

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
FEBRUARY 13, 2012
5:30 P.M.
THE DALLES CITY HALL
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, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Community Development Director Dan Durow, Finance Director Kate Mast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilcox called the meeting to order at 5:30 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Wilcox asked to add a presentation from the National Guard to the agenda.

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

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Presentation from National Guard

Mayor Wilcox presented the City with a City of The Dalles flag which had been flown by the National Guard and was autographed by the soldiers. He thanked Sergeant Ryan Young for presenting him with the flag and thanked all the soldiers for their service to our community and nation.

Report from North Wasco County School District #21

School Librarian Jim Tindall provided an update on the recent Oregon Battle of the Books program. He said the competition had included 44 teams of students who were asked questions about a variety of books they had read. He said over 100 students from the City of The Dalles had participated in the program and said following the tournament, winning teams would proceed to a regional competition, then on to the State competition. He said it was a great way to bring students and parents together to talk about literature.

Update from Wasco County Veteran's Advisory Committee

Steve Lawrence, Chair of the Wasco County Veteran's Committee, provided a report to the City Council highlighting the success of the Veteran's Service Office. He thanked the City for providing the use of the Transportation Center building to house the offices, saying with the additional space, they were able to expand their programs, which was a great service to the local veterans. Lawrence provided statistics, noting the office served approximately 2,848 veterans and family members. He said there were 25 volunteers, providing an average of 248 hours per month and noted the average monthly appointments and walk-in customers totaled 249.

Lawrence noted an increasing work load due to increasing death claims of Vietnam veterans and new veterans now returning from Afghanistan. He emphasized the importance of serving the veterans and said a lot of revenue was brought into the County by assisting the veterans in receiving their compensation and pensions.

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Lawrence requested the City renew the lease with Wasco County for the Veteran's Service Office for an additional 15 years to provide for stability for the office and local veterans. He said if there were discussions regarding the building, he hoped the veteran's group would be included.

Al Vaughn, Vietnam Veteran, said he had not been able to get assistance until this office opened and he greatly appreciated everything that had been done to help him. He asked the City to keep the facility operating and thanked all veterans for their service to the country.

Ruth Otto said she was the widow and daughter of veterans. She said she had moved to The Dalles to assist her parents when her husband passed away and said she would not have survived without the assistance of the Veteran's Service Office. Mrs. Otto said she had since become a volunteer due to the positive experience she had.

Mr. Lawrence said he was not opposed to continuing Greyhound bus service from the location because it actually helped the Veteran's Service Office to locate homeless veterans and to help others with transportation issues. He noted the County would be interviewing this week to fill the Veteran's Service Officer position.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Rod Runyon, representing the Patriot Guard, reported that the group had stood guard at the burial of former Mayor Jack Howe as he was laid to rest today. He said the memorial service would be conducted in two weeks, but thought the City Council should know that today was the day he was laid to rest.

Marilyn Clifford, PO Box 269, The Dalles, addressed the Council regarding yard sale signs, saying she had volunteered to pick up the signs last year but it had not been welcomed. She said it was frustrating to have signs picked up by Codes Enforcement prior to sales and said she hoped the City would install bulletin boards for people to post their signs.

City Attorney Parker said the sign ordinance amendments would be discussed by the Planning Commission at their March 15th meeting and the Council would consider the proposal at their March 26th meeting.

John Nelson, 524 West Third Place, The Dalles, asked if the Council had taken any action to address the concern regarding coal trains in the Columbia River Gorge. He said he had attended a meeting in Bingen to gather additional information.

Councilor Ahier said he had been contacted with an offer to provide information to the City Council. Councilor Spatz said he was still interested in getting more information about the issue.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young addressed a concern expressed regarding dust in the downtown area. He said the gravel needed to be put down during ice events, which caused dust later. He said this needed to be done for the safety of the citizens, but the City picked it up as soon as possible. Young said the City was investigating the possibility of upgrading the sweeper truck in the next fiscal year.

Young noted the School District had decided to reconsider their decision regarding the East 19th Street extension and would be discussing it further at their next meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said he was working with staff and the County to update the City's election ordinance. He said with the new census information, it was necessary to revise the City Council district boundaries.

Parker reported he would be attending a government law seminar on February 24th.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor McGlothlin reported on the recent Traffic Safety Commission meeting, noting discussion regarding the Third Place design; Brewery Grade crosswalk; and a traffic change at Second and Hostetler Streets to allow for a free right turn. He said there had been no congestion problems associated with the new Fred Meyer fuel station and said there had been a discussion regarding a problem with dips on Second Street at the concrete intersections.

Councilor Spatz said the Mid Columbia Economic Development District Strengthening Economies Program was going well and having good participation. He said the challenges and strengths had been identified and the next meeting would be for the development of strategies and solutions.

Councilor Ahier said he appreciated Mr. Nelson's report regarding the train coal cars and said it may be a good topic for a future Town Hall meeting.

Mayor Wilcox said he also wanted to talk about his Pride in The Dalles program and suggested both items be included as agenda items for the next Town Hall meeting.

Approval of City Council Goals

Councilor Spatz asked that the words “and other partners” be added to Goal 3, I, G, after the word Commerce. He said there were several organizations in the community working on business issues and the goal should be in support of all of them.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Dick to approve the 2012-13 City Council Goals as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The item approved by Consent Agenda was approval of the January 23, 2012 regular city Council meeting minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Proposed Supplemental Budget

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

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

Testimony

No testimony was offered and the public hearing was closed.

Resolution No. 12-002 Adopting a Supplemental Budget for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year, Making Appropriations and Authorizing Expenditures From and Within the General Fund; Special Grants Fund; Water Utility Fund; and Water Capital Reserve Fund

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Wood to adopt Resolution No. 12-002 adopting a supplemental budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year, making appropriations and authorizing expenditures from and within the General Fund; Special Grants Fund; Water Utility Fund; and Water Capital Reserve Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Housing Resource Center Project

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

Community Development Director Durow introduced Dave Peters from Mid Columbia Housing Agency who reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Wilcox said it would be beneficial if the Agency could place some focus on housing rehabilitation for homes of moderate income families, in addition to low income families. He said the housing stock in The Dalles needed to be upgraded to help attract business to the community.

Councilor Ahier asked if the first time home buyers classes had been offered in Spanish. Mr. Peters said one of the classes was offered in Spanish. Peters said there had not been very many participants in the classes during the past year.

Testimony

Marilyn Clifford, PO Box 269, The Dalles, said she thought people would do more remodel and repair jobs if the Assessor didn't raise their taxes for every project. She said it would be helpful if a certain dollar amount was set that people could make repairs without being taxed.

Hearing no further testimony, the public hearing was closed.

ACTION ITEMS

General Ordinance No. 12-1317 Regulating the Conduct of Business of Secondhand Dealers and Certain Sales of Used Property; Requiring Records; Requiring a License for Secondhand Dealers; Providing Penalties; and Repealing General Ordinance No. 83-1048

City Attorney Parker reviewed the staff report. He highlighted significant changes from the current ordinance, including a definition which exempted merchants whose transactions were less than 50% used merchandise; a definition of transactions that included a dollar amount for property purchased from a single customer; a requirement on the application concerning prior criminal convictions; discretion for the City Attorney to deny or revoke a license if certain circumstances exist; a requirement to submit daily transaction reports to the City; establishing a seven day holding period; and allowing sales to minors of 16 years or older.

Parker said the Secondhand Dealers had worked very well with staff to develop an ordinance that was workable. He said there were a few differences, but there was general agreement. He said

two issues would be worked on administratively: staff's ability to provide a drop box for the reports and a decision regarding the release of stolen merchandise sheets (hot sheets).

Secondhand Dealers Mark Thomas, 1015 East 11th Street, Mel Mendez, 314 East Second Street, and Eric Stovall, 2610 West Second Street, addressed their concerns regarding the proposed ordinance. Mr. Thomas said he disagreed with the proposal for an exemption if a merchant sells less than 50% used items, saying it was an unfair percentage.

Councilor Ahier said he didn't see the need for an exemption because it was more important to prevent crime than to exempt businesses from the ordinance.

City Attorney Parker said the rationale was that some businesses dealt mostly in new goods so there was less potential to receive stolen merchandise.

Councilor Dick asked if there were any statistics or data to support the theory. Police Chief Waterbury said he did not have any data to support it.

Councilor Spatz said the 50% level was too high and it should be reduced.

Mr. Stovall expressed concern that there was a lack of information from the Police Department to the dealers and said he would like to receive hot sheets from the Police Department to help the dealers not be victims of purchasing stolen goods. He said it should be a requirement and be included in the Ordinance language.

Police Chief Waterbury said the meetings with the Secondhand Dealers had been valuable in developing the ordinance. He said staff and the dealers were not in complete agreement and he had concerns about providing hot sheets to all dealers, but understood their desire to have the information.

Mr. Mendez said it would be a large burden to have to provide daily reports to the City and to take photographs of every item. Mr. Thomas said he disagreed with the requirement to photograph everything and to keep copies of the photos.

Parker said the reason for photographs was for prosecution purposes.

It was the consensus of the City Council to direct staff to continue working with the dealers and to revisit the issues of providing dealers with a hot sheet, the 50% exemption and taking and storing photographs.

Request by Jeff and Summer Smith Regarding Street Assessment Payment (taken out of order)

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report, explaining that Wasco County has approved a street vacation, but the City still considered the portion of 12th Street as being included in the Street Master Plan and that it could be extended in the future. He recommended the City Council deny the request for a refund of the previously paid street improvement assessment.

Steve Stroud, 3000 East 12th Street, spoke in support of refunding the assessment to the Smiths, saying the County had vacated the street and it was a private drive.

City Manager Young said he did not think the street would be built, but the owners would benefit from improvements to Richmond Street in the future.

Councilor Ahier said if 12th Street would not be developed, he would support refunding the assessment.

Mayor Wilcox asked what their expenses would be in the future if Richmond Street was improved. He said it would like be more expensive to construct improvements in the future.

Councilor Dick said the City's Land Use Development Ordinance (LUDO) should be amended to address the overall issue, saying smaller lots should not be created if the streets were substandard. He said if that portion of 12th Street was not going to be constructed, he would support refunding the assessment paid by the Smiths.

City Manager Young proposed reviewing the street portion of the assessment and refunding that portion, but noted they had received the benefit of other improvements.

Councilor Dick said the City and County should work together to address street issues within the Urban Growth Boundary.

It was moved by Ahier and seconded by McGlothlin to grant the refund in the amount of \$7,854. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 12-003 Authorizing Transfers of Funds Between Categories of Various Funds, Making Appropriations and Authorizing Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012

Finance Director Mast reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to adopt Resolution No. 12-003 authorizing transfers of funds between categories of various funds, making appropriations and authorizing expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Receive Additional ARRA Loan Funds to Help Pay for Needed Cast Iron Pipe Replacement for the Terminal Reservoir Construction Project

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the staff report.


It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Dick to authorize acceptance of up to \$589,478 in additional ARRA loan funds to pay for replacement of existing cast iron pipe and complete the Terminal Reservoir Construction Project. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:


James L. Wilcox, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk