

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OF
MARCH 28, 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, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Codes Enforcement Officer Nikki Lesich

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wood and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt the amended agenda (including supplemental agenda) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Introduction of Columbia Gorge Earth Center

Jonathon Graca, provided a handout regarding the Columbia Gorge Earth Center, saying their mission was to empower citizens with options to make sustainable choices in areas of energy, waste, food, business and transportation. He said it was a non-profit, non-political entity that had been existence for 10 years. Graca said the Center was based in Hood River, with a focus on the Columbia Gorge. He said the tools used to implement the mission were in-house programs, incubation projects and community engagement and education.

Mr. Graca introduced the Weatherize Oregon Now program, saying the program was funded by the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Technologies Program, with the goals of creating jobs, generating energy savings and cutting carbon emissions. He talked about energy audits, outreach and education, building local capacity by partnering with local banks and utilities, and reporting practices.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jim Slusher, Executive Director of Community Action Program (CAP), addressed the City Council regarding proposed cuts to the Community Services Block Grant funding. He said the program provided key services to low income residents in the community and that the impacts of the funding loss would cause loss of food, shelter and heat for many low income, homeless and veterans in the community. He urged the City Council to send a letter to our Congressman and Senators, asking them to vote against the bill that would cut funding for this important program.

It was the consensus of the City Council to direct staff to prepare letters for the Mayor's signature, urging Congress not to pass the bill.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Young said he had attended some meetings of the National League of Cities, while with the Community Outreach Team in Washington, D.C. He said there was a lot of discussion regarding reduced funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program, County timber payments, and re-authorization of the Transportation Act.

Young said he had met with a group regarding wetlands delineation on Port property. He said it was important to achieve mitigation so the property could be developed in the future.

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Young said staff had requested funding through Senator Merkley's office for flood mitigation at the Mill Creek tunnel and a long term solution for future flood events. He said the funding request was for \$500,000.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Parker said he continued to work on the Granada Block development agreement; resale business ordinance; and was in the process of reviewing the draft telecom ordinance from the League of Oregon Cities.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Dick reported there were some new members on the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee and that group had received a presentation by Steve Lawrence regarding the status of the Civic Auditorium building.

Councilor Ahier asked the City Manager to provide the report from the past QLife Agency meeting. City Manager Young said there had been a preliminary budget review and the Board had approved the lease which was to be considered by City Council at this meeting.

Councilor Spatz said he had attended the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee meeting and heard a presentation by Brad DeHart from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding a proposed program to work with volunteers to maintain landscaping at the freeway ramps. He provided the information to staff and asked that they learn more about the program from ODOT. Mayor Wilcox said Tom Woods had expressed interest in the program.

Spatz said the Community Outreach Team had some productive sessions on their recent trip to Washington, D.C. He said timber funds and transportation authorization were talked about a lot. He said the Federal Highway System had been funded from the General Fund, which was not sustainable.

Mayor Wilcox he had been impressed with the meeting with the Department of Education's Deputy Assistant Secretary. He said Candy Armstrong of School District #21 had a very good conversation with the Deputy Secretary. Wilcox said he had also had been happy the team was able to meet with Lockheed Martin to discuss the Super Fund Sites on Port of The Dalles property.

Wilcox said he had a meeting with Stephanie Hallock of the Governor's Community Solutions Team and the Port regarding wetlands issues.

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Wilcox asked if the City Council was interested in conducting a video conference with our Sister City, following the April 11th Council meeting. There was general consensus to proceed with a video conference.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Items approved by Consent Agenda were: 1) approval of February 28, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes; and 2) Resolution No. 11-009 concurring with the mayor's appointment of a committee to make recommendations regarding open burning policies for the City of The Dalles.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval to Amend Lease With QLife Agency for Additional Space in City Hall

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to authorize signature of the amendment to lease space to include a third area for a monthly rent of \$176 with future consideration for electrical costs. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Ordinance No. 11-539 Assessing Property Located at 1017 East Seventh Street for the Cost of Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation

City Attorney Parker reviewed the staff report and said the ordinance could be adopted by title because it had been posted according the Charter requirements.

City Clerk Krueger read Special Ordinance No. 11-539 by title.

It was moved by Wood and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt Special Ordinance No. 11-539 assessing property located at 1017 East Seventh Street for the cost of abatement of hazardous vegetation, by title. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilcox thanked Codes Enforcement Officer Lesich for her work.

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Approval of Request by Confluence Project for financial Assistance With Celilo Park Interpretive Pavilion and Walkway

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

The City Council was in agreement that the request should be further considered through the upcoming budget process.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Ahier to decline to participate in the project at this time and to direct staff to bring the request for consideration during the budget process. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Sponsorship for Tradition of Compassion Program

City Manager Young reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Wilcox said this request was something that benefitted the entire community in recognizing volunteers and chronicled the history of award recipients.

Councilor Ahier said he would not participate in the discussion or vote because he was an employee of Mid Columbia Medical Center, but he believed it was a great program and an important event for the community.

Councilor Wood said she was not comfortable using tax dollars for social events. She said this had once been a part of the annual Chamber of Commerce recognition event and suggested that be considered again.

Nikki Lesich said she served on the selection committee and said volunteer recognition was a part of the vision for our community.

Anne Copper, 3465 Three Mile Road, The Dalles, provided a handout, describing the event. She said the program promoted volunteerism and philanthropy.

Celeste Hill-Thomas, PO Box 1275, Foundation Director, said the sponsorship was need to help offset the cost of the program. She said it was important to recognize community volunteers.

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to decline to sponsor the Tradition of Compassion program at this time and direct staff to bring the request for consideration during the budget process. The motion carried unanimously; Ahier abstaining.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Wilcox recessed the meeting to Executive Session at 6:42 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 7:43 p.m.

DECISIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

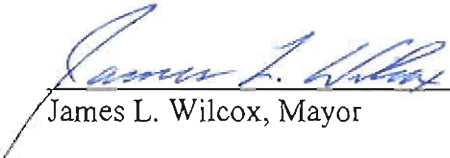
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED: _____


James L. Wilcox, Mayor

ATTEST: _____


Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk