

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

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE

Mayor Thalhofer called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Thalhofer, Councilor Gorsek, Councilor Ripma; Councilor Thomas, Councilor Canfield, and Councilor Kyle.

ABSENT: Councilor Daoust (unexcused).

STAFF: John Anderson, City Administrator; Jim Galloway, Public Works Director; Rich Faith, Community Development Director; David Nelson, Chief of Police; Marnie Allen, City Attorney; Sarah Skroch, Office Support Specialist; Kathleen Leader, Finance Director.

GUESTS: See Attached.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 RESOLUTION: A Resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Fairview for building inspection services.

MOTION: Councilor Ripma moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Gorsek. Motion Passed Unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCE (Introduced 6/28/05): An Ordinance adopting a new Section 2.08.245 of the Troutdale Municipal Code approving budgeted stipends for the Mayor.

Mayor Thalhofer opened the public hearing at 7:05pm and read the ordinance title.

Kathleen Leader stated this is the second hearing on the amendment to the Municipal Code that would authorize the City to pay the Mayor a monthly stipend based on the adopted budget process. This particular motion was brought forward by a member of the Budget Committee and was approved by the Budget Committee through the budget process by approving an appropriation of \$6,000 in the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-06. This was brought forward by the Committee in recognition of the amount of time that the position

of Mayor takes in dealing with city business and the loss of income that he experiences while attending to city business during the day.

Councilor Gorsek asked this is contingent on the year to year status of the budget, is that correct?

Kathleen Leader replied it would go through the budget committee and budget adoption process each year.

Councilor Gorsek stated so that number could fluctuate?

Kathleen Leader replied yes.

Mayor Thalsofer asked is there anyone here that would like to speak to us on this issue?

Dave Munson stated I would support this stipend for the Mayor. Personally, I don't know how he has been able to do this for so long without some assistance from the City. I don't think it is a large amount and a person is not going to get rich from this amount. What I am afraid of is that someone is going to get poor trying to do it.

Dan Froese stated I am President of the Old Sweetbriar Farms Homeowners' Association. I want to commend the Mayor and the Council here for the way they run the City. It is a far cry from what is going on next door in Gresham. I want to encourage each and every one of you. I am here to support the Mayor. I think a stipend of \$500 a month is a small price to pay for the responsibilities and the effort that he puts in. I think that the Mayor has shown, with his tenure, that he is not looking for a free lunch. I thank the Mayor and Councilors for your service to our community.

Rich Brown stated I think \$500 a month for the Mayor Thalsofer is great. He does a lot, many things people just don't see. We are getting a committee together to build a sports facility up at the high school which I think is much needed. He comes to all of our meetings. \$500 a month is a drop in the bucket for what he does for this City.

Glenn White stated I want to take this opportunity to thank the Council. Although we may not always agree on the issues, I think all of you should be paid for the work that you do, especially the Mayor. I am here to support the stipend for the Mayor. I see a lot of you at various meetings and you all have a lot of concern for this town and it shows.

Mayor Thalsofer closed the public hearing at 7:08pm.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to adopt the ordinance adopting a new Section 2.08.245 of the Troutdale Municipal Code approving budgeted stipends for the Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Kyle.

Mayor Thalsofer stated I will not be participating in the debate or the vote because I have an actual conflict of interest.

Councilor Thomas stated the reason I brought this forward to the budget committee was that after working with the Mayor for the last couple of years I have had a chance to appreciate what he does for this City. \$500 a month really isn't payment for the job; it is more like recognition and a thank you for the job that he does for our City. Many of the meetings that he needs to attend are during the day and most of us that work wouldn't have the opportunity to attend those meetings.

Councilor Gorsek asked what is the status of the other cities around us in terms of stipends?

Kathleen Leader replied on the eastside there are no other cities that pay a stipend. However, the League of Oregon Cities did a survey a few years back and there are other communities in the Portland Metropolitan area that do provide stipends, I believe Wilsonville was one city that did pay stipends.

Councilor Gorsek stated I certainly understand why this is being brought forward. The Mayor does a great job. I have some concerns in terms of where the budget is and what its direction has been in the last few years.

Councilor Ripma stated I am very torn on this. I did not favor the appropriation at the budget committee for this item. I am also torn just because I know how much Mayor Thalhofer does for the city and the time he devotes during the week day at Metro meetings, going down to the legislature, etc. These are things that don't happen in the evening. Personally I believe that the best city government for Troutdale, and for most cities, is citizen volunteers like all of us are. I think that is the best model and I am very leery of paying anything in addition to reimbursing expenses. However, I have to say in recognition of very difficult times and the zeal in which Mayor Thalhofer represents Troutdale in so many different places (fire service committee, Metro, etc.), all in all I guess I am going to support this ordinance and will leave it up to the budget process each year to decide whether we can afford it or not. I truly don't think we can afford to do without the Mayor's services.

Councilor Canfield stated I voted against this appropriation at the budget committee. I made that decision because it came up at the last minute and there was no debate on the issue. The budget committee voted overwhelmingly for it.

Councilor Kyle asked does this include reimbursement for expenses or is this in lieu of that?

Kathleen Leader replied it is my understanding that this is different from the expense reimbursement.

Councilor Kyle stated I am not going to debate that Mayor Thalhofer is out there because I know that he is. It takes an incredible amount of volunteer time so I am going to support this.

VOTE: Councilor Gorsek – No; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Thalhofer – Abstained; Councilor Canfield – Yes; Councilor Kyle – Yes.

**Motion Passed Yeas: 4
Nays: 1 (Councilor Gorsek)
Abstained: 1 (Mayor Thalhofer)**

5. PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCE (Introduced 2/38/05): An Ordinance amending Chapter 2.20 of the Troutdale Municipal Code, Committees and Commissions, adding a Public Safety Advisory Committee.

Mayor Thalhofer opened the public hearing at 7:21pm and read the ordinance title.

Chief Nelson stated this is the second hearing of an ordinance amending Chapter 2.20 of the Troutdale Municipal Code adding a Public Safety Advisory Committee. At the June 28th meeting it was suggested that we change the wording on the position from the Reynolds School District to read, an employee of the Reynolds School District. That change has been included in the ordinance before you this evening.

Mayor Thalhofer asked would you consider changing the number of members of the committee so there wouldn't be a tie in the voting.

Chief Nelson replied if there are a lot of ties or we ran into difficulties we could come back and amend it at that time.

Mayor Thalhofer asked is there anyone here that would like to speak to us on this issue?

No testimony received.

Mayor Thalhofer closed the public hearing at 7:25pm.

MOTION: Councilor Canfield moved to adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 2.20 of the Troutdale Municipal Code, Committees and Commissions, adding a Public Safety Advisory Committee. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Councilor Thomas stated I think it is long past due that we have this committee.

Councilor Gorsek stated I support this.

Mayor Thalhofer stated I support this also. However, I really have a problem with an eight member committee.

VOTE: Councilor Gorsek – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Thalhofer – Yes; Councilor Canfield – Yes; Councilor Kyle – Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

John Anderson, City Administrator, reminded the Council of two upcoming meetings. 1) A Three Cities meeting to discuss the fire issue on July 18, 2005 at Fairview City Hall at 6:00pm; 2) a 4 Cities Meeting to discuss the acquisition of PGE on July 21, 2005 at Gresham City Hall at 6:00pm.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Thomas updated the Council on the possibility of having signage and entrance monuments in the City of Troutdale. Jim Galloway, Public Works Director, and I met with the Oregon Department of Transportation and Multnomah County. They hope that by the end of August they will have some idea of the costs involved in building these monuments.

Councilor Thomas stated I was surprised that the Troutdale Champion had been dropped from 6 issues per year to 4 issues per year. I thought that at the budget committee meetings we decided to maintain the existing distribution schedule. I really feel it is imperative to continue communications with the citizens of Troutdale and would like to address the issue very soon if possible.

Mayor Thalhofer updated the Council on the Multnomah County Roads Transfer to the City of Gresham. Gresham went to the legislature in the middle of agreed upon negotiations with Multnomah County to get legislation passed to get the County roads along with the funding. They did this unbeknownst to any of us, the three smaller cities and Multnomah County. It might be that we will have write a letter of opposition to the roads transfer issue. We would like to make sure that Multnomah County has enough critical mass to service the three smaller cities and the unincorporated area.

Councilor Canfield & Councilor Kyle reminded everyone that SummerFest is on Saturday, July 16th.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Paul Thalhofer, Mayor

Approved October 11, 2005

ATTEST:

Debbie Stickney, City Recorder