

## **MINUTES**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF  
FEBRUARY 22, 2010  
5:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER  
313 COURT STREET  
THE DALLES, OREGON

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Nikki Lesich

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Jim Wilcox, Dan Spatz, Brian Ahier

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Pro Tem Izetta Grossman, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, City Engineer Dale McCabe, Finance Director Kate Mast, Community Development Director Dan Durow, Senior Planner Dick Gassman, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, RARE Planner Nora Donovan

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lesich called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Pro Tem Grossman; all Councilors present.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Lesich asked City Manager Young if the agenda needed to be amended. Young requested

that Item B, Downtown Development Survey be added under Presentations. It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

#### Update by Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District Regarding Skate Park

Executive Director Scott Green shared the progress made to date on the fund raising efforts and design progress. He said Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District had set aside \$100,000 in its budget toward the project and local youth and supporting adults had held a number of fund raisers, raising an additional \$30,000. Green said the District had received a \$15,000 grant from Fred Meyer that must be spent by July 1, 2010. He said the Skate Park had shown up as top five priority on every survey done by the District. Green said the location at Thompson Park in the area of the current memorial had received positive reviews by the community and the Chief of Police as a highly visible location.

There were nine youth in attendance. This group represented the design team that would be working with the designer via web conference call to create a facility the youth would use and take pride in. Green said the youth involvement was vital to the success of the project long term and he hoped to make it a competitive park that would host competitions and draw tourists to the community.

Green reiterated the skate park had become a top priority for the Board and they were applying for other grants, however the timing of the State grant award was after the needed start date for use of the Fred Meyer grant. He said the total estimated cost of the project 11,000 square foot park was \$250,000. Green noted there had been some commitment of in kind donations of labor and supplies.

Councilor Wilcox commended the youth on their efforts and for being active. He stated "You have my respect".

Councilor Ahier agreed that the location was excellent and had his support.

Council Spatz asked if there was an assistance request being made.

Green stated that Urban Renewal funds would be requested and said the District would be applying for a Local Government Grant, however, it didn't open until April with an August award, which was after the Fred Meyer Grant deadline for expenditure of funds.

Councilor Wilcox asked if the project could be phased. Green replied yes.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Stacey Romney, Parks and Recreation Board stated that skate boarding had become main stream, the proposed park was free to use like a play ground for younger children. She emphasized that healthy recreation should be a priority for the community and said a busy park was a safe park.

Mayor Lesich noted that three years ago the District was in the red, and now with a strong staff and dedicated Board that had been turned around.

Debbi Jones of YouthThink testified in support of the Skate Park. She said two months ago their board voted unanimously to support the efforts of the District. Jones noted that most of the hits to their website occurred during a time YouthThink was hosting a skate competition. She also encouraged Council to dedicate Urban Renewal funds to the project.

Chris Cramer, 102 Harrison, The Dalles Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church testified in support of the Skate Park, saying the youth needed a safe place to recreate and this was an investment in our future.

Dana Schmidling, Chamber Executive Director, testified in support of the Skate Park, stating that in other communities Skate Parks had become the shining star, a great draw for tourism and economic development.

Councilor Spatz asked if there was a proposal before the Urban Renewal Board. Green stated not at this time. Spatz asked the City Manager what the process was. Young stated a request in writing from the Parks and Recreation District to Urban Renewal would initiate the formal process which would result in a minor amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan.

Lenore Clifford, 531 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, The Dalles, testified she wasn't against the skate park location, saying it was recreation exactly what the land was donated for, however, she had a concern about trash in Mill Creek. She also was concerned about the safety of youth on the cliffs around the creek.

Randy Twidwell, Civic Auditorium Manager, 1518 12<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, testified in support of the Skate Park, stating the youth needed a safe place to recreate.

Craig Batty, East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, testified in support of the Skate Park. He said he wanted to see the youth involved in the actual construction where feasible and believed this would help the youth take ownership of the park and self police.

Downtown Development Survey Report

RARE Planner Nora Donovan reviewed the staff report. In response to a question, Donovan explained that RARE stood for Resource Assistance for Rural Environments and was an AmeriCorps program. Donovan reported that the downtown merchants were very receptive to the survey and useful information was gleaned. She said this was a data gathering process for the Main Street Program, noting the main themes were: 1) The downtown area was lacking in things to attract people to the downtown; 2) timing was important in development; and 3) the need for a vital organized downtown that was sustainable was important.

Councilor Spatz commended the survey and asked what the next steps would be. Donovan stated a public meeting would be scheduled to share the results of the survey, followed by creation of an Economic Improvement District (EID) which was a plan to identify goals, and clearly state how the funds would be used according to that plan.

Councilor Wood suggested consideration of a City square, a place of gathering, creating a sense of community.

Young stated most efforts were currently focused on the Festival Area and Washington Street Plaza, where that type of environment would be created.

Councilor Dick noted that it was clear in the report that business owners in the downtown were not necessarily the property owners which created special challenges.

Councilor Ahier stated that downtown redevelopment did create an economic draw and said if the downtown streets were attractive, more shoppers would want to visit and more businesses would be drawn to locate there.

Councilor Wilcox agreed, noting the positive effect the street scape project had on Second Street.

Mayor Lesich asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council.

Luise Langheinrich, 2108 Garrison Street, The Dalles, came forward to discuss the idea of an Economic Impact Analysis ordinance. She said in light of learning the process during the Wal Mart hearings she wanted the Council to consider moving this up as a priority for the Planning Commission. Langheinrich said this would give a better chance of making a more informed decision in the future regarding the types of development wanted in the City.

Mayor Lesich commended her for listening to the Council's suggestion and being proactive in the process.

Langheinrich also reported that the Downtown group had installed a terra cotta planter outside Iron Works on Second Street that would be planted with plants and would look nice most of the year. She said these planters were being poured by The Dalles Concrete and would be placed in front of businesses up and down Second Street. She encouraged the Council to stop by and look at the planters.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

No report.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Attorney Parker reported he had been working on the amendment to Land Use Development Ordinance (LUDO) regarding signs in right of way. He said a recommendation would be provided to Council in April. City Attorney Parker reported he would be attending Government Law Seminar regarding social media policies on March 5th.

#### **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilor Wood reported the Historic Landmarks Commission had reviewed proposed changes to a property on Third Street.

Wood questioned the goal of a proposed Charter amendment requesting stipends for Council, saying she did not recall the discussion and didn't feel it is necessary.

Councilor Dick reported he would be attending the Mid Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) Board meeting next Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> where a letter of support of Renewable Energy Assistance was on the agenda. He also reported that at the last Urban Renewal Advisory Committee meeting \$35,387 was recommended for Wonderworks for doors, window and stucco for their new facility.

Councilor Spatz commended the groups working together to work on a viable solution for irrigation of Sorosis Park and providing water to Columbia Gorge Community College. He said the groups were the Irrigation District, Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation, and the

City. City Manager Young clarified that a City water right from the Columbia River would be used.

Councilor Wilcox reported that he had recently met with Dwight Langer of Northern Wasco County PUD to educate himself on green energy. He also reported that the US Coast Guard Axillary was looking for volunteers interested in assisting with water rescue.

Wilcox reported that five students had applied to go to Miyoshi City in August and an adult group was going in March. He said he would be attending the Airport Board meeting this Friday and reported that the Airport Master Plan was not complete. Wilcox said there would be an open house in May where the Master Plan will be the focus.

Wilcox noted there was letter to the editor commending the Lions Club, of which he had been a member for 30 years. He thanked Doug Leash for the letter.

Councilor Wilcox voiced concern regarding the Transportation systems development charges, saying he believed they were anti-development.

Councilor Wilcox voiced concern over the Historic Landmarks Committee goals, saying they should be discussed at a future meeting.

Councilor Ahier read into record a statement on his position on government use of social media (Attached as Exhibit "A").

Mayor Lesich requested that the draft minutes from the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee be included in the agenda packet received prior to the Urban Renewal Board meeting. Mayor Lesich reported she had attended Kiwanis meetings and Kiwanis Key Club meeting as a speaker.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of February 8, 2010 regular City Council meeting minutes; 2) approval of February 6, 2010 goal setting minutes; 3) Resolution No. 10-003 concurring with the Mayor's appointments to various committees; and 4) authorization for City Clerk to endorse OLCC additional privilege application for Taco Del Mar/Rivertap.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **Public Hearing to Receive Testimony Regarding Proposed Land Use Development Ordinance (LUDO) Amendment Recommendations from the Planning Commission**

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

Senior Planner Gassman reviewed the staff report, noting that these are annual changes. He said economic impact was part of the next annual round of amendments to the LUDO.

Councilor Ahier commented he thought there should be some provision included in the LUDO for submittal of written testimony for land use actions in order for the Planning Commission and City Council to receive the information in a more timely manner. Ahier said it was impossible to read all the written testimony when it was arriving just before a meeting. Spatz suggested a minimum font size be established for the document. It was the consensus of the Council that no smaller than 10 point font was appropriate and customary.

### **Testimony**

Hearing no testimony the hearing was closed.

### **Councilor Dick retired from the meeting at 7:25pm**

### **Council Deliberation**

Councilor Wilcox voiced his desire that the rules be consistent throughout the community for residential building.

Mayor Lesich asked if the features list from the State could be revisited regarding modular homes. Community Development Director Durow stated that the State is cautious to keep the cost of the homes down and said the State wanted jurisdictions to have affordable housing available in the community.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Spatz to direct staff to prepare an ordinance approving amendments to the LUDO as recommended by the Planning Commission, including the addition of "font size no smaller than 10 point used in comments", based upon appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law to be presented for adoption at a future City Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously, Dick absent.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of TGM Grant Application for Webber Street IAMP Project

Senior Planner Gassman reviewed the staff report.

**Councilor Dick returned to the meeting at 7:42pm**

It was moved by Wilcox and seconded by Spatz to direct staff to apply for the TGM grant for a study of the Webber Street interchange. The motion carried unanimously.

Status of Third Street Local Improvement District Project

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by Wilcox based on these results and comments to proceed with staff recommendation to postpone the Third Street streetscape Local Improvement District project twelve months from the original schedule.

Councilor Ahier asked for clarification of the motion.

Wood withdrew the motion.


It was moved by Wood and seconded by Wilcox to direct staff to proceed with the consideration of the formation of the Third Street Local Improvement District with a one year delay from the original schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

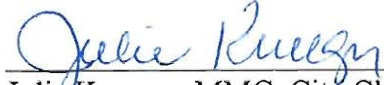
**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Submitted by/  
Izetta Grossman  
City Clerk pro-tem

SIGNED:   
Nikki L. Lesich, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk



# Councilor Ahier Comments

There seems to be some public misperception on where I stand regarding the government use of social media and the idea of eDemocracy or government 2.0, which is a movement to attempt to apply the integration advantages of Web 2.0 technology to the practice of government. This includes many of the efforts that the City has accomplished and our future efforts working towards the City Council's Goal #6: to provide transparent and efficient administration of city government and our Tier 1 objectives of using information technology to provide greater transparency and promote civic engagement. One year ago I wrote a guest editorial in The Dalles Chronicle on the subject. Some excerpts of what I wrote are that:

“Civic responsibility can only happen in tandem with the government's duty to operate transparently. Transparency in government increases citizen access to information and helps to facilitate their understanding of the decision making process. It helps to instill public confidence and allows the informed participation of citizens. Transparency promotes accountability and provides information to citizens about what their Government is doing.

... making information which is already available more accessible helps to provide sunlight through the window of government. As Supreme Court Justice Brandeis said, ‘Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.’

One of the best ways of providing transparency in government is through the use of technology. The Internet has changed the way many people obtain information and there are ways of providing a searchable database of public documents which can have a great effect on the ability of citizens to find the information they want. Publishing this data on the Internet can also provide the additional benefit of saving on printing costs and can help promote environmental sustainability by reducing paper use.”

My position has not changed at all in this past year. There has been one lone councilor beating the drum for the city to use modern communication tools to engage with the community and disperse information and that is me. I believe if we want to reach the next generation of leaders in this community, we need to make the most of these technology tools, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and other communication platforms. I know this can give many of my colleagues here heartburn, but I would love to have video of the city's public meetings broadcast on YouTube. I would love to integrate technology, social interaction, and content creation in a robust city social media presence.

Fortunately most times, the wheels of government grind slowly so that things can be done with a thoughtful and measured approach. But let there be no doubt – despite what some may have interpreted in the media, rumors you may have heard, or what has been posted on social networking sites by people who don't even know me: I am strongly in favor of the city moving ahead in using technology to help make government a platform for innovation. You would be hard pressed to find a stronger advocate for responsible government use of social media than I, and it would also be difficult to find a more ardent free speech advocate.