

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
FEBRUARY 14, 2011
5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Jim Wilcox

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Dan Spatz, Brian Ahier, Tim McGlothlin

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Finance Director Kate Mast, Community Development Director Dan Durow, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Senior Planner Dick Gassman

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilcox called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Krueger; all Councilors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wilcox invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of The Dalles Partners for Economic Progress (PEP)

Mike Zingg and Scott Mengis introduced themselves as representatives of the Partners for Economic Progress group. Mr. Zingg provided a handout and read the Mission Statement of the group (attached as Exhibit "A"). He said this was an informal group, whose mission was to support economic growth, vitality and enhancement of the community. Mr. Mengis said this group believed it was important to rebuild the "can do" attitude of the entire community, to bring new business to the area.

Councilor Spatz said he agreed with the mission and said it was important for the entire community to work together. He asked if the PEP group was working with the Chamber of Commerce economic development committee. Mr. Zingg said they were not working directly with that committee.

Mayor Wilcox pointed out that one of the goals of the PEP group was to provide interested people in advisory roles and committees related to economic issues. He said the Council had authorized establishment of a committee to review the City's economic policies and that committee would be established at the February 28th Council meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Raelynn Ricarte, 2531 Old Dufur Road, The Dalles, thanked the City Council for their support of the Gorge Heroes Club by paying the rental fee for a space to hold a benefit event. Ricarte said it was very much appreciated.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young said staff was working on the Outreach Team book and hoped to have it ready to take on an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.

Young said he would attend a public hearing at Wasco County this week to present the City's position regarding the maintenance of County roads within the urban growth boundary.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said the WiFi contract had been signed and staff was now working on an agreement with PUD for use of their utility poles. Parker said he had prepared an ordinance to repeal the obsolete Civil Service Commission, noting the Commission was no longer used. Parker said he had prepared a resolution to formally accept a plaque in the Pioneer Cemetery, donated by the Genealogical Society and it would be included on the February 28th Council agenda for approval.

Mayor Wilcox asked what the days of operations were for the Municipal Court. Parker said court was currently being held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and that night court continued to be held on Tuesday evenings.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Spatz said he was working on the schedule for the upcoming Outreach Team trip to Washington, D.C.

Mayor Wilcox reported that Amerities had received a second Patriot Award, acknowledging their program to re-employ soldiers. He said returning military personnel could nominate companies who rehire soldiers.

Wilcox said he had attended a meeting last week regarding the Confluence Project, which was proceeding. He said he had been invited to meet the International Officer of the Moose Lodge who was in town to make a donation of stuffed animals to help comfort children in stressful situations. He said the animals would be given out through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program.

Mayor Wilcox said he had received a Valentine card from a young student at Chenoweth Elementary School, and had the opportunity to visit that student in his class room to present him with a Valentine.

Wilcox announced the next Vision Action Plan meeting was scheduled for February 23rd at the Civic Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of the January 31, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes; and 2) Resolution No. 11-005 concurring with the Mayor's re-appointment of Dave Griffith to the Airport Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding a Partial Alley Vacation Between West Third and Fourth Streets and Liberty and Lincoln Streets

Mayor Wilcox reviewed the procedures to be followed for the hearing.

Senior Planner Gassman reviewed the staff report. He distributed one written comment (attached as Exhibit "B"). The person wrote in support of the vacation. Gassman said he had spoken with most of the residents along the alley and all were in support of the proposed vacation.

Testimony

No testimony was offered. Mayor Wilcox closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberation

It was moved by Ahier and seconded Wood by to approve the requested partial street vacation for the alley running parallel to West Third and West Fourth Streets, between Liberty and Lincoln Streets, based on findings of staff and City Council, and direct staff to prepare an ordinance for adoption at a future meeting, completing the vacation process. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding the 2010 Community Development Block Grant for the Housing Resource Center

Mayor Wilcox reviewed the procedure to be followed for the hearing.

The staff report was reviewed by Dave Peters, Mid Columbia Housing Resource Center. He said there would be additional opportunities for the home buyer qualification program. Peters said the program would no longer be funded through the Community Development Block Grant, but that different funding sources were being considered.

Testimony

No testimony was offered. Mayor Wilcox closed the hearing.

CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD ACTIONS

Award Contract for Auditing Services

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report. She said the references she checked had been very favorable and that the company had stated they would absorb the costs associated with gathering the historical data needed.

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Wood to award a three year contract for audit services to Merina & Company, LLP. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 11-003 Authorizing Transfers of Budget Funds Between Departments and Categories of the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

Councilor Ahier asked the status of the train tours at the Dam. City Manager Young said the environmental checklist was being worked on and once completed, construction plans could be finalized. He said it was hoped the tours could begin mid-summer.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to adopt Resolution No. 11-003 authorizing transfers of budget funds between departments and categories of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 11-004 Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year, Making Appropriations and Authorizing Expenditures From and Within the General Fund and Special Grants Fund

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt Resolution No. 11-004 adopting a supplemental budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year, making appropriations and authorizing expenditures from and within the General Fund and Special Grants Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Submit Art Works Grant Application for Festival Area Interpretive Signage

The staff report was reviewed by City Manager Young.

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It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to authorize staff to submit the grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Lewis and Clark Fountain in Festival Area

The staff report was reviewed by City Manager Young.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Ahier to authorize staff to submit the grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion regarding Burn Ban Ordinance

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report. He reviewed the options identified, including an education program; inversion notifications; mulch initiative; burn barrel ban; total ban on outdoor burning; and mandatory solid waste and debris pick up.

Mayor Wilcox said most of the comments he had received were about people who burn garbage in their burn barrels. He said burning garbage was already illegal. Wilcox said he had learned the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) did provide information on their website regarding inversions and suggested they may be willing to help the City in identifying “no burn” days.

Councilor ahier said he was not sure a total ban on burning in barrels was the best approach. He said improved enforcement should be a first step. Ahier said he supported stricter enforcement of trash burning and the identification of inversion or “no burn” days to address health concerns.

Councilor Spatz said other conditions caused health problems, such as high wind days. He said while he believed people had a right to burn, people also had a right to breathe clean air.

Councilor Dick said it was important to have balance and recognize the needs of the whole community.

Councilor McGlothlin said he agreed balance was needed and suggested improvements be made to the existing permit and process for enforcing it. He said education of the current laws was very important and appreciated the option to provide education.

Councilor Wood said she supported a ban on barrels and burning of any garbage. She said the City should encourage recycling of yard debris.

Mayor Wilcox said he believed the most important issue was to get people to stop burning their garbage. He said more control was needed regarding best times to burn based on weather conditions. Wilcox asked if the City Council wanted to pay for enforcement of the law.

Councilor Spatz said he supported the options of improved education, no burning of garbage, a mulch initiative, and specific times allowed for burning for a limited duration in the Spring and Fall.

City Manager Young said he would like to see an advisory or volunteer group established to help implement the options, saying the work would involve a lot of time.

Public Comment

Russ Brown, 409 West 15th Street, The Dalles, said he did not burn debris, but he supported the direction of the Council, to make moderate changes. He said he would not support a total burn ban unless there was free pick up of yard debris.

Barbara Pashek, 1332 West 10th Street, The Dalles, suggested a different rate structure for the yard debris service provided by The Dalles Disposal. She said currently, the service had to be for a minimum of one year. Pashek suggested allowing people to have the service on a seasonal basis. Pashek said the DEQ did provide air quality alerts and they listed The Dalles on their website so people could check to see if it was a good or bad day for burning. She said checking Fire Department records, only one complaint had been registered in the month of February and eight in January. Pashek said she also would like to see a free shred day event in The Dalles so people could take their personal papers in for shredding at no cost. She said mulching could be a difficult task for elderly citizens, but suggested churches or civic organizations could help with removal of yard debris for the elderly. Pashek said she did not support a total ban on outdoor burning.

Karen Murray, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling, 419 East Seventh Street, The Dalles, read a letter into the record (attached as Exhibit "C"). She said it was a high priority to recycle and compost. Murray said the Agency was working on a shred day event later this year. She urged people to visit their website of www.tricountyrecycle.com where a lot of additional information was available on recycling.

Kathy Heitkemper, 277 Lone Pine Lane, The Dalles, said she was the original proposer of the burn ban. She said approximately 85% of the population in The Dalles did not burn and that it didn't seem right that 15% of the people could impact the rest of the population. Heitkemper said the Fire Department did not have a good process for following up on complaints and many people didn't file complaints because they didn't want to cause problems with their neighbors.

She said the Fire Department had admitted that about 50% of all materials found in burn barrels were garbage.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to appoint an advisory committee, to include representation by DEQ, Master Recyclers, City staff, Fire Department, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling, and citizens to make recommendations to the City Council regarding education and mulching campaigns, banning the use of burn barrels, banning the burning of garbage; and a two to three week period of burning during the Spring and Fall.

Councilor Ahier said he felt the proposed time frame for seasonal burning seemed too restrictive.

Mayor Wilcox said he believed it should be an ad hoc committee, not a standing committee.

Councilor Dick agreed that the committee should be ad hoc. He said he would appreciate hearing recommendations from a group, with the Council making any decisions.

Councilor McGlothlin said it was important to investigate enforcement issues as well.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to amend the motion to create an ad hoc committee. The amendment was voted on and carried unanimously.

The amended motion to appoint an ad hoc committee, to include representation by DEQ, Master Recyclers, City staff, Fire Department, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling, and citizens to make recommendations to the City Council regarding education and mulching campaigns, banning the use of burn barrels, banning the burning of garbage; and a two to three week period of burning during the Spring and Fall was voted on and carried: voting yes, Spatz, Wood and Dick; voting no Ahier and McGlothlin.

Staff was asked to place information about the committee on the City's website and to prepare a resolution for establishing the committee on the March 28th Council meeting agenda.

Judy Merrill, 400 West 11th Street, The Dalles, thanked the Council for the work they were doing. She questioned the opinion of the Mayor that most people did not support a burn ban. Mayor Wilcox said he was referring the testimony previously provided at a Town Hall meeting and people who had spoken with him personally.

Merrill said she did not think an alert system that was updated every 24 hours would be helpful in determining burn days as the weather changed often in our area. She said she did support the idea of a committee if there were specific goals for them to achieve.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Wilcox recessed the meeting to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Reconvene to Open Session

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:25 p.m.

DECISIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

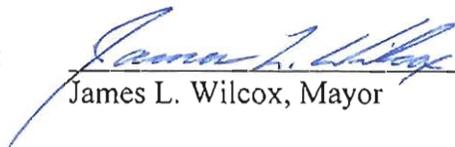
None.

ADJOURNMENT

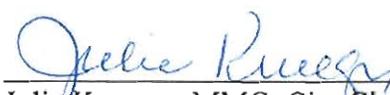
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:


James L. Wilcox, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk

P.E.P.

Partners for Economic Progress



Founding Members

Richard Banks
Dean J. Cameron
Chuck Covert
Jerry Frazier
John E. Geiger
Harold Haake
Garry Hage
Scott C. Hege
Chris Ley
Bill Maley
Alex Mauck
Mark McCavic
Scott Mengis
Ron Nelson
Bill Pettyjohn
Jeff Renard
Carina Schmidt
Ronald A. Schmidt
Bradley V. Timmons
Wally Wolf
Michael G. Zingg
Chris Zukin

Partners for Economic Progress (PEP)

Partners for Economic Progress (PEP) is a coalition of individuals and private businesses which support the economic growth, vitality, and enhancement of the community of The Dalles and the surrounding area. Our mission statement is:

The Dalles Partners for Economic Progress (PEP) is dedicated to the enhancement of the economy of The Dalles area through investment and job creation. We aim to create a partnership between local government, local businesses, investors and individuals, to ensure a strong, vibrant and welcoming local business climate.

In order to further economic progress we have created the following initial set of goals:

- Promote effective communication between public and private entities in a manner that creates both a positive business environment and the open flow of information which affects existing and prospective businesses.
- Develop a “can do!” oriented attitude with public and private entities in the region.
- Establish a forum of public and private individuals to coordinate and develop a unified economic vision for the community.
- Provide a pool of active, knowledgeable individuals interested in advisory roles and committees related to economic issues.
- Develop and maintain strategies and ideas to create a positive and sustainable business climate.
- Market and promote The Dalles and this region as having a favorable business climate and desirable community in which to live.
- Identify issues and problems that may discourage or detract from the economic vitality of the community and work towards the elimination of those barriers.

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Exhibit “A”
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The Dalles Partners for Economic Progress (PEP) is dedicated to the enhancement of the economy of The Dalles area through investment and job creation. We aim to partner with local government entities to ensure a strong and welcoming local business climate.

Community Development Dept.

I just wanted to go
on record to say that
I applauded your decision
to the Partial Street
Vacation.

I am all for it.

I have been unable to
sell my property because
my title has "the cloud
of a "Variance".

Thank You
Richard Somers

Richard Somerville
my house (rental) 408 Lincoln (7A)
phone 707-464-3905



To: Whom It May Concern

2/14/11

Re: Proposed The Dalles Burn Ban

My name is Karen Murray and I am an employee of the Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program. Our program covers 3 counties (Sherman, Hood River and Wasco) and 6 city governments in which The Dalles is the largest city. The program's mission is to provide hazardous waste collection, outreach and support for waste reduction efforts in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties.

Best management practices for local organic material is a high priority of our program, and there are resources and options that can assist residents in The Dalles to handle their recyclable and compostable "wastes" in ways that avoid having to burn them. Our program supports backyard composting by selling the *Earth Machine* Compost Bins for under cost. We have also invested in feasibility research and grant funding assistance for the Dirt Hugger regional commercial composting facility. We do hope that yard debris and food waste can increasingly be diverted from our landfill or backyard burning to instead become nutrient for local soils.

As for confidential paper, our program has also provided grant funds to *Gorge Security Shred*, a local non-profit group that securely shreds confidential paper for companies and individuals. This spring, our program will hire *Gorge Security Shred* to offer a "shredding purge" event which will be held in The Dalles and be free to local households (only).

We also have access to trained volunteers called Master Recyclers, to assist individuals with outreach and education relating to composting as well as recycling. Our website is a wealth of information ranging from composting to becoming a Master Recycler to "hazardous waste collection", "how and what to recycle" and more. I would invite everyone to visit the site to scan the resources: tricityrecycle.com

To summarize, our program can help individuals and businesses reduce their waste without having to burn. There are other viable options and we have resources that can help support local recycling and waste reduction without burning.

Thank you for your time.

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Karen G. Murray
Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling
419 E. Seventh St. , The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-506-2608(Office) 541-980-6267(Cell)

Exhibit "C"
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