WCGCC participates in the monthly First Friday Art Walks on main street. We promote and organize the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony with the merchants in downtown. We are also here on Halloween night to promote and participate in that activity. The WCGCC assists with the Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) swimming events, and the Columbia Gorge Racing Association for sailing events that come to the gorge area. We have a weekly electronic publication called The Update in which we include information regarding all of these events. We also have a printed monthly newsletter. Our web site lists all of the activities relevant to not only Troutdale but our entire chamber area. We are a resource of information for those events. We work on the following projects which relate to Troutdale: Scenic Byways, All American Road (which begins here in Troutdale), Try Local First – Shop East County (partner with Gresham, Fairview and Wood Village), and MHCC Hospitality Services Program. The WCGCC promotes and arranges for the following publicity on behalf of the Visitor's Center: National Geographic Geo-Tourism Map Guide (partner program with Travel Oregon), Travel Channel Oregon, Infinity Loop Magazine, The Best Gorge Map, The Columbia Gorge Magazine, local media buys (advertising buys) on behalf of Troutdale related events, American Automobile Magazine (Troutdale will be in the June edition) and travel shows. There are two trends in tourism that I see upcoming that I think will be important. One is sustainable destinations and geo-tourism. The green market is a natural for the Portland area. I see the cities of the WCGCC being a real natural fit to hook into that geo-tourism and sustainable destinations.

The other is going to be short-lived, but it is going to be hot and that is the Twilight movie location visits. We have had requests already at the Visitor's Center asking where Twilight was filmed.

Steve Vanier provided the Council with a revised report (Attached as Exhibit A). I have provided more detail for the advertising and promotion this year (shown in a footnote on page 2). On the expense side I tried to show the wages because that is the major portion of our expenses. We have allocated 40% to general chamber activities, 10% to the TMA and 50% to Troutdale. The figures on Page 3 for the salaries, wages, taxes, accounting fee and workman's compensation insurance, that \$37,347 is essentially 50% of the total wages. On page 6 you will notice under the expenses it shows payroll expenses at \$70,396 and half of that is about \$35,000. So you may ask, why does it show as \$37,347 on page 3? That is because there are some costs related to payroll shown down under insurance where it says medical insurance, liability insurance and worker's compensation. The worker's compensation and the medical insurance is payroll related where as the liability insurance is not payroll related. Those numbers are included in the \$37,347. When I say that 100% of the Visitor's Center space is attributable to Troutdale, that does not count for 100% of the rent we pay. The rent we pay is for the Visitor's Center space and the Executive Director's Office. The Executive Director's office is charged totally to the Chamber and the Visitor's Center expense is charged to Troutdale. Everything else is a 1/3 split. When you look at the bottom line we spent about \$1,000 more than what we received on the Troutdale side.

Mayor Kight stated I wasn't going to bring this up but there is such a disparity in the amount for your accounting expense. It starts at \$225 in January, and then it goes to \$1,381 in July and then at the end the total is \$10,620.

Steve Vanier replied that is the amount that we paid for the outside accountants work. We relied more heavily on the outside accountant this last year. They came down to the office to work on the books because we had such a change in personnel during the year that we really didn't have any consistency of qualified staff to do what normally a qualified staff member would be able to do, which is to make the debit and credit entries and the accountant would do a quick proof and produce the books. The accountant was in the office more this last year than prior years.

Mayor Kight stated one of the other issues that has come up is that you have been notified by Metro that you have lost the TMA grant; do you want to speak to that?

Alice Freuler replied that is correct. Metro has informed us that they have terminated the contract, which was to end on June 30th, due to non-performance and no work being done. The terms of the contract was that work was to be performed. Due to the underperformance they felt that they would like to terminate the remainder of the current contract. I have spoken with the TMA Project Manager and what I have proposed is that the WCGCC be allowed to step back for perhaps a year and allow us to stabilize our staffing and allow us to develop a good work plan that would work for a TMA in this area. I negotiated a larger TMA region. Should we reconstitute the Troutdale TMA that would include the boundaries of the WCGCC

to the west which gives us more employers and gives us some more strategic accounts to call on. At this time I cannot say that we could propose a good workable plan that I would be proud of. Metro agrees with me that we should step back and give ourselves time to stabilize our staff and understand better their charge and what they would like to see with the TMA and develop a work plan. We are invited to propose that plan next March. This does not discount us in any way from being selected for another TMA contract. I think we all realize that we are not equipped right now to do good work and to do it justice. I think it hurts our credibility to not do a good job. There is another side of the coin of the TMA and that is transportation grants. If we happen to be eligible for a grant cycle we can propose to Metro a grant project. They vary widely and it is different than the TMA contract. It is for a specific project or event and it can be anything from bicycle helmets for kids to something to do with bike racks throughout our region. It is wide open and imagination is rewarded with this grant program.

Mayor Kight stated I am also concerned with the drop in the number of visitors to the Chamber. It appears to be about a 40 to 45% drop. You indicated that signage may be part of the problem. What change do you think needs to take place in order to correct that problem at your current location?

Alice Freuler replied we need to get the attention of folks traveling eastbound on Historic Columbia River Highway to the left side of the street. We are at a cross street, there is traffic coming down Buxton and it is a busy congested corner and because our signage is flat against the front of the building they do not see it. I think we need to do better with signage. We have adequate signage until you turn the corner onto Historic Columbia River Highway. I am not sure if it is possible, but I would like to see some signage on the right side of Historic Columbia River Highway to get folks to hesitate just enough to see the signage on the front of our building. There are also some parking issues; we can make attempts to overcome that. I think the problem is primarily signage.

Mayor Kight stated I understand that parking is an issue. What would you like to see happen to cure that problem?

Alice Freuler replied a short-term designated parking spot that turns over frequently would be very useful.

Mayor Kight stated the city would cooperate in doing that and just so you know we have done that in the past with the previous chamber location.

Mayor Kight asked could speak to how the \$59,000 hotel/motel tax that helps fund the Visitor's Center actually benefits the hotels and motels in our community?

Alice Freuler replied I think this is a great partnership. When I accepted this assignment with the Chamber I was very pleased to see the collaborative affect of the hotel/motel tax, the Chamber, the merchants and the whole community. You need to have a visitor's center and somebody has to run it and I think it is a natural for the WCGCC to do so. We have great

cooperation from the hotels in the area and they provide us with their information. They are very gracious and easy for folks to locate. The Visitor's Center is a collaborative project and I fully support it and think that it is the right thing to have. It is most appropriate to have it supported by the tax dollars collected from the hotel industry.

Mayor Kight stated the prospect of having the Visitor's Center moving out of our downtown made this Council very nervous. Could you address that?

Alice Freuler replied I have renewed the lease at our current location. We have no plans to move at this time.

Councilor Daoust stated on your profit and loss statement, the receipts from the hotel/motel tax (\$59,000), all of that comes from Troutdale motels/hotels. Has there been any discussion of approaching other cities like Cascade Locks or Wood Village since there are other hotels in the area besides Troutdale hotels?

Steve Vanier replied yes, we have discussed that in the economic development committee that I chair and we have discussed that at the Board level for the Chamber as to the strategic way to get the other hotels outside of Troutdale involved. We think we have a strategy that is going to involve the existing hoteliers that are chamber members to become more involved in their hotel/motel groups and have them encourage the kind of synergy that is going to happen and promote what the chamber can offer and make available to tourists and folks coming to the area for business reasons. We are looking into this, but we haven't actually contacted those other hoteliers yet.

Councilor Daoust asked has the Economic Development Director person been selected?

Steve Vanier replied yes.

Councilor Daoust asked will their wages to be paid 50% by Troutdale or does this have a different mix for Troutdale?

Steve Vanier replied it is quite a bit different. Troutdale is contributing \$18,000, Fairview is contributing \$12,000, Wood Village is contributing \$6,000 and Cascade Locks is contributing \$2,000. The State of Oregon is contributing the rest. We are stretching that \$75,000 from the State out at least two years and I almost have it out to three years. Unlike the cities, who have expressed a willingness to reconsider that annual expense sharing, the State said this is a one-time only deal.

Councilor Hartmann stated the membership dues have increased substantially. Is that due to more membership in the Chamber or an increase in dues?

Steve Vanier replied there is a little bit of good, a little bad and than a little more good. The good is we tend to get most of our membership dues towards the second half of the year. The bad is we had to pay to get that. We had an individual at the Chamber who was paid on

a commission basis and really beat the bushes and got a lot of new members and was paid a commission for that. However, the little bit of good is that expense of the commission won't continue. I believe that a good portion of the membership that they developed will renew.

Councilor Hartmann asked how much membership is actually driven from Troutdale?

Steve Vanier replied I would be guessing, but most of the members are from Troutdale. To a lesser extent they are from Gresham, like my bank. There are a lot of people that are out of the immediate area that are members. Then Fairview, Wood Village and Cascade Locks, in that order.

Councilor Wand asked is there some barrier that we haven't talked about regarding the ability of the Chamber to be able to put up adequate signage on the clock tower building?

Alice Freuler replied I don't know that there is a barrier. The issue of signage is something that I haven't yet got into only having been here for one month. It is evident to me that we are not easy to find. I would like to pursue some improvement to that before our busy summer season begins. There is signage on the building; it is just flat against the building and hard to see as you come down the street.

Councilor Thomas stated the signage allowed in the downtown is very restrictive based on the Town Center Overlay, so there is not much you can do.

Councilor Wand stated I know that because this is such an important issue you will take a look at that. I want to encourage you to let us know what the issues are. We are committed to making the Visitor's Center in downtown successful. If there is anything that we can do to help facilitate better signage or better visibility, please communicate with us and we will see what we can make happen.

Councilor Kyle stated that building houses many other businesses besides the chamber so we have to take that into consideration.

Councilor Wand stated I understand that. You don't take one business inside of a building with fifteen other businesses and say that you can't have any signs because we have fourteen other businesses. You take the available signage area and you divide it up among the spaces that are being used. What we are hearing is our Visitor's Center is suffering because it is not visible enough. If this is something that the City is imposing, if it is a problem with the City or our zoning, I am asking the chamber to come talk to us so that we can work with them and try to figure it out. Regarding the parking, I would like to encourage you to keep in mind the space that the city owns which is only a block and a half away. In our work session we talked about allocating some of those unused areas where there are no buildings and no businesses as potential RV parking. I would like to know whether you had any involvement with the XSunX project and the funding that they sought and did not receive from the Governor?

Steve Vanier and Alice Freuler stated they were not aware of the project.

Councilor Wand asked what kind of involvement have you had over the past couple of years with the Enterprise Zone? Are you working with us on that?

Steve Vanier replied I am sorry, that is not in my area so I don't know.

Councilor Wand stated maybe you could increase your visibility simply by sending letters. I would like to encourage you, with your new economic development director, to do what you can to be more visible. How much of the accounting expense was efforts to resolve issues that came along from past years? Were we cleaning up messes from prior people that were working in the Chamber and that is why we had such a high accounting cost this past year?

Steve Vanier replied no. It was simply because we didn't have qualified people to post the books. We had a turnover of three or four people this past year. We had to have the CPA in there doing what internal employees would be able to do at a lower cost.

Councilor Wand asked how many employees does the Chamber have now?

Alice Freuler replied 2.

Councilor Wand stated and with the economic development director that would be 3.

Alice Freuler replied yes.

Councilor Wand asked and you have ten board members is that correct?

Steve Vanier and Alice Freuler replied nine.

Councilor Wand stated I would like to suggest that the current board consider adding board memberships for any city, or other government entity, that levies a tax that is a pass-through that goes to the Chamber. I think that would do two things; it would facilitate better communication and it would provide a pretty powerful incentive to some of the other cities who aren't necessarily interested in proposing a hotel/motel tax to contribute to the Chamber. It would let them know that this is not an operation where you can just ride on others coattails, that if you want to participate and have a say at the table became a member in a very real and lasting way. Finally, I wonder if you could brand yourself, "The Visitor's Center at the Clock Tower". Maybe that would be a phrase, or a name, that would help get more people to the Clock Tower building.

Councilor Thomas asked did you receive any income from the Bite and Bluegrass Festival?

Councilor Kyle replied that is not a Chamber event.

Councilor Wand asked was the Chamber approached to be involved in fundraising for the Centennial Arch?

Councilor Kyle replied yes.

Councilor Wand stated I would like to get an understanding because I have never received a very clear answer as to why the Chamber wasn't spearheading that effort and instead it went to the Historical Society. Does anyone have an understanding as to why that was?

Councilor Kyle asked are you asking about the arch or the 100 Year Celebration.

Councilor Wand stated the arch. I want to know why the chamber didn't get involved in fundraising for the arch. I don't want to harp on things that have gone on in the past. I have a good understanding from a lot of people that I respect that Ms. Freuler is excellent and she is going to turn the Chamber around. We are now facing a pretty substantial shortfall in fundraising for the arch. The city has agreed to move forward and make sure that the arch gets accomplished. That happened before I was on the Council, and as an outsider looking in at the concept of a Centennial Arch, the Gateway to the Gorge, it seemed to me that really should have been something where the Chamber not only got involved but welcomed being on the forefront of that issue. The Chamber is involved with tourism and encouraging business here. The arch is about bringing people into our downtown that might otherwise just continue on down the Gorge. The Historical Society is a wonderful organization but it seems to me that either the Chamber should have partnered with the Historical Society or they should have taken the lead and asked the Historical Society to partner with them. I consider that to be a missed opportunity on the Chambers part. I am expressing to you, please don't miss another opportunity like that. We are still trying to pay for the arch so if there is a place in your organization to continue talking with your business members to get additional donations for the arch, please contact them and do what you can to help us out.

Councilor Kyle stated my recollection of how that ended up there is that David Ripma took the lead on that and took it to the Historical Society.

Councilor Wand stated David wasn't the spearheading person until after the Centennial Celebration was almost over.

Councilor Thomas stated essentially the Chamber was approached and they said that they couldn't do it at the time. At that point Max Maydew liked the idea and he and I talked with the Historical Society and they took it on as a fundraiser and it moved on from there.

Mayor Kight stated I would encourage you to contact Dave Nelson, myself and Rich Faith so we can help you with the signage and parking issues. We want to have a collaborative effort between the City Council and the Chamber/Visitor's Center recognizing that the vitality of our downtown is directly proportional to the effort that we all put in together.

6. RESOLUTION: A resolution in support of State Legislation to clarify that counties with existing Tax Supervising & Conservation Commissions have the right to abolish such commissions.

Dave Nelson stated this request comes from the City of Fairview. The City of Fairview took the initiative along with the partnership from the Reynolds School District, to present SB 748. The bill will be heard on April 20th at approximately 3pm in Salem. We received a letter from the City of Fairview asking for some support on SB 748. This legislation dates back to the 1920's or 1930's and indicates that any county with a population of 500,000 or more needs to have a tax supervising commission. Multnomah County was the only county in the state that reached that threshold up until 2005. In 2005 Washington County reached that threshold and they sought some relief through the state to get an exemption so that they did not have to have a tax supervising commission. SB 748 would allow the County Commissioners the ability to abolish the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) if they choose to do so. The TSCC is currently funded through Multnomah County. Multnomah County is presenting a house bill that will require all of the jurisdictions within Multnomah County that they serve to share in a portion of that cost. Our share would be approximately \$525 for the city and about \$250 for our Urban Renewal Agency. That is not a large amount, but the real question is, is that service needed any longer. Is TSCC really performing a function that we need them to do? Perhaps in the 1920's or 1930's they did serve a purpose. With the state budget law and the budget process that is in place now, their service may not be needed. We have multiple public hearings and there is plenty of opportunity for the public to see our budget and to comment on our budget. TSCC has morphed into other areas. One area is the requirement that all capital improvement bonds or local option levies have to be run through them at a public hearing. Our most recent bond was in November of this last year where we put the capital improvement bond for the police facility out to the voters. We spent about a year discussing this in public hearings, work sessions, council meetings, and at Public Safety Advisory Committee meetings. We had many opportunities for the public to hear the information. The city sent information out to every resident explaining what the process was and what the tax implication would be. In October, about three weeks before the actual election, we had our hearing with TSCC and there was no one present. It was a lot of time and energy that staff essentially wasted for no real results. I recommend supporting SB 748.

Joe Gall, Fairview City Administrator, stated anyone that works in local government in the Metro Region, when they come to Multnomah County and they deal with the TSCC they ask who are these folks and why do we have to deal with them. I think what really spurred this issue is TSCC's proposed bill that will require our cities to start contributing. 1918 was when this organization was created. We believe in Fairview, both the elected and appointed officials, that its time to reduce, even in a small way, the size of government. This bill really doesn't do that, we are just asking the state to clarify that a county has a right to do it. If this legislation is passed Fairview will seek other jurisdictions to go with us to the County Commissioners and ask them to abolish this. We have spoken with each of the County Commissioners and they seem to be supportive of this. This is small in terms of their budget issues, so they don't necessarily have the time to do this and so far they have appreciated

small communities saying lets do this. We believe that this is the right thing to do. In times of fiscal stress every little bit helps. This is in the Senate right now (Senate Committee on Education and General Government). We have met with four of the five Senators on that committee and there seems to be support for the bill. When Washington County went back in 2005 it was for an amendment to the bill for the state to abolish this organization and it failed. We didn't want to go and ask the state to make a decision for us in Multnomah County; that is our decision. It is between Multnomah County and the thirty-nine taxing districts. This doesn't just affect cities, it affects Mt. Hood Community College, Portland Community College, Metro, and TriMet; any taxing district within Multnomah County has to deal with what I call an extra layer of bureaucracy. It will be an interesting discussion because there will be some that don't want to abolish it. We have been surprised; there are some that don't want to eliminate this organization that somehow think it is a fiscal watchdog and we need that in Multnomah County. Personally we don't buy it. I used the analogy that if they provide such a great oversight, where were they with the Reynolds School District Budget. No one has been able to answer that question.

Mayor Kight stated one of the things you indicated Mr. Nelson is that there is staff time involved, so it isn't just the actual cost of the \$500 that the City will have to pay to TSCC.

Dave Nelson stated for example when I was the Chief I had to prepare for the public hearing for our bond issue. I can't give you the exact amount of time spent but there was extra time in preparing material for that specific hearing and no one showed up. As far as the annual budget, there is a list of items that they want the city to provide which takes additional staff time.

Joe Gall stated we take our budget, after we have finished our process, and we put it into their format. They review it and give some feedback, but we are basically reproducing our budget and they put all of the budgets in one nice package. Anyone that wants to look at the budgets for all thirty-nine taxing districts could see them in one document. That is a \$300,000 book. Can we afford a \$300,000 book? That is what this is really about. We don't think so. It is kind of a waste of time and money. The other thing that I find is strange is that they hold a public hearing on our budgets in downtown Portland. I bet no one goes to that hearing.

Mayor Kight stated with the exception of Reynolds School District, to the argument that they are a watchdog group, what would be your counter-argument?

Joe Gall replied when we put our budget together we follow Oregon Budget Law. If we have a question we call the State of Oregon Department of Revenue, we don't call TSCC. I know that some cities have received help from TSCC, namely Gresham, and they aren't convinced that this is the right thing to do.

Dave Nelson stated we also have the audit process. We have independent auditors that come in and spend weeks, sometimes months, looking over our books and asking questions of staff, and asking for documents. That is a very open and transparent process.

Councilor Daoust stated I have been on the council long enough that I remember the TSCC sitting at the table there and presenting their reports to us. I wondered even back then why we had to go through that. Thank you for spearheading this.

Councilor Hartmann stated I agree with the nature of where you are going with this. I also want to honor the nature of this original statute in the sense that its intent is to be a watchdog and to govern local governments from getting to chaotic with their budgeting and to set a standard and make it legible in a single uniform way. I am not aware of any other statutes that govern us like the auditing procedures that we self impose. Are those auditing procedures set by statutes?

Dave Nelson replied yes.

Councilor Hartmann stated so we have these other regulatory mechanisms that are ensuring that we are transparent, they are not just self-imposed.

Dave Nelson replied yes. Taking it to another level, there are public contracting laws. What government was in 1918 or the 1920's is completely different than what it is today. That is why we have public contract bidding requirements by statute, we have budget laws by statute that we follow. It is not the Multnomah County budget law that we are following, we are following the state statute.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to adopt the resolution in support of State Legislation to clarify that counties with existing Tax Supervising & Conservation Commissions have the right to abolish such commissions. Seconded by Councilor Daoust.

Councilor Daoust stated we hold public hearings on bonds and on our budget meetings. We have a brand new budget advisory committee that we just recently put into place and we have the audit process, so I don't think we need this extra layer.

Councilor Hartmann stated I applaud Fairview for taking leadership on downsizing government that is in excess.

VOTE: Mayor Kight – Yes; Councilor Kyle – Yes; Councilor Daoust – Yes; Councilor Hartmann – Yes; Councilor Wand – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes.

Motion Passed 6 – 0.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Dave Nelson stated last Thursday evening at the Oregon Chief's Association meeting Chief Anderson accepted a re-accreditation award for the Troutdale Police Department. We are the only jurisdiction in Multnomah County that is accredited. There are 19 to 21 agencies in the state that are accredited and about another 20 that are in the process.

8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Kight provided some updated building permit/inspection statistics for the first quarter of 2009, in hopes of contradicting some of the negativity of the current economy.

Mayor Kight stated that there will be a training session at the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management on May 28 from 6-9pm.

Councilor Daoust stated the Get a Life Band will be marching in our SummerFest Parade on July 18th. They are celebrating their 15th anniversary. 15 years ago they started here in Troutdale. This is the same band that went back to Washington, DC and marched in President Obama's inauguration parade. I have talked to the Mayor about how we can recognize the band. The idea that the Mayor and I were talking about was to possibly present a plaque to them at our July 14th Council meeting in recognition of their 15 years and for being part of our SummerFest celebration. On the day of the parade we could give them a certificate at Glenn Otto Park at the end of the parade.

Councilor Daoust stated the Mayor couldn't make the Reynolds Little League Opening Ceremony Saturday so I stood in for him and I threw the first pitch.

Councilor Hartmann stated I spent the afternoon with David Ross. John Sygielski, Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) President. MHCC has a division that is dedicated to economic development and growth. As we see more jobless families, this will become more important to our community. Councilor Hartmann provided the Councilors with a packet that includes information on a program that is put together by the Economic and Workforce Development Office at the college. This is a free program that helps folks get retrained into new fields of study and trades.

Councilor Wand stated I wanted to acknowledge our Finance Director and our City Administrator who are probably going to be facing a couple of difficult weeks ahead of them. I can't think of a more thankless job then sitting down and trying to find a way to balance a city budget in this type of a situation.

Councilor Wand stated it has come to my attention that there are some things that we need to look at regarding one of our downtown block locations specifically with respect to some fire code issues. I am going to be discussing this with Mr. Nelson.

Councilor Thomas congratulated Dave Nelson, Chief Anderson and the rest of the police department for the re-certification.

Councilor Thomas stated I was approached by some neighbors in the Sweetbriar area and they would like us to pursue changing the way that parking is enforced in that neighborhood, primarily around the parking pads that they have in their neighborhood. What is happening is they will need to park an RV on the pad and then three days later they are getting a call asking them to move it, but it is not really in the street. I would like us to schedule a work session to see if there is something that we might be willing to do to help them out.

Councilor Kyle stated there will be a bluegrass event this year but it will be at Glenn Otto Park. I would love to have some volunteer help. It will be held on July 11, 2009. The event benefits the River Safety Program. We will be calling it Sandy River Bluegrass.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Councilor Daoust moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Hartmann. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Jim Kight, Mayor

Approved May 12, 2009

ATTEST:

Debbie Stickney, City Recorder